

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, today I urge President Trump again to make good on his promise of partnering with Congress to invest \$1 trillion in America's infrastructure.

This week marks National Infrastructure Week; and yet, disappointingly, little action has been taken by this President and the majority in Congress to provide substantive funds for our Nation's crumbling infrastructure. Easing congestion on our highways is just one investment that will have a significant return, getting central coast residents to their jobs and back home to their families faster.

This is also an issue of safety for our constituents. California currently has over 1,300 structurally deficient bridges, 678 high-hazard dams, and 50 percent of its nearly 200,000 miles of public roads are in poor condition.

I urge my colleagues to work together in a bipartisan way to address the infrastructure crisis in our country.

HONORING BEN AND DAN MATHESON

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

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the House's attention two fine Texans who are sitting up in the House gallery, Ben and Dan Matheson.

Ben has been on my Air Force advisory committee down in Texas for the entire 32 years that I have been in Congress. He and the other two members of that nominating committee have recommended to me over 100 young men and women whom we have nominated to the Air Force Academy and who are now serving, defending our Nation.

His son is Dan Matheson, one of my best friends, a proud graduate of the University of Texas Law School, former head of the Texas State Fed office, and a successful practicing attorney in Austin, Texas.

I am very proud to have their friendship, and I am glad to bring to the attention of the House these two fine Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members not to refer to persons in the gallery.

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, this is National Infrastructure Week; yet, at the same time, our current President promised that, as soon as he took of-

fice, he was going to put forth a trillion-dollar infrastructure package. Where is that package? We haven't seen it.

The economy is the number one thing we should all be focusing on. Everything else should fall into place after that. Yet this White House is too busy in turmoil to take care of the core business of this country.

It is actually White House crisis week again. That is a sad comment, but it is the truth. Once again we hear about a President who is not respecting the fact that we have allies around the world who are there sharing information that should not be shared with the Russians, and yet, at the same time, this President chooses to violate that responsibility.

The American people and economy are losing confidence in our President and our White House. They shouldn't be given these disturbing reports that come out almost every day. The actions are undermining our economy. It is undermining the confidence in our infrastructure, and it is undermining our confidence of the United States around the world.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 17, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 17, 2017, at 9:20 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 419.
That the Senate passed S. 583.
That the Senate passed S. 867.
That the Senate agreed to S.J. Res. 22.

Appointments:
Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff
Commission on Native Children.
With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 115, THIN BLUE LINE ACT

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 323 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 323

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 115) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide additional aggravating factors for the imposition of the death penalty based on the status of the victim. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute rec-

ommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115-17 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), my friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule and the underlying legislation.

As a former Federal and State prosecutor, I often hear how Americans value and respect our law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders. We talk about their heroism, their selflessness, their willingness to protect and serve no matter the cost.

These fearless individuals truly are the fabric that holds our communities together. However, in recent years, a violent and disturbing trend has developed. Law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders are increasingly being targeted for violence and cruelty based solely on the uniform they wear.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, there were 64 police shooting deaths in 2016. That number is 56 percent higher than the previous year. The National Association of Police Organizations also notes that ambush-style killings of law enforcement officers increased by 167 percent in 2016.

Allowing this appalling trend to continue unchecked is not only unacceptable, it is indefensible. Congress must take concrete steps to address this deadly problem.

Current Federal law provides 16 aggravating factors that a jury must consider when deciding whether a death sentence is warranted. These factors include whether the defendant acted in an especially heinous, cruel, or depraved manner; whether the defendant engaged in substantial planning and premeditation; whether the victim was

particularly vulnerable; whether the victim was a high public official, which includes high-ranking public persons, from the President to a foreign head of state, to a judge or a Federal law enforcement officer. However, State and local police officers, firefighters, prosecutors, and first responders are excluded from these protections.

In response, my friend, Mr. BUCHANAN, introduced H.R. 115, the Thin Blue Line Act. This legislation amends Federal law to include murdering, attempting to murder, or targeting of State and local law enforcement officers, firefighters, prosecutors, and first responders as an aggravating factor a jury must consider when determining whether a death sentence is justified. Furthermore, these protections extend to all public safety officers who are murdered or targeted while engaging in their official duties, because of the performance of their duties, or because of their status as a public official or employee.

This bill sends a clear message: Those who target our police officers, firefighters, or first responders with violence will be met with an equally harsh punishment.

We offer our thoughts and prayers to the families of our fallen officers, but we must do more to protect these brave individuals. We can't stand idly by as the individuals who protect our homes and communities are targeted because of the uniform they wear. We must act to ensure those individuals who would commit an act of violence against our public safety officers know they will face the gravest of sentences if they go through with their heinous plot.

We must send the message that Congress stands with those fearless individuals who dedicate their lives to protecting our communities, no matter the cost. We can't continue allowing them to suffer the price of our inaction. I support this effort and thank Chairman GOODLATTE and the Committee on the Judiciary for bringing this bill to the floor.

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank my friend, the gentleman from Colorado, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes for debate.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to debate the rule for consideration of H.R. 115, the Thin Blue Line Act.

Mr. Speaker, law enforcement and first responders play an important role in the safety and security of our communities. I know about that because of the reason that, when I was a lawyer, I had the privilege of representing a firefighters association and a police officers association.

I have represented police officers in court, and I have been in situations where I have interfaced with them as a lawyer in other circumstances. They are an invaluable resource represented by the hard work of dedicated men and women across our Nation.

Most importantly, our admiration for police officers is not a partisan issue. We universally agree that those officers who diligently work to protect our communities warrant our praise as we honor them on this National Police Week.

□ 1245

They are our friends, our neighbors, our family, and they are even our colleagues. I am honored to serve in this institution with a number of persons who, in their other activities, were either police officers or police chiefs that served in that capacity in law enforcement.

We have a new Member here from my State, my good friend, Representative VAL DEMINGS, a career law enforcement officer herself—27 years she served—serving as Orlando's first female chief of police. I have just a footnote to add to that. Val's husband is the sheriff of Orange County.

It is because of this admiration and bipartisan support that, in some respects, I was dismayed to see that, as we celebrate National Police Week, my Republican colleagues decided now was the time to bring this, in my view, unnecessary messaging bill to the floor simply to score political points.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 115 would add the murder, attempted murder, or targeting of a law enforcement official, first responder, or firefighter as an aggravating factor when determining if a death sentence is warranted for a defendant convicted of murder in Federal court.

