

of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5275. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report of the Reserve Forces Policy Board for 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5276. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, a report of proposed legislation entitled "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5277. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Revisions in the WIC Food Packages" (RIN0584-AD77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 2, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5278. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Child Care and Development Fund Report to Congress for Fiscal Years 2008 through 2011"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5279. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to U.S. support for Taiwan's participation as an observer at the 67th World Health Assembly and in the work of the World Health Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5280. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2014-0020—2014-0033); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5281. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, a report of proposed legislation entitled "Federal Aviation Insurance Reauthorization Act of 2014"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5282. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; South Bend, Indiana" (MB Docket No. 14-1, DA 14-363) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5283. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Adjustments to 2014 Annual Catch Limits" (RIN0648-BD70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 3, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-210. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Michigan

urging the Congress of the United States to repeal section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

Whereas, In response to the 2008 economic recession, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act was enacted in July 2010 to increase accountability and improve transparency in the nation's financial system. Among its provisions, section 1502 of the act creates new reporting requirements for publically traded companies that produce products containing gold, tin, tantalum, or tungsten, known as "conflict minerals." These reporting requirements and their public disclosure are meant to deter the purchase of conflict minerals from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the surrounding nations of Central Africa Republic, South Sudan, Zambia, Angola, the Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda; and

Whereas, The final rules on section 1502, issued by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), taking effect May 31, 2014, is exceedingly complex and detrimental to American manufacturers, creating new, overly taxing compliance costs, especially for American small businesses, as well as unrealistic and burdensome reporting requirements. The new rules require publically traded manufacturers to trace conflict minerals through their entire supply chain, all the way back to the smelter. The SEC estimates the initial cost of compliance to be between \$3 billion and \$4 billion, with annual costs thereafter between \$207 million and \$609 million. However, the National Association of Manufacturers estimates total costs to be \$16 billion; and

Whereas, The SEC rule on conflict minerals jeopardizes Michigan's unparalleled efforts to restructure, create an improved business environment, and recover jobs lost during the recent recession. According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, as of October of this year, our unemployment rate of 9 percent ranked 48th among the states, 1.7 percent higher than the nation's average. Moreover, the stalwart of the Michigan economy—manufacturing—is still recovering. The state of Michigan condemns the human rights violations occurring in the DRC and surrounding nations. However, absorbing the exorbitant costs of complying with section 1502 will undermine our footing in the ongoing battle to grow manufacturing jobs; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (The Senate Concurring), That we urge the Congress of the United States to repeal section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; and be it further*

*Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Chairman of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.*

POM-211. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington urging Congress to update and amend the Communications Decency Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8003

Whereas, The Communications Decency Act was enacted in 1996, nearly seventeen

years ago when the internet was still in a fledgling state and accessible only to about twenty million Americans; and

Whereas, The internet of 1996 would be largely unrecognizable in 2013, lacking nearly all of the popular sites of today, such as YouTube, Google, Twitter, Facebook, Wikipedia, Craig's List, and Backpage.com; and

Whereas, Today, the internet makes it possible for companies such as Backpage.com to earn millions of dollars annually from the sale of location-specific internet advertisements, some of which directly facilitate the sex trafficking of minors and other victims; and

Whereas, Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act assures internet service providers like Backpage.com nearly complete immunity from liability for the significant and known role they play in promoting today's sex trafficking industry through the sale and distribution of adult escort advertisements on the internet; and

Whereas, When the Communications Decency Act was written in 1996, section 230 was intended to encourage internet service providers to promote the growth of the internet without incurring liability for third-party communications during a time when the average American with internet access spent thirty minutes each month on the web, compared with today's average of twenty-seven hours per month; and

Whereas, The internet has evolved in ways few expected, making section 230 of the Communications Decency Act now outdated within the context, scope, and capability of today's internet to instantly disseminate information and facilitate rapid communication; and

Whereas, Without a change to section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, states remain powerless to enact meaningful reforms to hold accountable those internet service providers who profit from the sale of adult escort advertisements while turning a blind eye to their role in facilitating crimes against children and refusing to implement any bona fide measures to verify the age of persons featured in those advertisements;

Now, therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress update and amend the Communications Decency Act to reflect the current scope and power of the internet, to acknowledge the publisher-like role of companies like Backpage.com who profit from the sale and distribution of advertisements on the internet, and to authorize states to enact and enforce laws holding internet service providers responsible when they knowingly facilitate child sex trafficking through the sale of adult escort advertisements. Be it

*Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.*

POM-212. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming urging Congress to require the federal Environmental Protection Agency to respect the primacy of Wyoming in developing guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions; to the Committee on Environment and

Public Works.

