

immigrants apply for amnesty and permits DHS to loot up to \$10 million from the fees paid by those seeking legal immigration benefits—such as naturalization.

There are many more provisions of this bill that concern me. During the markup, my Judiciary colleagues and I offered amendments aimed at fixing some of these problems. Our amendments were defeated on party line votes.

At the outset of this Congress, I expressed to the subcommittee chair my desire to work together on an agricultural labor reform bill that has a chance to be enacted. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. My offer was ignored, and the bill before us is not something I can support.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand as an original cosponsor of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act.

Agricultural workers are crucial to our economy and this bill would establish a legal and reliable farm workforce.

I support this bill because it recognizes the humanity of farmworkers and their families.

This is personal to me.

I grew up poor picking cotton in the fields of South Texas.

I can testify firsthand about the incredibly hard, back breaking work farm workers do, especially in the heart of South Texas.

Not much has changed since I worked in the fields.

This bill is long overdue and would provide farm workers with important worker protections and legal rights that they desperately need.

Texas is home to nearly 250,000 farms and the need for a strong agricultural workforce is vital.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 758, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 5038 is postponed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1790, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 758, I call up the conference report on the bill (S. 1790) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 758, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 9, 2019, Book II, page H9389.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH)

and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the conference report to accompany S. 1790.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Madam Speaker, this was not an easy process. This is an incredibly important piece of legislation. It authorizes the Department of Defense. It basically gives the authority to the men and women who work at the Department of Defense to implement our national security policy and defend this country. And there is a lot of money, a lot of policy, and a lot of people interested in it.

We also have the problem that we have a divided government. We have a Republican President, a Republican Senate, and a Democratic House, who do not agree on a lot of issues. And those are the issues that tend to get focused on.

But what this conference report reflects, for the most part, is that we do agree on a lot; about 90 to 95 percent of what we were negotiating there was substantial agreement on: doing oversight of the Pentagon to make sure our taxpayer dollars are well spent and to make sure that the men and women serving in our Armed Forces, who we are asking to put their lives on the line to defend our country, will have the training, the equipment, and the support they need to carry out that mission. And there are more provisions than I can count in this bill that help them do just that.

We all, in a bipartisan way, should be very proud of that accomplishment.

I think, ultimately, the biggest difference between where the Democrats in the House were at and where the Republicans in the Senate were at: We believe in more aggressive legislative oversight, particularly when it comes to matters of engaging in military action.

We remain deeply concerned about the war in Yemen. Now, it is not our war. Saudi Arabia and, to a lesser degree, the UAE are engaged in that, but we do support them. We want to make sure that we are not supporting them in a way that is contrary to our values and contrary to peace in the region.

Regrettably, we were not able to get the President, primarily, to agree on that, but I think it is something we need to continue to put pressure on.

We also believe that we shouldn't go to war without congressional authority. We will continue to fight about

that. We have the 2001 AUMF and the 2002 AUMF still on the books 17, 18 years later. We need to update that. We need to make sure that we don't go to war with Iran without authorization.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

All of that said, ultimately, we pulled together what is an excellent piece of legislation. The two big things I want to highlight in the moments I have left:

We finally repealed the widow's tax. After 25 years of claiming we were going to do it, this bill does it.

And we also give paid parental leave for all Federal employees.

I believe both of these things are integral to national defense. The people are the ones who give us the national security. Taking care of widows, taking care of employees is incredibly important. It was not easy to do. We did it in this bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of the conference report, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this conference report. The most important thing I can say about it is that it is good for the troops and it is good for national security. And when it comes to a Defense authorization bill, that is all that really matters. This is a good bill, and it deserves the support of everyone in the House.

And a lot of credit—much of the credit—for navigating a very difficult political process goes to Chairman SMITH for getting us to this point. I am also grateful to Chairman INHOFE and Senator REED during these final negotiations over the last 5 months as we have worked our way through a host of issues.

But it is also all of the conferees and members of the Armed Services Committee and, especially, the staff who have had to help us work our way through these things, essentially, all year. And it is a credit to all of them that we are in this place.

Madam Speaker, this bill does a lot, as Chairman SMITH just said, for the men and women who serve and their families.

There is a lot of focus on people here: For example, 3.1 percent pay raise; a number of provisions related to childcare for the military; increase in professional license fees for spouses; military housing reform, including a requirement for a tenant Bill of Rights; reforms to the movement of household goods; additional steps to combat sexual assault and harassment; a number of provisions related to military healthcare, to improve the quality of care that they get; compensation for medical malpractice at military treatment facilities; repeal of the widow's tax, which is something that Congressman JOE WILSON, among others, has been pushing for for a number of years.