The problem, Mr. Speaker, is this bill is unnecessary. It is, in short, really good messaging, but bad policy. Under current law, there is already an exhaustive list of 16 statutory aggravating factors for homicide for a jury or court to consider.

Having been involved in the justice system for a protracted time in my career, I am trying to think of a time that a police officer was killed and a person was tried and convicted; and I ask my colleagues to answer that question, that anybody that was convicted for killing a police officer didn't get the death penalty. I know in my State, in every instance that that occurred—and they were too numerous, and I regret that they occurred at all—all of those people got the death penalty.

We also remember that Federal prosecutors can and do seek the death penalty in the killing of law enforcement or first responders, as our friends from Massachusetts are well aware after a death sentence was handed down in the case involving the Boston Marathon bomber. And that was in Massachusetts, a nondeath penalty State.

Mr. Speaker, on this front, the system is working. Federal prosecutors already have the tools to seek the death penalty in cases where a first responder or law enforcement official was murdered. What's more, they are using these tools.

Given this duplicity, it is a shame that we are here today debating the

need for a seventeenth new aggravating factor to keep members of the law enforcement community safe when we could be considering measures that would actually keep them and their communities they protect far safer.

Let's be clear. This legislation does nothing to keep law enforcement officers and first responders safe. By its own purported purpose, this bill addresses the tragic scenario in which the officer has already been killed. We need to be working together to create legislation that has a real impact on keeping our communities and police safer, as opposed to slapping a catchy name on an unnecessary bill and pretend we are doing something.

If my Republican colleagues were serious about advancing protections for law enforcement during National Police Week, we would be discussing providing them with the tools, the resources, and the training to engage in beneficial community policing initiatives. Our law enforcement officers and the communities they police deserve more than messaging. They deserve real action.

I ask one more question. Ask police officers what their attitude is about assault weapons. I think you would find that, if we passed an assault weapons measure, we would be pleasing police officers a great deal more than messaging to them our concern for their safety.

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

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, we are here because we are making sure that local police officers, sheriff's deputies, prosecutors, first responders, and firefighters have the same protections that those in the Federal system have.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON).

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, law enforcement officers across this country go to work every day to serve and protect our communities. These brave men and women risk everything to keep our communities and our families safe and secure, and they do it selflessly.

I recently attended a ceremony in Putnam County, Indiana, honoring the service and sacrifice of the Indiana State Police officers who have given their lives in the line of duty. Yesterday I was at the White House with Vice President PENCE to recognize the dedication of the Indiana Fraternal Order of Police and to remember the service of the late sheriff's deputy of Howard County, Carl Koontz, who was killed in the line of duty.

Events like these are somber reminders of what these heroes who stand on the thin blue line, and their families, sacrifice on our behalf. We should all be grateful.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation ensures that officers who fall in the line of duty, and their families, receive the justice they deserve. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation that confirms the United States Congress stands behind our law enforcement.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and then I will yield to a speaker to speak for the previous question.

Mr. Speaker, it may sound like we are getting ready to change the subject; and, to a relative degree, we are.

We are in very interesting and troubling times in this Nation, and we have some concerns that need to be addressed. One of the things that is allowed to the minority is an opportunity to present a previous question.

In this particular instance, we are deeply concerned by last night's revelations that, earlier this year, President Trump may have attempted to obstruct justice when he asked then-FBI Director James Comey to end the Bureau's investigation of former National Security Advisor Flynn's ties to Russia. This news came only days after the President acknowledged that he later fired Director Comey over the Bureau's investigation into the links between the Trump campaign and Russia, and only a day after we learned the President shared highly classified intelligence with Russian officials last week.

I served for 8 years on the Intelligence Committee in this Congress, and the kind of information that the President shared with the Russians—even as an Intelligence member, I saw secret, I saw top secret, I saw high secret, but I did not see code word information, the highest that is only shared with a few people in the congressional body—that is what was allowed to be transmitted.

It is time that the Republican-controlled Congress does its job and acts to defend our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up a bipartisan bill, H.R. 356, which would create a nonpartisan commission to investigate Russian interference in our 2016 election. This marks the seventh time we tried to bring this bill to the House floor. On the previous six occasions, the Republican majority regretably refused the House to even debate this important legislation.

As more and more facts have come to light, I hope my colleagues will finally put country ahead of party and get serious about this investigation. My goodness, the allegation here is that people impacted our fundamental premise of our existence: our elections. We need to create this commission with legislation rather than just tweeting about the need for facts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California, (Mr.

SWALWELL), a member of the Intelligence Committee of the House, to discuss our proposal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Before recognizing the gentleman from California, Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I have heard that often. Will the Speaker direct me to what I said that was anything more than what is a fact here. Can the Chair tell me what I said that was dealing with the personality of the President.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may have, perhaps not in words, but perhaps gave some indication of illegal activities by the President.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding.

I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question and allow an amendment to come forward so that we can debate having an independent commission on Russia's interference in our past election.

The events over the past few weeks have demonstrated that there is a high cost—a cost that is too high to bear with regard to the White House and its ties with Russia.

What is the cost exactly?

What is the cost of alleged abuses and the President's firing of Acting Attorney General Sally Yates and Director James Comey?

What is the cost of the question swirling around the President's ties to Russia?

Well, the cost, clearly, with the leaking that occurred in the Oval Office, is now our national security.

The cost is our democracy has been left in ruins. It is a mess right now here in Washington.

The cost is that this House is unable to bring forward legislation to do anything to help people put food on the table, to seek to put a roof over their home, and to provide opportunity to their children.

It is a high cost that we are paying right now for all these questions. It is too much for us to bear.

The best thing we can do is to charter an independent commission to take this outside of Congress so that they can follow the facts and the evidence and report back to the American people just exactly how we were so vulnerable this last election.

What was our response?

Were any U.S. persons involved?

And, most importantly, what are we going to do?

What reforms can we make?

What awareness should we all have so that we never find ourselves in a mess like this again?

It is not disputed, Russia attacked our democracy. It was ordered by Vladimir Putin. They used a multifaceted campaign of social media trolls, the dissemination of fake news, the hacking of Democratic emails, and the breaking into State voter registration systems. They had a preferred candidate in mind in Donald Trump. And they didn't do it because they were bored. They didn't do it because they were testing software. They did it because they wanted something in return. They saw a candidate who admired their President, they wanted sanctions rolled back, and they wanted to reduce the role of NATO.