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 0001

Whereas, a reliable and affordable energy supply is vital to Wyoming's economic growth, jobs, and the overall interests of its citizens; and

Whereas, Wyoming supports an all-the-above energy strategy because it is in the best interests of the state of Wyoming and the nation; and

Whereas, the United States has abundant supplies of coal and natural gas that provide economic and energy security benefits; and

Whereas, carbon regulations for existing power plants could threaten the affordability and reliability of Wyoming's electricity supplies and therefore threaten the wellbeing of its citizens; and

Whereas, the U.S. Energy Information Administration projects that U.S. electric sector carbon dioxide emissions will be fourteen percent (14%) below 2005 levels in 2020; and

Whereas, on June 25, 2013, the President directed the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue standards, regulations or guidelines to address carbon dioxide emissions from new, existing, modified and reconstructed fossil-fueled power plants; and

Whereas, the President expressly recognized that states "will play a central role in establishing and implementing carbon standards for existing power plants;" and

Whereas, the Clean Air Act requires EPA to establish a "procedure" under which each state shall develop a plan for establishing and implementing standards of performance for existing sources within the state; and

Whereas, the Clean Air Act expressly allows states in developing and applying such standards of performance "to take into consideration, among other factors, the remaining useful life of the existing source to which such standard applies;" and

Whereas, EPA's existing regulations provide that states may adopt "less stringent emissions standards or longer compliance schedules" than EPA's guidelines based on factors such as "unreasonable cost of control," "physical impossibility of installing necessary control equipment," or other factors that make less stringent standards or longer compliance times "significantly more reasonable;" and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of electricity consumers in Wyoming to continue to benefit from reliable, affordable electricity provided by coal and natural gas-based electricity generating plants: Now, therefore be it:

*Resolved by the members of the legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

Section 1. That Wyoming urges EPA, in developing, guidelines for regulating carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants, to respect the primacy of Wyoming and to take into account the unique policies, energy needs, resource mix and economic priorities of Wyoming and other states.

Section 2. That EPA should issue guidelines and approve state-established performance standards that are based on reductions of carbon dioxide emissions that are practical and achievable by measures undertaken at fossil-fueled power plants.

Section 3. That Wyoming and other states should be given maximum flexibility by EPA to implement carbon dioxide performance standards for fossil-fueled power plants within their jurisdiction.

Section 4. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation.

POM-213. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington urging the President of the United States and Congress to pass and sign into law legislation reforming the harbor maintenance tax; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

# SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8007

Whereas, The federal harbor maintenance tax is not collected on trans-pacific cargo shipped to the United States via rail or roads; and

Whereas, This noncollection of the harbor maintenance tax is an incentive to divert cargo away from United States ports; and

Whereas, The federal maritime commission inquiry into the harbor maintenance tax found that up to half of United States bound containers coming into Canada's west coast ports could revert to using United States west coast ports if United States importers were relieved from paying the tax; and

Whereas, Current United States law does not require the revenues raised through the harbor maintenance tax to be fully spent on harbor maintenance related investments; and

Whereas, The geography of harbor maintenance tax expenditures does not correlate with the states where harbor maintenance revenues are generated; and

Whereas, The balance of the harbor maintenance trust fund has grown to over seven billion dollars;

Now, Therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that:

(1) Congress pass and the president sign legislation reforming the harbor maintenance tax; and

(2) Such legislation provide for full use of all harbor maintenance tax revenues, ensure United States tax policy does not disadvantage United States ports and maritime cargo, and provide greater equity for harbor maintenance tax donor ports through limited expanded use of the harbor maintenance revenues. Be it

*Resolved*, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM-214. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming requesting Congress to support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations and to resume free trade talks with Taiwan; to the Committee on Finance.