Those are just some of the things related to our military folks that are in this bill, and, essentially, I can't think of another significant issue military families have brought up to me over the past year or two or three that does not have at least some provision in this bill.

And, in addition, for the civilians at DOD and the rest of the government, it has paid parental leave so that we can be in a better position to compete with big employers around the country.

A lot for our people.

In addition, it does a lot to help rebuild and repair the damage that is done by sequestration to our military. It helps us prepare for our adversaries: very importantly, to authorize in title 10 a space force, as this House has voted for twice, including 2 years ago. Yet, now, with this bill, it takes effect.

As well as further reforms to the Pentagon, not just to get more value out of our money, but to get top technology into the hands of the war fighter faster.

There is a lot of good in here, and it deserves Member support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER), the chair of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces.

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, we need to establish a Space Force, to keep GPS safe, to keep ATMs safe, and to keep Y-O-U safe.

Space Force is not a Trump idea. True, he tried to hijack it long after the House Armed Services Committee had voted on a totally bipartisan and nearly unanimous basis to support a Space Corps. Trump's belated support for a Space Force does not make this a Republican idea.

Focus on space has been bipartisan since the first Pentagon Space Command in 1985, an initiative that was terminated in 2002 when America got distracted by the war on terror. Our adversaries and potential adversaries were not distracted, however.

Since 2002, they have relentlessly pursued anti-U.S. strategies against our defenseless satellites. They have made space a warfighting domain.

On behalf of the free world, we must respond. What is the difference between a Space Corps and a Space Force? One word. The language in this year's NDAA is primarily the old Space Corps language, which passed the HASC this year unanimously.

The Strategic Forces Subcommittee provisions of this bill support the core mission of our nuclear forces to provide a strong deterrent. They also support nuclear safety as we modernize and recapitalize our nuclear deterrent.

We emphasize the importance of strategic stability. The conference agreement highlights the importance of New START and the Open Skies treaties for

U.S. and international security. We maintain congressional oversight over these key arms control agreements, including requiring a 120-day notice provision before any withdrawal from these treaties.

U.S. leadership, in cooperation with our allies, is essential to hold Russia accountable and to prevent an arms race.

The NDAA continues to support effective missile defense while increasing oversight of critical programs, particularly as the Department of Defense considers new options for the next-generation interceptor.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I support the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, and I, too, thank ADAM SMITH for his leadership in bringing a bipartisan bill as the final NDAA to this floor.

This bill continues the deployment of low-yield nuclear weapons to counter Russian violations of the INF. It also supports our nuclear modernization efforts in the DOD and the National Nuclear Security Administration to ensure a strong nuclear deterrent.

I also want to note the strong bipartisan support for missile defense that is in this year's bill. This year's bill demonstrates that the protection of our homeland from North Korean missile defense is not subject to partisan politics.

As co-chair of the Congressional Military Sexual Assault Prevention Caucus, along with my colleague and friend SUSAN DAVIS, I am proud of the steps this conference report takes to further our mission of reducing instances of sexual assault in our ranks and caring for the victims of such acts.

The conference report includes provisions to improve the safety of military housing. Adding to enhancements included in the last year's NDAA, the report expands the requirement for fall prevention devices installed on the windows of base housing to protect the young children of our servicemembers.

The fiscal year 2020 NDAA provides the members of the Armed Services their largest pay increase in over a decade and also includes the repeal of the widow's tax over the next 3 years, a crusade by Congressman JOE WILSON.

It doubles the reimbursement allowance for licensure and certification costs of a spouse of a servicemember arising from relocation and gives members of the Federal Government, including military members and Federal Government workers, 12 weeks of paid family leave to care for newborn or adopted children.

I encourage passage of this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS), chair of the Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces.

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, for his leadership through this tough conference, and for bringing this bill to the floor.

Madam Speaker, this bill continues the Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee's long tradition of bipartisan work to make America's land and air forces the best in the world.

I also thank our subcommittee ranking member, Mrs. HARTZLER, for her commitment and contributions to this process and upholding that tradition of bipartisan work.

Our cooperation has kept us focused on what is truly important. We have delivered a defense bill that addresses the modernization and readiness requirement of our Nation's air and land forces.