But the most disturbing and the most bone-chilling finding that the intelligence community made was that Russia intends to do it again. And by the looks of things, they will be more successful next time because, since this past attack, we have done nothing to improve the structural integrity of our elections. We have done nothing to have a frank conversation with the American people about how we all need to be more aware about what a foreign adversary's intent is when they hack emails and then disseminate fake news.

This is a time for Republicans and Democrats to unite. Democrats may have been the victim of this most recent attack. If history has its way, another adversary perhaps could attack us and Republicans may be the victim.

□ 1300

But the constant should always be that both parties say we will never tolerate foreign interference. The first step to doing that is to defeat this previous question, allow an amendment to take place so we can debate having an independent commission, a commission that would be bipartisan appointed, have a wide mandate to follow the evidence, explore all the facts, and then report to the American people recommendations so that this never happens again. We have a discharge petition right now to also do that. There are a number of names on it.

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

Mr. HASTINGS. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I saw how our country responded after the last serious attack that occurred on September 11. Outside, on the Capitol steps, Republicans and Democrats joined hands. They sang "God Bless America." But more importantly were the reforms that they undertook over the next few years to understand the vulnerability, to put policies in place to make sure we were never vulnerable again, and report to the American people what they had done.

We have an opportunity again to unite. Our constituents are counting on us to show that unity, to wear the same uniform, and make sure that this democracy is still one we protect.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. KNIGHT) to get this debate

back on track and to protect local law enforcement officials.

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I come to you, not just as a Representative from my district today but someone who served for 18 years as a Los Angeles police officer on the streets, someone who has been in uniform, at attention, at several police officer and deputy funerals as tears were rolling down my face, and looking side to side and seeing the same of my brothers and sisters in law enforcement.

I am sure that everyone who speaks today will have a story, a horrible story that affected their community. On October 5 of last year, one such story happened in our community. Sergeant Steve Owen was basically executed. He was shot from a far distance, and then the killer came up and put four more shots into him at close range to make sure that he was dead.

These are the types of things that we are seeing in our communities across this country at an alarmingly high rate over the last few years.

I think that the Thin Blue Line Act is one more of those types of issues that we can do to protect our first responders, our police officers, our firefighters, to give these people justice, to give their families justice, so I urge you to support the Thin Blue Line Act.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, would the Chair be so kind as to advise my good friend and I what amount of time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 14½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Colorado has 24½ minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I would advise my friend that I anticipate one more speaker, but at this time I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE), chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule to consider H.R. 115, the Thin Blue Line Act, introduced by my friend and colleague from Florida, Mr. VERN BUCHANAN.

Mr. Speaker, this week, National Police Week, we take time to honor our Nation's law enforcement officers for the work they do and the sacrifices they make to keep us safe on a daily basis. It is unconscionable that law enforcement officers are being targeted and are making the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty; and this bill aims to make the killing or attempted killing of a law enforcement officer an aggravating factor for the imposition of the death penalty.

Mr. Speaker, I served for 6 years as a city commissioner and two of those as the mayor of my small town of Johnson City, Tennessee, and had the privilege of working with first responders, firemen, and police officers every day. It was a privilege to do it. I put on a scrub suit to go to work. They put on a Kevlar vest and put their lives in danger. I cannot say thank you enough

to them and their families for the sacrifices that they make.

I commend my colleague on introducing this legislation and for the House considering it today. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation in honor of our law enforcement officers.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO).

Mr. YOHIO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of H.R. 115, the Thin Blue Line Act, which will act as a deterrent against criminals who seek to harm first responders. Increasing the Federal penalties that can be imposed against those who would kill or attempt to kill policemen, firemen, or first responders is a just response to such heinous crimes.

This week is National Police Week, and I am reminded of the words etched on the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C., which states: "The wicked flee when no man pursueth, but the righteous are bold as a lion." This is from the Book of Proverbs.

It takes a special kind of person to willingly run toward danger and to shield the innocent from the wicked. That is what our law enforcement and first responders do every day.

I am very grateful for the men and women who serve and protect our communities; and I was honored to be present for Police Week in a small town in our district, Green Cove Springs, in Clay County, Florida, where they had the Police Memorial; and on that was a verse from John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

I hope that God watches over our first responders and keeps them safe to bring them home to their families.

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

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS).

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, as a former Tuscaloosa County prosecutor and Madison County district attorney, I fully understand the importance of the rule of law that, in turn, protects us from anarchy, crime, destruction, and death. Without the rule of law, criminal brute force prevails.

Unfortunately, leftist political forces who care more about inciting racial division for political gain and less about crime and terror victims regularly second-guess those who wear the uniform to protect and serve.

For emphasis, antipolice, leftist political rhetoric has helped incite ambush-style attacks against police in places like Dallas, Baton Rouge, Des Moines, and Palm Springs.

I support the Thin Blue Line Act because I appreciate the sacrifice of law

enforcement officers, and because it is morally right to help protect officers who risk their lives to protect ours.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with our law enforcement officers and in support of the rule and passage of the Thin Blue Line Act. This bill makes sure that anyone who targets and attacks a State or local law enforcement officer is held accountable.

The men and women who serve in our local police forces put their lives on the line to keep us safe. They are our everyday heroes, Mr. Speaker.

In 2014, Tarpon Springs Police Officer Charles Kondek was shot and killed by a fugitive while on duty. Officer Kondek represented Tarpon Springs. He worked there for 17 years and did a wonderful job keeping us safe.

These ambush-style killings of law enforcement officers have increased across the country by 167 percent. This is unacceptable.

The Thin Blue Line Act brings us one step closer to justice for these horrific crimes, so let's pass this bill. Of course, we have to pass the rule first so that we can pass this good bill.

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

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DUNN).

Mr. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Thin Blue Line Act, which will make murder or attempted murder of a law enforcement officer, or first responders, an aggravating factor in death penalty determinations.

The officers of the thin blue line put their lives at risk every day and are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice so that we can rest easy at night. Our law enforcement and first responders run into danger so that others can run away from it. They do this despite the rise in violence against them.

We have witnessed a 167 percent increase in ambush-style killings of police officers in 2016 alone. This is tragic, and it is unacceptable.

The Thin Blue Line Act will hold cop killers accountable and seek justice for those murdered in the line of duty, and it will show our resolve as citizens to protect the officers who have sworn to protect us.

During this week, National Police Week, we can also show our gratitude to law enforcement and their families by passing the Thin Blue Line Act. It is an honor to represent them in Congress.