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 0001

Whereas, Taiwan, the United States, and in particular the State of Wyoming share a historical and close relationship marked by strong bilateral trade educational and cultural exchange, and tourism; and

Whereas, Taiwan shares with the United States and the State of Wyoming the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and rule of law; and

Whereas, the United States ranks as Taiwan's third largest trading partner, Taiwan is the tenth largest trading partner of the United States and bilateral trade reached \$67.2 billion in 2011; and

Whereas, Taiwan and the State of Wyoming have enjoyed a long and mutually beneficial relationship with the prospect further growth; and

Whereas, the United States on November 1, 2012, officially included Taiwan in its Visa Waiver Program, allowing Taiwan's citizens to travel to the United States for tourism or business for stays of ninety (90) days or less without being required to obtain a visa, and the program will increase tourism and business between Taiwan and the United States, particularly Wyoming, with the prospect of thirty percent (30%) to forty percent (40%) growth of Taiwanese travelers to the United States in 2013, rising from four hundred thousand (400,000) Taiwanese travelers in 2011; and

Whereas, the issue of U.S. beef exports to Taiwan has been settled, and the resumption of trade talks on the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and the signing of the Free Trade Agreement between Taiwan and the United States will not only help to forge a closer relationship but will also cre-

ate greater benefits and well-being for the State of Wyoming and boost Taiwan's chances to enter the Trans-Pacific Partnership; and

Whereas, President Ma Ying-jeou has worked tirelessly to uphold democratic principles in Taiwan, ensure the prosperity of Taiwan's twenty-three million citizens, promote Taiwan's international standing as a responsible member of the international community, increase participation in international organizations, dispatch humanitarian missions abroad and further improve relations between the United States and Taiwan; and

Whereas, Taiwan, as a willing and contributing member of the world community, has made countless contributions of technical and financial assistance in the wake of Hurricane Sandy and other natural disasters worldwide. Now therefore, be it

*Resolved by the members of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

Section 1. That Wyoming reaffirms its commitment to the strong and deepening relationship between Taiwan and the State of Wyoming.

Section 2. That Wyoming supports Taiwan's appropriate participation in international organizations that impact the health, safety, and well-being of Taiwan.

Section 3. That Wyoming welcomes the resumption of trade talks on the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, welcomes the signing of the Free Trade Agreement between Taiwan and the United States in the process of closer economic integration, and supports Taiwan's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Section 4. That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation.

POM-215. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Guam requesting the President of the United States, the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services further consider and amend the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to facilitate its equitable implementation in the territories; to the Committee on Finance.

# RESOLUTION NO. 316-32 (COR)

Whereas, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) is intended to promote healthcare for millions of Americans in the fifty (50) states and the District of Columbia, by providing access to affordable healthcare, ensuring quality through market reforms, and advancing prevention and public health; and

Whereas, existing health insurance providers in the U.S. offshore territories shall have to meet higher standards of minimum coverage pursuant to the market reforms, which include: essential health benefits, guaranteed issue, guaranteed renewability, prohibitions on excluding preexisting conditions, adjusted community rating, and other consumer protections; and

Whereas, the PPACA also seeks to set up a healthcare exchange system nation-wide, through which Americans could buy or purchase not only affordable coverage, but coverage with better essential health benefits; and

Whereas, to help accomplish this in the fifty (50) states and Washington, D.C., the PPACA additionally provides the means to partially offset the states' costs of operating the exchanges, or the optional implementation of an equivalent qualifying program, through what are known as the individual and business mandates, as provided pursuant to specific applicable excise tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code; and

Whereas, the Public Health Services Act (PHSA), that includes benefits for the territories, provides that, "The term "State"

means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands” (PHSA 2791(d)(4)); and

Whereas, in Title I of the PPACA, it amends the PHSA, and provides that, “In this Title, the term “State” means each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia” (ACA 1304(d)); and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has determined that PPACA’s Public Health Service Act provisions, to include market reforms (e.g., guaranteed issue, guaranteed renewability, prohibitions on preexisting condition exclusions, essential health benefits, adjusted community rating, and other consumer protections), will apply to health insurance coverage sold in the territories; and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has determined that PPACA’s individual and business mandates are not applicable to Guam; and

Whereas, the individual and business mandates are necessary to help offset the costs of anticipated increases in health insurance premiums, the implementation of which is directly impeded by the exclusion, and is further exacerbated; and