At the same time, this bill includes bipartisan provisions that allow for aggressive oversight of the Department's largest and most complex, expensive, and risky programs to protect the taxpayer and support our military.

This bill also manages risk in our American defense industrial base by providing additional funds for the Army Chinook helicopter, armored vehicles, and trucks.

This bill includes long-overdue changes that improve the quality of life for our men and women in uniform, the workforce that supports them, and the families who serve right beside them. This bill provides 12 weeks paid parental leave for those workers across the Federal Government and includes a 3.1 percent pay increase for our military servicemembers.

Additionally, the bill provides health protections for military families and retirees from exposure to the potentially cancer-causing contaminate PFAS. This also includes ensuring that blood tests are conducted for our firefighters on military bases who might have been exposed.

I am proud of the hard work that this committee has done to serve America's national security interests, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. THORNBERRY for yielding.

Madam Speaker, this is not a good conference report. This is a great bipartisan conference report. We have made significant strides in a wide range of areas that improve our national security posture, from installing a respectable \$743 billion top line to supporting our Nation's highest acquisition priorities to even including related efforts on the widow's tax and family housing reform. This has become an impressive bill.

I must admit, though, that I was concerned about our ability to complete the work in this conference report. When we initially debated this bill on the House floor, I voted in opposition to the bill over top-line funding issues and various riders that were included.

But in conference, we debated vigorously. In the end, I am pleased that we, once again, tacked to the middle and moved to garner bipartisan support for our servicemembers and their families.

Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member THORNBERRY should be proud of this effort. Our seapower and projection capabilities are more lethal as a result.

In the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, we authorized three destroyers, two submarines, two amphibious ships, two oilers, and one frigate. We accelerate unmanned vessels to the maximum sustainable level. We continue to fully support the rapid development of the B-22 Raider bomber and the Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine programs, both essential elements of our nuclear triad.

In my estimation, this conference report is making the right investments to ensure our military is more effective and has the ability to project power in times of conflict.

I particularly appreciate Chairman COURTNEY's approach to developing bipartisan legislation. I am glad that we are so closely aligned in our subcommittee, and I thank Chairman COURTNEY for his leadership.

Additionally, the conference report makes significant progress on a multitude of family policy issues that are essential to supporting our servicemembers and their families.

A 3.1 percent military pay raise; significant improvements in family housing; authorizing paid parental leave, including Mr. WILSON's legislation to address the widow's tax—all of these provisions support and retain our military families.

We are concluding our defense policy bill, but now it is time to move the Defense appropriations processes.

While I am excited to support this conference report, I also believe that we need to rapidly advance our efforts to conclude the defense appropriations process. I think it is embarrassing for Congress to go home for all of August and early September with the complete understanding that our ineffectiveness wastes billions of dollars and weakens our national security. We can do better. We must do better.

We are concluding our defense policy bill, but now it is time to move the defense appropriations process.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY), the chair of the Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the final conference version of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

As chairman of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, I worked closely with my colleague and friend, Ranking Member WITTMAN, to produce a strong bill that invests smartly in the defense priorities under our jurisdiction.

This year, we also benefited greatly from the contributions of our freshman

members of the subcommittee, whose collective experience and intelligence were extremely helpful.

The bill authorizes a \$23 billion shipbuilding budget for 12 battle force ships, including two Virginia-class submarines, three Arleigh Burke destroyers, the first frigate, two amphibious ships, two T-AO oilers, and two salvage and rescue ships.

The final shipbuilding budget also contains adjustments necessary to support the new Block V Virginia-class submarine contract and fully funds the Navy's number one acquisition priority, the Columbia-class ballistic missile submarine.

This bill will, by law, reverse the administration's misguided proposal to cancel the refueling of the carrier USS *Harry S. Truman*.

Our subcommittee also focused on sealift recapitalization, an area that has been overlooked for far too long; legislating reauthorization of the Maritime Security Program; establishing a new-build domestic sealift vessel program; and restoring funding cuts by the administration for a critical training platform, the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel.

It also provides strong support for our air projection forces, including the KC-46 tanker, the B-21 long-range bomber, and the B-52 reengining program.

Finally, we continued Congress' oversight duties as they relate to the Navy's surface fleet readiness by requiring any shipboard system program of record to have formal associated training to ensure our sailors are competent operators of the equipment they use at sea every day.

Outside of seapower, I am extremely pleased that my amendment that reverses last year's awful DOD order blocking longer term servicemembers' ability to transfer their GI Bill educational benefits to eligible dependents is in the conference report.