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

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, at this time in our Nation, protecting our local law

enforcement and first responders could not be more important. Tens of thousands of law enforcement and first responders around the country put their lives on the line every single day to serve their communities. Sadly, statistics show that simply doing their jobs has become very dangerous for these individuals.

In 2016, police officer shootings increased by 56 percent nationally, with ambush-style killings of law enforcement officers increasing by a staggering 167 percent. These dramatic numbers demonstrate that more protection is needed for our law enforcement officers.

In my home State of Texas, 17 law enforcement officers gave their lives just last year, including five who were killed in the horrible assault that targeted police officers in Dallas, Texas. On Monday, in recognition of National Police Week, we honored fallen law enforcement officers at a memorial ceremony in Deer Park, Texas, in my district.

We need the Thin Blue Line Act, which would make the killing of a local or State law enforcement officer or first responder an aggravating factor in Federal death penalty determinations. It is important that our local and State police officers and first responders have the same safeguards that Federal law enforcement officers already have.

The local law enforcement and first responders that I know in my district not only serve their communities through their jobs but also give back to their communities in positions such as Little League coaches, City Council members, Sunday-school teachers, and in countless other positions of service. These individuals put their communities first, Mr. Speaker, and they deserve to be protected by much stronger laws.

I rise in strong support of the Thin Blue Line Act and encourage my colleagues in the House to support its passage today.

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

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), a former special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. BUCK, for his leadership on this important issue, and I rise in strong support.

Mr. Speaker, my great-uncle, Phil Fitzpatrick, was a proud patrolman with the NYPD. He was also a poet, often referring to police officers as soldiers of peace. This week, as we recognize Police Week 2017, I find myself thinking of him and a line from one of his poems, where he wrote: "When he kisses his wife and children goodbye, there's the chance he will see them no more."

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, these words were true for my family. This month marks 70 years since my great-

uncle was shot while attempting to disarm a robber in a Manhattan bar, a fatal injury he succumbed to days later.

Mr. Speaker, for too long, law enforcement across this country has been forgotten or, worse yet, ostracized. At the same time, their vital mission continues, and it continues to grow more dangerous. Just last year, ambush-style killings of law enforcement officers increased by 167 percent, according to the National Association of Police Organizations. Despite all this, each day, tens of thousands of brave women and men continue to put their lives on the line to serve and protect our communities.

This week, we recognize Police Week 2017, but the dedication and sacrifice of our blue line deserves to be respected every day. As a former law enforcement officer, I am proud to stand here today in support of those brave women and men.

Today, the House has a chance to take decisive action to protect our law enforcement officers by passing the legislation before us. The Thin Blue Line Act sends a clear message to those who intentionally target our police officers. Vicious attacks on law enforcement officers will be met with justice.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for law enforcement today, support this rule, and pass H.R. 115, the Thin Blue Line Act. The bipartisan support it deserves must be delivered today.

□ 1315

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

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BUCK) for his efforts and leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I think it is really important that we talk about law enforcement; we talk about what their role is. These are the peacekeepers. The men and women right here on Capitol Hill, the Capitol Police, they are the ones who prevent chaos, that allow for order to stand here in the Capitol complex.

In the State of Louisiana, in my hometown of Baton Rouge, back on July 17, we had an extraordinary event. We had five of our law enforcement officers who were responding to a shooter with a long gun; clearly, someone that was dressed and armed in a way to not be helpful to the community. While the rest of us were running away from that shooter, these five men were running toward him.

As a result of that, Deputy Brad Garafola lost his life, and his wife, Tonja, is right now a widow.

Matthew Gerald lost his life, and Dechia, his wife, is now a widow. Dechia found out 2 weeks after his death that she was pregnant, and he has never seen that baby. That baby doesn't have a father today.

We had Montrell Jackson, another Baton Rouge police officer, who lost his life, and his wife, Trenisha, is now a widow.

We had Bruce Simmons who got shot, and while he did survive, he is still struggling with recovery, and he and his wife, Pam, continue to go through that from the July 17 shooting from last year.

Nick Tullier was also involved in that shooting, and I have been wearing my "Pray for Nick" band now for months. Nick Tullier continues to be in the hospital even today.

This bill allows for the protection of our officers. It clearly distinguishes that these are the peacekeepers, these are the people who are putting their lives on the line to make sure that we have order, no longer chaos.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation, and I urge everyone to support this unanimously.

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

I am sure that my friends across the aisle have their hearts in the right place, but we need to be clear that these messaging bills do little to nothing to protect our police officers.

If we truly wanted to help our brave officers and first responders, we would pass sensible gun reform legislation. We would take guns out of the hands of the mentally ill and domestic abusers; not make it easier for them to acquire such weapons as my friends across the aisle have done on so many occasions.

If we truly wanted to protect our officers and first responders, we would work diligently to provide them with the best mental health and wellness programs money can buy rather than leaving them to mend unseen wounds on their own.

If my friends across the aisle truly wanted to help this country's law enforcement officers, they would champion funding for community policing initiatives because I think we all know that a community that trusts its police officers, and police officers who trust their community, will live a far safer and richer life.

I might add, my colleague DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and I, along with law enforcement officials in south Florida, have been about the business of trying to make that a reality, and funding for those programs is particularly important to all of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, we all applaud and thank our law enforcement officers and first responders for the brave and invaluable work that they do, day in and day out, in our communities.

But we cannot bury our heads in the sand any longer and believe that, by simply passing messaging bills, we are actually making our communities safer for our officers or the citizens for whom they swear an oath to protect.

We have heard outstanding comments from our friends and our colleagues who came to speak today. All of them spoke of heartfelt circumstances regarding fallen officers.

And toward that end, there is absolutely nothing that I disagree with that has been said.

I just simply ask that we take into consideration how we can best help and keep safe law enforcement officers.

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

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I include in the RECORD four letters which I will briefly describe:

The first is from the Major County Sheriffs of America, supporting the Thin Blue Line Act; the second is from the National Association of Police Organizations, Inc., again, supporting the Thin Blue Line Act; the third is from the National Fraternal Order of Police, supporting H.R. 115, the Thin Blue Line Act; and then finally, from the Sergeants Benevolent Association in strong support of H.R. 115, the Thin Blue Line Act.

MAJOR COUNTY SHERIFFS
OF AMERICA,
April 25, 2017.

Hon. VERN BUCHANAN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BUCHANAN: I write to you today on a matter of significant importance to the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) and all of America's law enforcement professionals. MCSA is an association of elected Sheriffs representing the Nation's largest counties with populations of 500,000 or more. Collectively, we represent more than 100 million Americans.