Whereas, the selective inclusion or denial of applicability to Guam places Guam in an untenable position, insofar that the market reforms are applicable, but the means to partially fund it through the individual and business mandates are specifically excluded; and

Whereas, the PPACA’s inequitable and unequal applicability to America’s off-shore territories will likely have the unintended opposite impact of driving up the cost of healthcare coverage if certain provisions are not amended so as to properly include or exempt the territories to the extent necessary and realistically practicable; and

Whereas, the Attorney General of Guam has raised in his response to a Legislative inquiry (LEG 12-0708), that the government could find itself liable, and stated, in part, “If we establish an Exchange, Guam will have to pay the Advance Premium Tax Credit under U.S.C.A. §36B. This is an unfunded mandate that Guam has to pay and it has been estimated that this will cost Guam 74 Million Dollars per year. If Guam does not establish an Exchange, there is the possibility that a class action lawsuit could be brought for payment of this credit much like the Earned Income Tax Credit lawsuit in the past”; and

Whereas, Guam’s Insurance Commissioner has estimated that it would cost the government of Guam a minimum of 74 Million Dollars annually to cover the eligible members in an exchange, yet Guam’s share of the startup appropriation under the PPACA is only 24 Million Dollars, which is a one-time subsidy and is not an annually recurring appropriation, a situation that, “if a territory elects to implement health insurance exchanges, they will receive a limited allotment of subsidy funding that only covers a fraction of needed funds” (see NAIC—October 16, 2013, letter to Secretary); and

Whereas, the individual and business mandates are tied into specific excise tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, which are not applicable to Guam, and it must be duly noted that Section 31 of the Organic Act (48 U.S.C.) was enacted by the Congress primarily to relieve the U.S. Treasury of making direct appropriations to the government of Guam. Although Congress delegated collection and enforcement function of the income tax to the government of Guam, the government of Guam is powerless to vary the terms of the Internal Revenue Code as applied to Guam, except as permitted by Con-

gress. [Bank of America v. Chaco, C.A. Guam 1976, 539 F 2d 1226]; and

Whereas, pursuant to the taxation limitations established in the Organic Act of Guam, as previously provided by the U.S. Congress in 1950, Guam is now prevented from unilaterally implementing under local law the individual and business mandates, by way of Guam’s implementation of the mirrored excise tax provisions taken from the Internal Revenue Code and established under local law; and

Whereas, Guam’s four domestic health insurance carriers have stated, in a January 23, 2014 briefing before the Guam Legislature, that the resulting impact of the PPACA market reforms will cause carriers to raise premium rates to offset the costs of implementing the applicable market reforms; and

Whereas, although the PPACA is intended to increase access to affordable healthcare for millions of Americans in the fifty (50) states and the District of Columbia, it will have the unintended opposite impact for Americans in the off-shore U.S. territory of Guam; and

Whereas, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) has duly considered the impact to the U.S. territories, and has stated, in a letter to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, dated October 16, 2013, “We urge you . . . to provide the Territories with the flexibility that they need to determine whether and how the market reforms should be applied”; and

Whereas, the NAIC paper further states, “Though the statute itself is unclear, (HHS) has determined that the ACA’s market reforms will apply to health insurance coverage sold in the territories, while the individual and employer mandates will not. If a territory elects to implement health insurance exchanges, they will receive a limited allotment of subsidy funding that only covers a fraction of needed funds. As a result, the threat of adverse selection driving up premiums is much higher than it is in the states”; and

Whereas, the Guam Legislature takes due note of the NAIC paper which highlights “the often-stated position taken by the ACA’s congressional sponsors and the administration that these reforms are not possible without the individual mandate and the subsidies”; and

Whereas, the Guam Legislature supports the veracity of the information provided, and endorses the statement, findings and arguments put forward by the NAIC to the Secretary; and

Whereas, Guam’s inability to participate is not from an unwillingness on our part, but, rather, from a failure to duly consider the situation of Guam, the size of our population and insurance risk pool, our economy, and the conflicting statutes and unfunded mandates the Congress has unilaterally established; and

Whereas, the American citizens of the off-shore U.S. territory of Guam must not be excluded from the opportunity to be legitimately included in the PPACA; and