I am also pleased about the fix to widow's tax, which we wrestled with for 20 years, and also the monumental task of providing 12 weeks of paid family medical leave for all Federal employees.

I thank the committee leadership, Representatives SMITH and THORNBERRY, for their tireless work. I also thank Phil MacNaughton, Dave Sienicki, Kelly Goggin, and Megan Handal, and Lieutenant Claire Wardius of the Navy, my Navy fellow, for their great work supporting this bill.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER).

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report to accompany S. 1790, the 59th consecutive National Defense Authorization Act.

With a new top line of \$739 billion, plus another \$5.3 billion in emergency authorizations, I believe this conference report now represents a good

bipartisan compromise that we all should support because it provides for our common defense and addresses the priorities required by our men and women in uniform.

This bill will continue the progress we have made in rebuilding military readiness while also setting the right conditions through oversight to accelerate needed modernization capabilities required for the national defense strategy and credible deterrents.

A few examples of these critical capabilities include funding for eight F-15EX aircraft, an additional \$1.4 billion for F-35 fifth-generation Joint Strike Fighters, funding for 24 F-18 Super Hornets, strong support for the Army's identified Big 6 modernization priorities, and an additional \$265 million for National Guard and Reserve Component equipment modernization.

I am also pleased the bill includes a provision to ensure servicemembers forced to move from any type of military housing, including dormitories, receive a partial dislocation allowance. This fixes a gap that previously prohibited our lowest paid servicemembers from receiving this assistance.

I thank Ranking Member THORNBERRY for his leadership and guidance throughout this entire process, as well as our subcommittee chairman, DONALD NORCROSS, for his leadership and spirit of bipartisan.

This conference report also wouldn't be possible without the hard work and dedication of the entire subcommittee staff.

The NDAA has always been a product of bipartisan consensus, and I am pleased that we were successful in reaching that level of consensus again.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill and vote "yes" on S. 1790.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise in full support of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.

First, I thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member THORNBERRY, the committee staff, and others who worked tirelessly on this bill. It is a good one, and I urge support from all.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness, I worked closely with Members on and off the committee to ensure that this bill addressed three priority areas.

First, the NDAA requires the Department of Defense to plan for and respond to the threat that climate change poses to military installations and military operations by developing installation master plans that fully assess current and future climate vulnerabilities and updating building standards for military construction to promote energy conservation, climate and cyber resiliency, among many other important aspects.

Second, the bill includes a number of provisions aimed at addressing problems associated with the management and oversight of military family housing programs, including that military services must establish a tenants' bill of rights for our military family housing.

Third, the bill authorizes additional funding and includes bipartisan provisions to mitigate contaminated drinking water for households and agriculture resulting from PFAS and fluorinated compounds that have been used on military installations.

I am also pleased that there is a 3.1 percent pay raise for our troops and also that the bill includes provisions from my bill, H.R. 2617, the OATH Act, the Occupational and Environmental Transparency Health Act, which requires the DOD input any occupational environmental hazard that troops may have been exposed to.

Finally, a couple of things that are positive, but there are also some concerns. The bill does not delay the deployment of the new low-yield nuclear warheads for submarines, which I believe is not a good idea at all for our boomers. Secondly, the bill does not deal with the funding for our military programs and for the military that had been ripped off for the wall.

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Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1790, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.

I wish to thank Chairman SMITH, Ranking Member THORNBERRY, Chairman INHOFE, and Ranking Member REED for their leadership throughout the conferencing of this bill.

I also want to thank the Military Personnel Subcommittee chairwoman, JACKIE SPEIER, for her hard work and leadership.

The strength of our military is our servicemembers, and the strength of our servicemembers is our military families. This bill contains a number of significant policy and funding initiatives that affirm our commitment to our troops and their families.

To that end, this bill supports a 3.1 percent military pay raise, extends crucial pay and bonuses for servicemembers in high-demand fields, and eliminates the widow's tax.

I want to specifically thank Representative JOE WILSON for his years of tireless work and leadership to make this a reality. Make no mistake, this is all because of JOE WILSON's initiative.

This bill also preserves military healthcare by preventing the services from making cuts to healthcare billets before providing additional analysis on the impact those cuts will have on our military health system.

It improves accessibility and effectiveness of mental healthcare by requiring DOD to update and standardize procedures related to mental health treatment and substance abuse referrals.

