

In 1999, Mr. Homan became the assistant district director for investigations in San Antonio, TX. Upon the creation of ICE in 2003, Mr. Homan was named as the assistant special agent in charge in Dallas, TX. He was later promoted to deputy special agent in charge. In March 2009, Mr. Homan accepted the position of Assistant Director for Enforcement at ICE headquarters in Washington, DC. He was subsequently promoted to Deputy Executive Associate Director in 2010 and was again promoted in May 2013 to lead ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations as its Executive Associate Director.

In December 2015, Mr. Homan was awarded the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Service. He has served this country for many years and has had a notable career in helping to protect the homeland.

I ask that my colleagues join me in offering our appreciation for his service and congratulations on his retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING AARON E. BAER

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to a dear friend, the Honorable Aaron A. Baer, who died yesterday, just 2 days shy of what would have been his 103rd birthday. He was the oldest living judge in Maryland.

Judge Baer was known to his family as the “centennial cowboy” who had “a great ride,” as his family put it. He was a Baltimore native, the son of a Russian immigrant who worked in a clothing factory and became a tailor. Judge Baer graduated from the University of Baltimore Law School in 1937. He supported himself and paid for law school by repairing and replacing tar roofs.

Judge Baer practiced real estate law for several years before becoming an assistant Baltimore City solicitor, an assistant attorney general, and a State senator for the 5th District in 1959. He was appointed to the Municipal Court of Baltimore City in 1961 by then-Governor J. Millard Tawes. In 1971, he was appointed to the newly created District Court of Maryland by then, Governor Marvin Mandel. He retired as a district court judge in 1981 at the age of 67.

Judge Baer was married to Judy Weinberg for 66 years before her passing in 2007. He and his wife had two daughters. The older daughter is Susan Reichmister, who is married to Dr. Jerome Reichmister. They have two children: Beth, who is married to Bart Casper, and Jodi, who is married to Craig Kessler. The younger daughter is the Honorable Barbara Baer Waxman, who is administrative judge of the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City. She is married to Dr. Carl Waxman. Judge Baer had four great-grandchildren: Nicole, Sloane, Mitchell, and

Blair, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The Cardin family is friends with many members of the Baer family. Judge Baer and my parents were close friends. It has been a great privilege to know Judge Baer, to receive his counsel, and to count him not just as a close friend of my father's, but as my close friend, too.

Judge Baer lived an exemplary life devoted to public service, the community, and to his family. He started riding Indian motorcycles as a youth and then became an avid horseback rider until he turned 100, which is how he earned the nickname “centennial cowboy.” He did have “a great ride,” and I am grateful for having been along for some of it. My wife, Myrna, and I send our deepest condolences and prayers to his family.●

TRIBUTE TO BELLE WENDELBURG

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the distinct honor of recognizing Mrs. Belle Wendelburg for her continued work in serving her community all the way to the age of 95. Belle retired from Dahl Memorial Nursing Home in Ekalaka, MT, in July of 2016 after working there for more than 20 years. She loved the residents and enjoyed the opportunity to work and serve others.

Belle was born on May 3, 1921, on a family homestead near Westmore, MT. She was the youngest of three children. Growing up around Westmore, Belle attended Spring Hill Grade School where she had to ride a horse 7 miles to get to school.

Belle enrolled in the “Green Thumb” program, a government work program, and then began working in activities for Dahl Memorial Nursing Home. While her primary job was to work in activities, Belle wasn't afraid to work wherever she was needed. She helped make meals, set up for meals, wash dishes, read to residents, and work with Alzheimer's patients. She continued to work at the nursing home even after she was diagnosed with cancer. Her family reports that she is still as fit as ever and can probably outrun most people much younger than she.

Belle also worked every Christmas at the home, ensuring the residents got the presents they were supposed to get and helping them write thank you letters for the gifts. She was involved with the spiritual health of the residents by reading devotionals to them. Belle worked at the home every Sunday when extra staff were needed to help residents attend chapel services. Through her giving spirit, she provides residents encouragement and inspiration every day. To her coworkers, she is also an inspiration. The nursing home CEO, Nadene Elmore says, “Whenever I see Belle, I tell her I want to be just like her when I grow up.” Belle entertains staff at lunches with stories and endless knowledge of the community's history.