Whereas, it would only prove just and proper for the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the honorable Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, to duly consider the issues and matters raised in this Resolution; and

Whereas, at the urging and request of Americans in the respective fifty (50) states and District of Columbia, numerous extensions and accommodations have been granted by the administration and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, yet no extensions or accommodations have been provided to the Americans in the off-shore U.S. territories; now therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that I Mina Trentai Dos Na Liheslaturan Guåhan (the 32nd Guam Legislature) does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, request that the President of the United States, the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services further consider and amend, as necessary, the provisions of the PPACA so as to facilitate its equitable implementation in the territories, which must be inclusive of a determination to:

1. Include Guam in the mandates and provide for the phased-in applicability of the provisions of the PPACA, and fully provide the correlated premium subsidies and additional Medicaid subsidies; and

2. Finally address the October 16, 2013 letter the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) sent to Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, regarding the inequities and challenges that Guam and other U.S. territories are facing with the implementation of PPACA; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President, United States of America; to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the President of the U.S. Senate; to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs; to the Honorable Jack Kingston, Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, 113th Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam’s Congressional Delegate, 113th Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, I Maga’lahen Guåhan.

POM-216. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing the President and Congress of the United States to support Michigan’s application for a state-sponsored EB-5 regional center; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 315

Whereas, Attracting job-producing investments is critical to the continued economic recovery of the state of Michigan and the United States as a whole. Michigan—a long-standing leader of our nation’s industrial economy—sustained significant damage in the aftermath of the 2002 and 2008 economic downturns. In recent years, however, Michigan’s economic engine has begun turning again, marked by increasing property values and per capita incomes as well as an unemployment rate that continues to decline. With strides still to go, capital investments, including foreign direct investments, can infuse new growth in Michigan’s economy and is an important element for Michigan’s continued recovery; and

Whereas, The EB-5 investor-immigrant program is a constructive tool for attracting foreign investments to Michigan. In this program, immigrants willing to invest at least \$1,000,000 in capital to create a new business or take over an existing, troubled business can obtain an employment-based visa. For targeted unemployment areas—areas like Detroit that are experiencing an unemployment rate at least 150 times the national average—or rural areas, an employment-based visa can be issued with a minimum investment of \$500,000. This capital investment

goes toward creating American jobs, rebuilding and revitalizing our neighborhoods, and bringing new money to our local economies. EB-5 participants, as required by the federal statute, must directly create or retain at least ten domestic jobs within two years, jobs that otherwise may have never come to the United States; and

Whereas, EB-5 regional centers serve as a mechanism for coordinating and attracting potential investor-immigrants as well as offering investor-immigrants enhanced services. Public regional centers can serve as international marketers for the area in which they represent. Public regional centers also serve as concentrators of economic development, compounding investment after investment into their local economies. Investor-immigrants using regional centers also benefit from a broader interpretation of the EB-5 job creation requirement. While the minimum investment requirements remain the same, immigrant-investors going through an EB-5 regional center may count indirect job creation as well; and

Whereas, The establishment of a state of Michigan EB-5 regional center would be a crucial component in the ongoing effort to rebuild our economy. State-sponsored regional centers provide an unparalleled ability to attract and retain potential investors. States like Michigan can bring investor-immigrants to the table in ways private regional centers cannot and develop solid, lasting relationships. Statewide regional centers can also develop and deploy an estimable portfolio of statewide resources like industrial site searches, facilitate connections with local suppliers, laborers, and other businesses, and provide a general orientation of the government and economic environment to business owners; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives,* That we memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to support Michigan's application for a state-sponsored EB-5 regional center; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Chairman and Ranking Member of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Chairman and Ranking Member of the United States House Committee on the Judiciary, Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-217. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing the President and Congress of the United States to support Michigan's request for 50,000 EB-5 visas to assist in the economic recovery of the city of Detroit; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 316

Whereas, Professionals with advanced skills in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) are crucial to the continued development of our economy. However, Michigan continues to suffer from a shortage of workers with advanced training in STEM-related skills, and this shortage is expected to worsen over the coming years with STEM-related occupations growing 1.7 times the rate of non-STEM-related occupations. By 2018, Michigan is estimated to have 274,000 more STEM-related positions available than professionals to fill them. While we are committed to increasing STEM proficiency in our own students, Michigan must also seek out and retain professionals with advanced degrees to help build our economy now; and