As Vice President in charge of Government Affairs for the MCSA, I am pleased to express our association's support of your legislation, the Thin Blue Line Act. This legislation would make the murder of law enforcement officers, firefighters and other first responders an aggravating factor in capital punishment determinations.

In 2016, one hundred forty-four officers died in the line of duty and to date, line of duty deaths are up 10 percent. The targeting of law enforcement officers is unconscionable and those who commit such heinous acts should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Law enforcement officers and other first responders have the right to go home to their families at the end of their shifts.

The Thin Blue Line Act is a step in the right direction and your work on this legislation is sincerely appreciated. We value your support and look forward to working with you in the future.

MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD,
Sheriff, Oakland County (MI),
Vice President—Government Affairs.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.,
Alexandria, VA, January 5, 2017.

Hon. VERN BUCHANAN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BUCHANAN: On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing to you to express our strong support for the Thin Blue Line Act.

NAPO is a coalition of police units and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, including the Florida Police Benev-

olent Association, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

The Thin Blue Line Act increases penalties on those who harm or target for harm public safety officers by making the murder or attempted murder of a local police officer, firefighter, or first responder an aggravating factor in death penalty determinations.

This bill is critical, as law enforcement officer assaults, injuries, and deaths have increased sharply in recent years. In 2016 alone, ambush-style killings of law enforcement officers increased by 167 percent. Establishing stricter penalties for those who harm or target for harm law enforcement officers will deter crime. Any persons contemplating harming an officer must know that they will face serious punishments. NAPO strongly believes that increased penalties make important differences in the attitudes of criminals toward public safety officers, and ensure protection for the community.

We thank you for your continued support of the law enforcement community and we look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation. If we can provide any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
WILLIAM J. JOHNSON,
Esq., CAE, Executive Director.

NATIONAL FRATERNAL
ORDER OF POLICE,
Washington, DC, January 9, 2017.

Hon. VERNON G. BUCHANAN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BUCHANAN: I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 115, the "Thin Blue Line Act."

The "Thin Blue Line Act" increases the penalty for an individual who targets, kills, or attempts to kill a person who is a law enforcement officer, firefighter or any other public safety officer, while he or she was engaged in the performance of his or her official duties, because of the performance of his or her official duties, or because of his or her status as a public official or employee.

Law enforcement officers have always faced threats while on duty but within the past few years, officers have become a target for violence solely because of the uniform they wear. As you know, the FOP has called upon Congress to expand the current Federal hate crimes law to include law enforcement officers for this very reason.

Of the 63 deaths by gunfire suffered by law enforcement in 2016, 21 of them—that's 33%—were ambush killings. These were deliberate and sadly successful efforts by individuals who set out to kill a police officer:

The ambush attack against the Dallas Police Department; the deadliest day for law enforcement since 9/11 that saw 5 officers killed from gunfire;

The ambush attack against members of the Baton Rouge Police Department that saw 3 officers killed from gunfire;

The ambush attack against 2 Iowa police officers, Scott Martin and Anthony Bemino who were killed as they sat in their respective patrol cars;

Officer Thomas Cottrell of the Danville Police Department (OH) was killed by ambush.

All of these officers died because of the uniforms they were wearing. Those in our profession have always been in harm's way. It is our job to protect others but it should not be "part of the job" to be a target of someone who is looking simply to kill a cop. We do not accept that our uniforms alone make us targets because someone was driven

to rage over a perceived injustice or desires to strike a blow against our civil government.

On behalf of more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I want to thank you for introducing this legislation and amendment. If I can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,
CHUCK CANTERBURY,
National President.

SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION,
POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY
OF NEW YORK,
New York, NY, January 17, 2017.

Hon. VERN BUCHANAN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BUCHANAN: I am writing on behalf of the more than 13,000 members of the Sergeants Benevolent Association of the New York City Police Department to advise you of our strong support for H.R. 115, the "Thin Blue Line Act."

For too long, members of the NYPD, along with law enforcement officers across this nation, have been targets. There has been a proliferation of groups and pundits impugning the motives and mission of law enforcement. They do so with no regard for the impact it has on our ability to protect life, property, and the freedoms we all hold dear. These constant attacks and the excessive, exaggerated rhetoric of anti-police elements have led some to declare an open season on police officers, and to welcome with cheers and praise the cowardly criminals who target law enforcement officers with acts of violence. We saw this first hand in New York City in December 2014, when Officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos were ambushed and senselessly murdered as they sat in their radio car on a Brooklyn street corner. Unfortunately, they are not alone. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, in 2016 there were 21 police officers killed in ambush-style attacks. Shockingly, 20 of these officers were killed in eight multiple-shooting death incidents—such as those that claimed the lives of 8 officers in Baton Rouge, LA and Dallas, TX—the highest total of any year since 1932.

It is for these reasons and many others that the legislation you have introduced is so important. The "Thin Blue Line Act" would make the murder or attempted murder of police officers, prosecutors, firefighters, and other first responders at any level of government an aggravating factor in federal death penalty determinations. The bill applies to things like the interstate homicide of an officer, and is applicable whether the officer is murdered on duty, because of the performance of their duty, or because of their status as a public official. While we know that law enforcement officers will continue to be targets, regardless of their uniform and whether they are on duty or off, active or retired, this legislation sends the message that any action to target law enforcement officers for murder or violence will be met with the harshest of penalties. And that is a message that is long overdue.

On behalf of the membership of our organization, thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you to see it swiftly enacted into law. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or our Washington Representatives Andrew Siff and Chris Granberg if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,
ED MULLINS,
President.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, the rule before the House today is simple. It provides for the consideration of the Thin Blue Line Act. We often talk of how resolute our law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders are in the face of immense danger. These heroic individuals charge into burning buildings, face down violence, and stand ready to jump into the fray at a moment's notice.

Simply putting on a uniform should not be one of those dangers. It is our duty to ensure that law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders have every tool at their disposal to do their job safely and effectively and to ensure they return home to their families.

Countless spouses and children kiss their loved ones good-bye as they head to work, praying that it will not be their last day. We must never forget this as we work to ensure our police officers, firefighters, and first responders have every possible protection.

There is no greater deterrent than the threat of losing one's life. It is my hope that this legislation makes individuals who would consider taking the life of an officer stop to consider the consequences before going through with an attack; that we one day reach a point where our Nation's finest can go to work without worrying about being targeted because of the uniform on their back; that one day our officers' families have one less reason to worry.