Throughout the past 20 years, Belle has remained faithful in her love for her home and the eastern Montana prairie. I want to express my deep gratitude to Mrs. Belle Wendelburg for her dedication and service to her community, Montana, and our country.●

130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LONGMONT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

• Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD a copy of my remarks to the Longmont Chamber of Commerce on its 130th anniversary. The material follows:

REMARKS TO THE LONGMONT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

I rise today to honor the Longmont Chamber of Commerce on its 130th anniversary. For more than 100 years, this chamber of commerce has been an important resource for businesses of all sizes in the Longmont area.

Colorado's Northern front range has experienced significant growth within the past few years, with an influx of residents moving to this region. Longmont, which sits in Weld and Boulder counties, is now home to nearly 100,000 people. The community's strong manufacturing, agriculture, and innovative technology companies have all contributed to Longmont's development.

The Longmont Chamber of Commerce has been an active participant in helping all industries succeed and grow. Annual events, like the “Unity in the Community” event, draw more than 1,000 representatives from business, government, and nonprofit organizations. In addition, Longmont has received multiple recognitions for its ability to problem solve, and make their community a better place to live for all residents. In 2006, Longmont received the All-America City Award from the National Civic League, and in 2008, was named as one of the Top 100 Best Places to Live by Money Magazine.

The Chamber of Commerce will continue to play a critical role in the growth and development of Longmont, as the Front Range sees an increase in population and business endeavors. Longmont is fortunate to have a dedicated organization like the Chamber helping its residents grow their businesses. Congratulations to the Longmont Chamber of Commerce on reaching this significant milestone.●

STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY CONTEST FINALISTS

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD some of the finalist essays written by Vermont high school students as part of the seventh annual State of the Union essay contest conducted by my office.

The material follows:

EMMA CARLSON, ST JOHNSBURY ACADEMY JUNIOR (FINALIST)

America is one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Home to world-leading companies in technology, consumer goods, pharmaceutical, and financial industries, the U.S. has a gross domestic product of 18.56 trillion dollars. And yet, poverty impacts people in both rural and urban areas who are working for minimum wage, elderly people who must live on a fixed income, and those who have lost their jobs. For a country as rich and resourceful as ours, we have the ability to solve the complex situation of poverty if we work together as a nation to find a solution.

Despite all of our wealth, we still have nearly 15% of people living below the poverty line. In 2016, the poverty threshold for a family of four is \$24,036 per year. These individuals are forced to make difficult choices between paying for food, medicine, heat, gas, or rent. Today we are seeing increase in the loss of manufacturing jobs, causing many additional people to become unemployed and drop below the poverty line. We are losing these jobs due to technological advances that have replaced a lot of workers, while other jobs have been moved to lower-cost countries because the labor to perform those jobs is much cheaper. Another cause of long term poverty is the lack of access to high-quality early education. In addition, children of families in poverty do not consistently receive a college education, and therefore, lack the skills and opportunities to acquire a well-paying job in today's economy.

Poverty in America needs to be solved for every individual to receive opportunities to live a quality life. There are several political debates as to how we can most effectively reduce poverty, and as a result, very little gets accomplished toward achieving this goal and poverty continues to be on the rise. The first step toward helping to lower poverty rates is to create more jobs in America. The majority of companies in the U.S. are small businesses. If the government can help small businesses thrive, it can create more jobs for those in poverty. By pulling families out of poverty, it gives their children better opportunities to receive a quality education, making it easier for them to get jobs to support their future families. This can help to break the vicious cycle of children being born into poverty without any control over it. In addition, we need to make a basic college education available and affordable to any citizen who is willing to obtain one. Without addressing the fundamental needs of education and jobs, the cycle of poverty in America will not be resolved.

Our politicians need to recognize that poverty is a serious problem, and must work together on common goals towards defeating it. There are many solutions and sometimes there will need to be compromises as to what the best solution may be. If we do not solve this poverty problem, our nation will continue to decline and overall living conditions will become worse for a lot more people.

MASON CHARLEBOIS, VERGENNES UNION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR (FINALIST)

We do not live in a democracy anymore. We live in an oligarchy obscured by the word democracy. For too long our country, a nation established upon ideals of impeccable freedoms and liberties, has discarded the will and determination of the American people. The rich get richer while the poor grow poorer and there seems to exist no hope, no persistence, and no optimism in the people, but instead there resides feelings of despair and anguish. Why would I blame them? Today in our nation's capital, almost every bill that is made, every law that is passed, every donation given proclaims in a final respect, a refusal to aid the poor and middle class of the United States. The loyalties, affairs, and interests of our government no longer lie with the American populace, but with immense multinational corporations and the wealthy who value profit over people.