Whereas, The city of Detroit has a special need for skilled professionals to help rebuild,

revitalize, and reinvigorate the city. In recent years, Detroit, an iconic American city, has seen an unprecedented decline in population, and the loss of local revenue has made it difficult for the city to meet its financial obligations. Recruiting skilled professionals is one step toward achieving economic recovery and relieving the city's acute unemployment. In addition to adding a valuable new dynamic to the local economy, with their employment comes new consumers, increasing demand, and job growth in other sectors; and

Whereas, Allowing immigrants to fill vacant STEM positions would provide an economic boost to the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit. Through the recruitment and retention of foreign-born professionals, targeted immigration can help quench the unmet demands of Michigan's labor market—avoiding the suppression of economic production and growth that results—and help fortify the long-term health of its economy. Immigrants working in the United States also leverage their skills to contribute to the American economy rather than increasing the productivity and value of another nation's economy; and

Whereas, Federal employment-based visa programs, particularly the EB-2 program, grant foreign-born professionals legal working status in the United States. Designed for individuals with advanced degrees or its equivalent, the EB-2 program permits foreign-born professionals with STEM-related or business skills to be employed with domestic businesses, businesses otherwise unable to fill these jobs with the existing labor market. This program also encourages immigrants with exceptional abilities—abilities in science, art, or business that are significantly above those of ordinary workers in the field—to obtain an EB-2 visa; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan has requested a pilot program be instituted to reallocate 50,000 EB-2 visas over the next five years for use in the city of Detroit. As proposed, 5,000 visas would be made available to foreign-born professionals the first year, 10,000 visas for the next three years, and 15,000 visas would be available in the fifth year. Rather than taking from the national pool of annually-available EB-2 visas, the administration would reallocate any unused EB-1, EB-2, EB-3, and family-based preference visas into the EB-2 pilot program, making them available for employment opportunities in the city of Detroit; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives,* That we memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to support Michigan's request for 50,000 EB-2 visas to assist in the economic recovery of the city of Detroit; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Chairman and Ranking Member of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Chairman and Ranking Member of the United States House Committee on the Judiciary, Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-218. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia rescinding and withdrawing all past resolutions by the General Assembly applying to the Congress of the United States to call a convention for the purpose of amending the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 194

Whereas, there has been no convention convened to amend the Constitution of the

United States, and all amendments adopted to date have been initiated by two-thirds of the members of both houses of Congress and ratified by three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, the operations of a convention are unknown and the apportionment and selection of delegates, method of voting in convention, and other essential procedural details are not specified in Article V of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, the General Assembly of Virginia has not called for a convention to amend the Constitution of the United States in the recent past, but in the more distant past has called for a convention (i) by House Joint Resolution No. 168 in 1977 concerning a presidential item veto, (ii) by the second resolved clause of Senate joint Resolution No. 36 in 1976 concerning a balanced budget, and (iii) by other resolutions applying to the Congress to call a convention; and

Whereas, the status of these past resolutions is unclear and the prudent course requires the General Assembly to rescind and withdraw all past applications for a convention to amend the Constitution of the United States lest a convention be convened without current and careful consideration; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Delegates,* the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly of Virginia rescinds and withdraws all past resolutions by the General Assembly applying to the Congress of the United States to call a convention for the purpose of amending the Constitution of the United States including HJR No. 168 (1977), SJR No. 36 (1976), and all other resolutions calling for a convention; and, be it

*Resolved Further,* That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit certified copies of this joint resolution to the Archivist of the United States at the National Archives and Records Administration of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Virginia delegation to the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

POM-219. A resolution adopted by the Delaware County Board of Supervisors of the State of New York entitled "In Support of Home Rule 1494 'Blue Water Navy Accountability Act'"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM-220. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Ulster County of the State of New York urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to postpone indefinitely its order issued August 13, 2013 and halt the creation of the New Capacity Zone; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-221. A petition from citizens of the State of New York relative to the repeal of the New York Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement Act of 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1237. A bill to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-146).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 697. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Clark County, Nevada, for the environmental remediation and reclamation of the Three Kids