But until that day, we must continue standing resolutely against this evil. I ask my colleagues in the House to support our law enforcement community, firefighters, and first responders. Protect them from the heinous acts of violence. Give their families some assurance that we have their backs. Vote "yes" on the resolution, vote "yes" on the underlying bill, vote "yes" to give our law enforcement officers the protections they so desperately need.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GOODLATTE and Chairman SESSIONS for bringing this bill before us.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about the rule for H.R. 115, "Thin Blue Line Act of 2017."

I would like to acknowledge and commend our law enforcement officers in the room today and across this country who have worked tirelessly on our behalf.

I know personally the level of stress and challenges posed, because I have many friends that have and are currently serving my Congressional district in Houston and our country very well and with great distinction.

I support our policies that are necessary so long as we are doing so with fairness, in accordance with our Constitution, and in a manner that is not duplicative of statutory measures already in place.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 115 imposes the death penalty for the killing or targeting of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders as a 17th aggravated factor for homicide.

H.R. 115 is duplicative and unnecessary because under 18 U.S.C. 3592(c), there already

exists an aggravated factor that achieves the goal of punishing by death, a defendant who kills a law enforcement officer, thereby, making.

This bill does nothing to protect our law enforcement; instead, it raises constitutional questions as to its validity because "targeting law enforcement" is substantially vague language that will subject many innocent lives to death, based purely on their desire to exercise their First Amendment rights about the well-documented racial disparity in treatment throughout our communities.

We must ensure that we do not create legislation of broad scope and vagueness that will have a chilling effect on an insular group.

H.R. 115 is laced with a discriminatory effect that will trigger strict scrutiny under the 14th Amendment, and open the gateway for draconian habeas laws.

This bill will create a slippery slope, further adding to recent turbulence caused by Attorney General Jeff Session's memo and destroying whatever trust remains between law enforcement and communities.

This bill sends troubling messages around the world about how we view and measure life in America in this 21st century.

It is time to get serious about this epidemic and not hide behind vague language because 'all' lives matter, blue, black, brown, white.

Mr. Speaker, while some may say that any adverse effects of the bill before us are de minimis, and thus, will not severely impact the racial disparity found in the use of the death penalty, it is neither the amount of words in this bill nor the amount of time used to utter them that is significant; rather, it is the discriminatory effect that will result in communities disproportionately impacted by the death penalty.

Let us take for example, the case of *Buck v. Davis*, 580 U.S. ____ (2017) where the death penalty verdict was based merely on 'whether defendant is likely to commit acts of violence in the future' and a psychologist opined that being black did increase the probability. The trial court reasoned that "introduction of any mention of race was de minimis," in other words, insignificant.

As Chief Justice John Roberts stated for the Court in reversing the lower court; "Some toxins can be deadly in small doses."

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 115 is extremely deadly because it will undoubtedly contribute to the continuation of well-documented and pervasive racial disparities in the imposition of the death penalty.

Since 1976 only 20 white prisoners have been executed for the murder of an African American victim, while an alarming 286 African American prisoners have been executed for the death of white victims, and 42% of African Americans currently remain on death row.

Death penalty generally, has been criticized over the years by legal scholars and by Supreme Court Justices who have opined in several instances, that 'the death penalty violates the Eighth Amendment, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment.'

Even in 1958, when the Court first explicitly spoke about the death penalty as having constitutional challenges, it said in *Trop v. Dulles*, "the Eighth Amendment's Cruel and Unusual Punishment clause must draw its meaning from the 'evolving standards of decency that mark the progress of a maturing society' rather than from its original meaning."

Mr. Speaker, there is no argument that we have evolved and matured significantly since we first implemented the death penalty in the 1600s and thus, we must evaluate cautiously, laws that seek to further advance this flawed, astronomically costly and unjust practice.

Capital punishment does not work; it is discriminatory and is used disproportionately against the poor, minorities and members of racial, ethnic and religious communities.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976, 82% of all executions have occurred in the South (37% in Texas alone), which contributed to the United States status as one of five countries in the world to account for the most executions in 2012.

FBI data has shown that the death penalty is not a deterrent and in fact, 14 states without capital punishment in 2008, had homicide rates at or below the national rate.

Taking another life does not stop violence.

Like mandatory minimums, public opinion for the death penalty is currently at its lowest with a 42% opposition, evidenced in a 2016 Pew Research report, which found that the U.S. now dropped to number seven worldwide in countries accountable for the most executions.

Mr. Speaker, over two-thirds of the world's countries have abolished the death penalty either in law or practice, and the U.S. is the only Western country that still uses the death penalty.

Even family members of murder victims and other individuals who have witnessed live executions of death row inmates, particularly, in the recent botched and questionable executions, have called for a repeal of this practice and ask instead for alternative sentencing.

In fact the death penalty solves nothing, and may even perpetuate the suffering of the parents, children, or siblings left behind.

We do not need to expand the use of the death penalty where public opinion is at its lowest, but instead, implement sound and practical legislation that will save lives of our officers and the people they serve, where public opinion for this measure is extremely high.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 323 OFFERED BY
MR. HASTINGS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 2. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 356) to establish the National Commission on Foreign Interference in the 2016 Election. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole

risers and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 356.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy impli-

cations. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of the adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 230, nays 189, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 259]