Importantly, this bill strengthens our Reserve component by expanding eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select.

This bill also expands support for military spouses by doubling the reimbursement amount spouses can receive for professional licensing and expanding eligibility for educational assistance.

Finally, the bill includes provisions designed to improve military childcare, including expanded direct hiring authority for child development centers and requiring a comprehensive assessment of childcare capacity on military installations.

In addition to critical military personnel provisions, this bill contains many initiatives that are important to my home State of Mississippi.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my fellow conferees for their contributions to this truly bipartisan conference report, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Ms. SPEIER), who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, let me also say to my colleague, the chair of the committee, what an outstanding job he has done. I want to thank my ranking member, Mr. KELLY, for his good leadership as well.

Since coming to Congress, I have voted against more NDAAAs than I have voted for. This year, I will be voting for the NDAA, not because it is perfect, not because it achieves every Democratic priority, and not because I am satisfied. I am voting for this bill because it achieves monumental progressive victories; and the day after the President signs this bill, many of our servicemembers and their families will recognize that we have been listening to them.

Let me highlight a few provisions that make me proud to vote for this bill.

After 70 years, we have tackled the Feres doctrine, setting aside \$400 million over 10 years to provide justice and compensation for medical malpractice performed at noncombat settings.

The process of providing compensation for malpractice during nonmission healthcare should be governed by the Administrative Procedure Act, guaranteeing a public comment process for creating the program plus judicial review.

We required the Marine Corps to join the rest of the services and finally provide gender-integrated basic training to platoons, recognizing that women marines are marines just like men.

We have ended the unjust widow's tax, provided 12 weeks of paid parental

leave to Federal workers, increased resources to ease the childcare backlog at military bases, provided legal counsel to domestic violence survivors, and prevented the military from forcing new mothers to deploy within a year of their child's birth.

Finally, we have renewed the Breast Cancer Research Stamp Act, which has been generating \$85 million for breast cancer research.

The NDAA is not perfect, but it is a giant step forward for our servicemembers and their families.

I want to thank Craig Greene, Dave Giachetti, Glen Diehl, and Jamie Jackson for the outstanding services they have provided to the Military Personnel Subcommittee, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this measure.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK).

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan bill and the accompanying conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities, I am proud of our oversight and legislative activities this year.

The bill before the House incorporates four broad subcommittee themes.

First, it recharges our national security innovation base to confront emerging threats and advance our science and technology ecosystem, while also making it easier for small businesses to engage with DOD. We authorize the establishment of new partnerships in the field of hypersonics and quantum sciences. We extend unique hiring authorities to the Joint AI Center and to DARPA to ensure that the best talent available is made available to solve our hardest national security problems. This bill also establishes a White House working group to protect Federal research and intellectual property from foreign interference, espionage, and theft.

Second, this bill recognizes the urgency and importance of U.S. leadership in 5G technology and mandates the development of a DOD 5G strategy.

Third, this NDAA strengthens congressional oversight of cyber operations and enhances the Department's cybersecurity strategy and cyber warfare capabilities. It builds upon the work of previous NDAAAs to ensure cyber is a fully integrated warfighting function across the Department. It increases congressional notification requirements for military cyber operations and improves cybersecurity cooperation with the Defense industrial base.

Finally, this bill contains important authorities for sensitive military operations and activities, including cyber, counterterrorism, and intelligence. These authorities are vital to meet the

threats identified in the National Defense Strategy.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank Ranking Member THORNBERRY, Chairman SMITH, Senator INHOFE, and Senator REED for their leadership through this conference process.

I particularly want to thank my partner and the subcommittee chair, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN from Rhode Island, for his strong partnership and what we have delivered from this subcommittee.

Madam Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), who is the chair of the Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to congratulate and thank Chairman SMITH for his leadership on the House Armed Services Committee, as well as Ranking Member THORNBERRY.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the conference report to accompany the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. I was honored to be a conferree, and I am very proud that we have concluded our work on this defense bill and reached bipartisan consensus in support of our national security and our servicemembers. I am particularly pleased with the provisions that are under the oversight of the Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee, which I am honored to chair.

I also want to thank my subcommittee ranking member, Ms. STEFANIK, for her contributions to this bill and her bipartisan participation and partnership throughout the process, and our wonderful staff for all their work to make this happen.