If you don't believe me, allow me to introduce some daunting numbers. According to Inequality.org, "Income disparities have become so pronounced that America's top 10 percent now average nearly nine times as much income as the bottom 90 percent." But wait, there's more. They also mention "Americans in the top 1 percent tower stunningly higher. They average over 38 times more income than the bottom 90 percent."

Citizens of the United States, this is the most critical issue of the century and possibly the history of America. This is not something that can be disregarded as irrelevant because this not only hurts you, it hurts every aspect that makes this country for the people.

So, what can we, the American people, do to vanquish this unjust society that we find ourselves giving in? First, we start by establishing a tax on institutions that make more than \$1,000,000 a year. For years, these monarchs of trade and commerce have sneaked through loopholes in legislation and haven't been paying their taxes. This is unacceptable in the country this great nation of America. Secondly, we dissolve major institutions or establishments that are taking advantage of Americans every single day. Wells Fargo, Capital One and Citigroup are just some of the financial institutions paying their fair share. Finally, it is vital for Americans to be educated on these issues in the first place. That is why I support a universal childcare schooling program where no one will be denied access to education based on their annual income. When we have an informed public, we will be one step closer to "the people's" victory: your victory.

To close, I would like to introduce a quote from the late Thomas Jefferson who said "Experience demands that man is the only animal which devours his own kind, for I can apply no milder term to the general prey of the rich on the poor." Change never takes place from the top down. It takes place when people, just like you and me, rise up in peaceful protest and say we want a different America. We want change.

RAINBOW CHEN, WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR (FINALIST)

The "American Dream" states that every American has the opportunity to become successful if they work hard. In reality, the American Dream is a blatant lie that falsely guides citizens on an idealistic path. If our country truly wants to make the American Dream a reality, we must provide citizens with the opportunity to best change their lives: a new education system. Education will help us give the poor what they need, help vulnerable children from birth to five, and create a meaningful life for our citizens.

Right now, a poor citizen has a slim chance of rising to middle or upper-middle class. A study from the Pew Charitable Trust says that 70% of lower income households stay in the lower income bracket; only 30% rise to middle class or high-income status. In 2015, nearly 48% of Americans live in low-income and impoverished situations, including my own family. Vermont may only have a 12% poverty rate, but disadvantages in resources, opportunities, and financial support have prevented me from reaching the same level of achievement and opportunity as my middle class peers. We need to readjust food stamp and welfare programs to support low-income families. Educational opportunities for the poor must become equitable so that low-income students can perform as well as their middle-class peers. If education becomes equitable, we may see more people working and fewer children suffering.

A study from Concordia University showed that "... high-quality education early in a child's life leads to continued success later in school, at work ... spending resources toward education earlier in life is much more fiscally responsible than paying later to help a struggling child catch up." Our country tends to take early childhood for granted, ignoring the benefits of early education. If we increased paid maternity/paternity leave, children could engage with their families for a longer part of their childhood, helping them become the strong leaders of the future

throughout early education and their futures.

A flaw in the education system consistently prevents all students from achieving their potential. Schools need to push away from what a Purdue University study calls the "superchicken" model, which studies the "best chickens of the coop". This study showed that after separating the superchickens from the normal chickens, the superchickens pecked each other to death while the regular chickens proved successful regardless of productivity rates. In our educational system, we cannot place the "smartest kids" in one system, as it will damage all children's education.

Overall, education must be changed. Everyone needs access to learning opportunities, an equitable education for the poor and the average, and revitalize public school funding to ensure that all schools receive a fair share of distributed money. Fixing education will allow America to fix poverty, improve early childhood development, and allow more citizens to reach the American Dream. As the best country in the world, we need to create a possible dream, which means fixing the broken rungs in society's "ladder of success".

JESSICA DAIGLE, OXBOW HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR (FINALIST)

My fellow Americans, I have one question for you. How do we, the United States of America, have the best economy in the world, yet can't afford to give our people basic necessities? We're one of the richest countries in the world, but we can't feed our population, or give them healthcare? Why are so many people living without a roof over their head? We can't run from these problems; we must face them and find a solution.