YEAS—230

Abraham	Farenthold	Loudermilk
Aderholt	Faso	Love
Allen	Ferguson	Lucas
Amash	Fitzpatrick	Luetkemeyer
Amodei	Fleischmann	MacArthur
Arrington	Flores	Marchant
Babin	Fortenberry	Marino
Bacon	Fox	Marshall
Banks (IN)	Franks (AZ)	Massie
Barletta	Frelinghuysen	Mast
Barr	Gaetz	McCarthy
Barton	Gallagher	McCaul
Bergman	Gibbs	McClintock
Biggs	Gohmert	McHenry
Bilirakis	Goodlatte	McKinley
Bishop (MI)	Gosar	McMorris
Bishop (UT)	Gowdy	Rodgers
Black	Granger	McSally
Blackburn	Graves (GA)	Meadows
Blum	Graves (LA)	Meehan
Bost	Graves (MO)	Messer
Brady (TX)	Griffith	Mitchell
Brat	Grothman	Mooleenaar
Bridenstine	Guthrie	Mooney (WV)
Brooks (AL)	Harper	Mullin
Brooks (IN)	Harris	Murphy (PA)
Buchanan	Hartzler	Noem
Buck	Hensarling	Nunes
Bucshon	Herrera Beutler	Olson
Budd	Hice, Jody B.	Palazzo
Burgess	Higgins (LA)	Palmer
Byrne	Hill	Paulsen
Calvert	Holding	Pearce
Carter (GA)	Hollingsworth	Perry
Carter (TX)	Hudson	Pittenger
Chabot	Huizenga	Poe (TX)
Cheney	Hultgren	Poliquin
Coffman	Hunter	Posey
Collins (GA)	Hurd	Ratcliffe
Collins (NY)	Issa	Reed
Comer	Jenkins (KS)	Reichert
Constock	Jenkins (WV)	Renacci
Conaway	Johnson (LA)	Rice (SC)
Cook	Johnson (OH)	Roby
Costello (PA)	Jordan	Roe (TN)
Cramer	Joyce (OH)	Rogers (AL)
Crawford	Katko	Rogers (KY)
Culberson	Kelly (MS)	Rohrabacher
Curbelo (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Rokita
Davidson	King (IA)	Rooney, Francis
Davis, Rodney	King (NY)	Rooney, Thomas J.
Denham	Kinzinger	Ros-Lehtinen
Dent	Knight	Roskam
DeSantis	Kustoff (TN)	Ross
DesJarlais	Labrador	Rothfus
Diaz-Balart	LaHood	Rouzer
Donovan	LaMalfa	Royce (CA)
Duffy	Lamborn	Russell
Duncan (SC)	Lance	Rutherford
Duncan (TN)	Latta	Sanford
Dunn	Lewis (MN)	Scalise
Emmer	LoBiondo	Schweikert
Estes (KS)	Long	

Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smucker
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Tenney

Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)

Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NAYS—189

Adams	Gabbard	Norcross
Aguilar	Gallego	O'Halleran
Barragán	Garamendi	O'Rourke
Bass	Gonzalez (TX)	Pallone
Beatty	Gottheimer	Panetta
Bera	Green, Al	Pascrell
Beyer	Green, Gene	Payne
Bishop (GA)	Grijalva	Perlmutter
Blumenauer	Hanabusa	Peters
Blunt Rochester	Hastings	Peterson
Bonamici	Heck	Pingree
Boyle, Brendan F.	Higgins (NY)	Pocan
Brady (PA)	Himes	Polis
Brown (MD)	Hoyer	Price (NC)
Brownley (CA)	Huffman	Quigley
Bustos	Jackson Lee	Raskin
Butterfield	Jayapal	Rice (NY)
Capuano	Jeffries	Richmond
Carbajal	Johnson (GA)	Rosen
Cárdenas	Johnson, E. B.	Roybal-Allard
Carson (IN)	Jones	Ruiz
Cartwright	Kaptur	Ruppersberger
Castor (FL)	Keating	Rush
Castro (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Cicilline	Kennedy	Sánchez
Clark (MA)	Khanna	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kihuen	Schakowsky
Clay	Kildee	Schiff
Cleaver	Kilmer	Schneider
Clyburn	Kind	Schrader
Cohen	Krishnamoorthi	Scott (VA)
Connolly	Kuster (NH)	Scott, David
Conyers	Langevin	Serrano
Cooper	Larsen (WA)	Sewell (AL)
Correa	Larson (CT)	Shea-Porter
Costa	Lawrence	Sherman
Courtney	Lawson (FL)	Sinema
Crist	Lee	Sires
Crowley	Levin	Slaughter
Cuellar	Lewis (GA)	Smith (WA)
Cummings	Lipinski	Soto
Davis (CA)	Loebsock	Speier
Davis, Danny	Lofgren	Suozi
DeFazio	Lowenthal	Swalwell (CA)
DeGette	Lowe	Takano
Delaney	Lujan Grisham, M.	Thompson (CA)
DeLauro	Luján, Ben Ray	Thompson (MS)
DelBene	Lynch	Titus
Demings	Maloney	Tonko
DeSaulnier	Maloney, Sean	Torres
Deutch	Maloney, Carolyn B.	Tsongas
Dingell	Matsui	Vargas
Doggett	McCollum	Veasey
Doyle, Michael F.	McEachin	Vela
Ellison	McGovern	Velázquez
Engel	McNerney	Visclosky
Eshoo	Meeks	Walz
Espallat	Meng	Wasserman
Esty (CT)	Moore	Schultz
Evans	Moulton	Waters, Maxine
Foster	Murphy (FL)	Watson Coleman
Frankel (FL)	Nadler	Welch
Fudge	Neal	Wilson (FL)
	Nolan	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—11

Chaffetz	Gutiérrez	Newhouse
Chu, Judy	Johnson, Sam	Pelosi
Cole	Lieu, Ted	Shuster
Garrett	Napolitano	

□ 1349

Miss RICE of New York, Mr. McEACHIN, and Ms. BONAMICI changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 233, noes 184, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 260]

AYES—233

Abraham	Goodlatte	Nunes
Aderholt	Gosar	O'Halleran
Allen	Gowdy	Olson
Amash	Granger	Palazzo
Amodei	Graves (GA)	Palmer
Arrington	Graves (LA)	Paulsen
Babin	Graves (MO)	Pearce
Bacon	Griffith	Perry
Banks (IN)	Grothman	Pittenger
Barletta	Guthrie	Poe (TX)
Barr	Harper	Poliquin
Barton	Hartzler	Posey
Bergman	Herrnspring	Ratcliffe
Biggs	Herrera Beutler	Reed
Bilirakis	Hice, Jody B.	Reichert
Bishop (MI)	Higgins (LA)	Renacci
Bishop (UT)	Hill	Rice (SC)
Black	Holding	Roby
Blackburn	Hollingsworth	Roe (TN)
Blum	Hudson	Rogers (AL)
Bost	Huizenga	Rogers (KY)
Brady (TX)	Hultgren	Rohrabacher
Brat	Hunter	Rokita
Bridenstine	Hurd	Rooney, Francis
Brooks (AL)	Issa	Rooney, Thomas
Brooks (IN)	Jenkins (KS)	J.
Buchanan	Jenkins (WV)	Ros-Lehtinen
Buck	Johnson (LA)	Roskam
Bucshon	Johnson (OH)	Ross
Budd	Jones	Rothfus
Burgess	Jordan	Rouzer
Byrne	Joyce (OH)	Royce (CA)
Calvert	Katko	Russell
Carter (GA)	Kelly (MS)	Rutherford
Carter (TX)	Kelly (PA)	Sanford
Chabot	King (IA)	Scalise
Cheney	King (NY)	Schweikert
Coffman	Kinzing	Scott, Austin
Collins (GA)	Knight	Sensenbrenner
Collins (NY)	Kustoff (TN)	Sessions
Comer	Labrador	Shimkus
Comstock	LaHood	Shuster
Conaway	LaMalfa	Simpson
Cook	Lamborn	Smith (MO)
Costello (PA)	Lance	Smith (NE)
Cramer	Latta	Smith (NJ)
Crawford	Lewis (MN)	Smith (TX)
Culberson	LoBiondo	Long
Curbeo (FL)	Long	Smucker
Davidson	Loudermilk	Stefanik
Davis, Rodney	Love	Stewart
Denham	Lucas	Stivers
Dent	Luetkemeyer	Taylor
DeSantis	MacArthur	Tenney
DesJarlais	Marchant	Thompson (PA)
Diaz-Balart	Marino	Thornberry
Donovan	Marshall	Tiberi
Duffy	Massie	Tipton
Duncan (SC)	Mast	Trott
Duncan (TN)	McCarthy	Turner
Dunn	McCaul	Upton
Emmer	McClintock	Valadao
Estes (KS)	McHenry	Wagner
Farenthold	McKinley	Walberg
Faso	McMorris	Walden
Ferguson	Rodgers	Walker
Fitzpatrick	McSally	Walorski
Fleischmann	Meadows	Walters, Mimi
Flores	Meehan	Weber (TX)
Fortenberry	Messer	Webster (FL)
Fox	Mitchell	Wenstrup
Frelinghuysen	Moolenaar	Westerman
Gaetz	Mooney (WV)	Williams
Gallagher	Mullin	Wilson (SC)
Garrett	Murphy (FL)	Wittman
Gibbs	Murphy (PA)	Womack
Gohmert	Noem	

Woodall
Yoder

Yoho
Young (AK)

Young (IA)
Zeldin

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Adams
Aguilar
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.

Brady (PA)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)

Bustos
Butterfield

Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas

Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)

Paulsen
Castro (TX)
Cicilline

Pearce
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)

Clay
Clever
Clyburn

Cohen
Connolly
Conyers

Cooper
Correa
Costa

Courtney
Crist
Crowley

Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)

Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette

Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene

Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutsch

Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael

F.
Engel
Eshoo

Españillat
Esty (CT)
Evans

Foster
Frankel (FL)
Chaffetz

Chu, Judy
Cole
Ellison

Franks (AZ)
Gutiérrez
Harris

Johnson, Sam
Lieu, Ted
Napolitano

Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego

Garamendi
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer

Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva

Hanabusa
Hastings
Heck

Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hoyer

Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal

Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.

Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)

Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen

Kildee
Kilmer
Kind

Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Langevin

Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence

Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin

Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebask

Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe

Lujan Grisham,
M.
Lujan, Ben Ray

Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn B.

Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum

McEachin
McGovern
McNerney

Meeks
Meng
Moore

Moulton
Nadler
Neal

Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke

Pallone
Panetta
Pascarell

Payne
Perlmutter
Peters

Peterson
Pingree
Pocan

Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley

Raskin
Rice (NY)
Richmond

Rosen
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz

Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)

Sánchez
Sarbanes
Schakowsky

Schiff
Schneider
Schradner

Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano

Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman

Sinema
Sires
Slaughter

Smith (WA)
Soto
Speier

Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Thompson (CA)

Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko

Torres
Tsongas
Vargas

Veasey
Vela
Velázquez

Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman

Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman

Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—13

□ 1357

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 260.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a

recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP ACT OF 2017

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2266) to amend title 28 of the United States Code to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges; and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2266

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Bankruptcy Judgeship Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. CONVERSION OF THE TEMPORARY OFFICE OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE TO THE PERMANENT OFFICE OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE IN CERTAIN JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.

(a) DISTRICT OF DELAWARE.—

(1) The temporary office of 4 bankruptcy judges authorized for the district of Delaware by section 1223(b)(1)(C) of Public Law 109–8 (119 Stat. 197; 28 U.S.C. 152 note), and extended by section 2(a)(1)(C) of Public Law 112–121 (126 Stat. 346; 28 U.S.C. 152 note), is converted hereby to the permanent office of bankruptcy judge and represented in the amendment made by section 3(1) of this Act, and may be filled.

(2) The temporary office of bankruptcy judge authorized for the district of Delaware by section 3(a)(3) of Public Law 102–361 (106 Stat. 966; 28 U.S.C. 152 note), and extended by section 1223(c)(1) of Public Law 109–8 (119 Stat. 198; 28 U.S.C. 152 note) and section 2(b)(1) of Public Law 112–121 (126 Stat. 347; 28 U.S.C. 152 note), is converted hereby to the permanent office of bankruptcy judge and represented in the amendment made by section 3(1) of this Act, and may be filled.

(b) SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.—The temporary office of 2 bankruptcy judges authorized for the southern district of Florida by section 1223(b)(1)(D) of Public Law 109–8 (119 Stat. 197; 28 U.S.C. 152 note), and extended by section 2(a)(1)(D) of Public Law 112–121 (126 Stat. 346; 28 U.S.C. 152 note), is converted hereby to the permanent office of bankruptcy judge and represented in the amendment made by section 3(3) of this Act, and may be filled.

(c) DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.—The temporary office of 1 bankruptcy judge first appointed as authorized for the district of Maryland by section 1223(b)(1)(F) of Public Law 109–8 (119 Stat. 197; 28 U.S.C. 152 note), and extended by section 2(a)(1)(F) of Public Law 112–121 (126 Stat. 346; 28 U.S.C. 152 note), is converted hereby to the permanent office of bankruptcy judge and represented in the amendment made by section 3(4) of this Act, and may be filled.

(d) EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.—The temporary office of bankruptcy judge authorized for the eastern district of Michigan by section 1223(b)(1)(G) of Public Law 109–8 (119 Stat. 197; 28 U.S.C. 152 note), and extended by section 2(a)(1)(G) of Public Law 112–121 (126 Stat. 346; 28 U.S.C. 152 note), is converted hereby to the permanent office of bankruptcy judge and represented in the amendment made by section 3(5) of this Act, and may be filled.

(e) DISTRICT OF NEVADA.—The temporary office of bankruptcy judge authorized for the district of Nevada by section 1223(b)(1)(T) of Public Law 109–8 (119 Stat. 197; 28 U.S.C. 152 note),