First and foremost, we must address our food problem. In 2015 alone, 42.2 million Americans lived in food insecure households; 13.1 million were children. How are we supposed to build a strong future if we can't feed our children? In fact, one in five children are at risk of hunger. In Latino and African American societies, it's one in three. This is an urgent problem we must fix. We must stop throwing away edible food and find a way to give it to those without. Every year in the US, 40% of food is thrown away. This equates to \$165 billion's worth. All of this uneaten food could feed 25 million Americans. In order to feed those in need, we must stop wasting resources. We cannot keep throwing away perfectly edible food.

Healthcare is another demanding issue. In 2014, 29 million Americans didn't have health insurance; that's ten percent of our population. And, in that 29 million, 4.5 million were children. Those statistics are unacceptable. We must find a solution. In 2010, President Obama tried with the Affordable Care Act—commonly known as Obamacare. This worked well, as 20 million people were able to get insurance. Yet, Presidential Elect Donald Trump wants to repeal it. If he does, he must instate a new and more affordable healthcare system. We cannot go without it. What would those 29 million people do? They're relying on Obamacare, and can't afford to be without it.

Homelessness is defined as a social crisis in the United States today, as it should be, considering this fact: on any given night, about half a million Americans experience homelessness. Out of those people, 15% have been homeless for over a year, 50% are over the age of fifty, and 8% are veterans. Not to mention the 1.14 million veterans who are at risk of homelessness. Again, we're one of the richest countries in the world, yet we can't afford to house our population? We can't house those who fought for our country, for

our freedom? We must do something. We must create more safe havens or emergency shelters. We can't allow so many Americans to be living in such horrible conditions.

Clearly, these tasks will be difficult to take on. If we want to boast about our prestigious economy and wealth, we must first fix our problems with poverty in the lower class. We cannot be considered an esteemed country until every last one of us has food, healthcare, and a roof over our heads.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:41 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 290. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes.

H.R. 423. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to expand and clarify the prohibition on provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, and for other purposes.

H.R. 460. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

H.R. 511. An act to provide for consideration of the extension under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of nonapplication of No-Load Mode energy efficiency standards to certain security or life safety alarms or surveillance systems, and for other purposes.

H.R. 518. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to exclude power supply circuits, drivers, and devices designed to be connected to, and power, light-emitting diodes or organic light-emitting diodes providing illumination from energy conservation standards for external power supplies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 555. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to amend its rules so as to prohibit the application to amateur stations of certain private land use restrictions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 582. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes.

H.R. 587. An act to amend the Federal Power Act to provide that any inaction by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that allows a rate change to go into effect shall be treated as an order by the Commission for purposes of rehearing and court review.

H.R. 588. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a study on network resiliency during times of emergency, and for other purposes.

H.R. 590. An act to foster civilian research and development of advanced nuclear energy technologies and enhance the licensing and commercial deployment of such technologies.

H.R. 599. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 603 of the Depart-

ment of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-323), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Minority Leader appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission: Mr. Sam Farr of Carmel, California.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 553 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Minority Leader appoints the following individual to the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service: Mr. Edward T. Allard III of Los Angeles, California.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 290. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 423. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to expand and clarify the prohibition on provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 460. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 511. An act to provide for consideration of the extension under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of nonapplication of No-Load Mode energy efficiency standards to certain security or life safety alarms or surveillance systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 518. An act to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to exclude power supply circuits, drivers, and devices designed to be connected to, and power, light-emitting diodes or organic light-emitting diodes providing illumination from energy conservation standards for external power supplies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 555. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to amend its rules so as to prohibit the application to amateur stations of certain private land use restrictions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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H.R. 599. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-577. A communication from the Secretary of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to violations of the Antideficiency Act that occurred in the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Chief Information Officer, Treasury Symbol 7012/140113; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-578. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the February 2016 Australia Group (AG) Intersectoral Decisions and the June 2016 AG Plenary Understandings" (RIN0694-AH14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-579. A communication from the Program Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Community Reinvestment Act Regulations" (RIN1557-AE11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 18, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-580. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Certain Entities to the Entity List" (RIN0694-AH27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 18, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-581. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Control of Spacecraft Systems and Related Items the President Determines No Longer Warrant Control Under the United States Munitions List (USML)" (RIN0694-AG59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 18, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-582. A communication from the Regulatory Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Ocean