In the IETC portfolio, this bill supports a robust Department of Defense science and technology ecosystem to deliver the best capabilities to the warfighter while protecting critical technologies. It provides for additional investments in emerging technologies like 5G and additive manufacturing and supports educational programs to strengthen the STEM workforce and improve ties with historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions.

On the cybersecurity front, we strengthen oversight of military operations, synchronize efforts, and leverage best practices to improve the Department's network, industrial base, and military installation cybersecurity.

This bill also reflects our IETC priorities that Special Operations Forces remain professional, ethical, agile, and postured for high-end missions and that the Defense Intelligence Enterprise is oriented to provide maximum support to Department requirements.

I am especially pleased that this bill continues to support the production of the Virginia-class submarine program

and the Virginia Payload Modules as well as the Columbia-class submarine program, which are shining examples of Rhode Island's contributions to our national security.

This bill supports our servicemembers with a pay raise and demonstrates a strong commitment, also, to families by providing all Federal workers with paid parental leave.

Madam Speaker, there is a lot to be proud of in this bill. I thank Chairman SMITH, again, for his leadership and Ranking Member THORNBERRY, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.

The NDAA continues rebuilding readiness and provides vital capabilities required to implement the National Defense Strategy.

Highlights include significant investments in operations and maintenance, facilities, sustainment, and military construction; also, nuclear triad modernization and authority to deploy low-yield weapons; the historic establishment of Space Force as a separate military service with a seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and \$5.3 billion in emergency funding to rebuild Tyndall and Offutt Air Force Bases, Camp Lejeune, and China Lake Naval Air Station, all of which were struck by natural disasters.

The stress that military families endure from frequent deployments makes the systemic failures of privatized military family housing truly deplorable. Critical reforms in this bill include a Tenants Bill of Rights, formal dispute resolution, and improved quality control for repairs and mold remediation.

The bill also provides critical oversight of the Defense household goods program that will ensure that military families are put first in DOD reforms.

The bill also addresses PFAS contamination by prohibiting non-emergency use of firefighting foams containing PFOS and PFOA and requires DOD to accelerate fielding a PFAS-free replacement.

I want to thank Readiness Subcommittee Chairman JOHN GARAMENDI for his leadership.

Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member THORNBERRY also deserve great recognition for preserving the committee's 59-year bipartisan tradition of passing the NDAA to support our warfighters and their families.

I want to thank the professional staff who worked tirelessly to complete this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the conference report.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA).

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this defense authorization.

There are many things that you can call the bill, but it is Orwellian to call it progressive. Let's speak in facts.

When President Obama left, the defense budget was \$618 billion. This defense budget is \$120 billion more than what President Obama left us with. That could fund free public college for every American. It could fund access to high-speed, affordable internet for every American.

But it is worse: the bipartisan provision to stop the war in Yemen, stripped by the White House; the bipartisan amendment to stop the war in Iran, stripped by the White House; the bipartisan provision to repeal the 2002 George W. Bush authorization for the war in Iraq which is sending our troops overseas, stripped by the White House.

At some time, we can't just rhetorically give standing ovations when the President says that we are going to end endless wars and continue to vote to fund them.

It wasn't just President George W. Bush who committed the biggest blunder of foreign policy in the 21st century by sending us to Iraq. It was the abdication of this body, with many Members of Congress who voted right with him.

My question is: When are we going to listen to the American people? When are we going to do our Article I duty and stop funding these endless wars and start funding our domestic priorities?

□ 1630

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), who is the distinguished author of legislation with 383 cosponsors to repeal the widow's tax that is now a part of this legislation.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member THORNBERRY and Chairman SMITH.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful that the House and Senate have come to an agreement in this year's National Defense Authorization Act conference report to finally repeal the widow's tax.

I appreciate my predecessor, the late Chairman Floyd Spence, who was one of the earliest proponents of eliminating the widow's tax, and I picked up on his efforts upon my election in 2001. Being the lead sponsor of this bill will always be meaningful to me.

I made every effort to be bipartisan, always inviting all cosponsors of both parties to milestone achievements. Repealing the widow's tax has been personal to me.

Lieutenant Colonel Trane McCloud was the military fellow in our office in 2003 and was sadly killed in Iraq on December 4, 2006. His wife, Maggie, and

their three children, Hayden, Grace, and Meghan, have always been on my mind and in my heart as we fought for the repeal of the widow's tax.

This legislation has the support of 383 Members in the House. This bill that is included in NDAA, has the largest number of cosponsors of any bill in the House of Representatives this Congress. I welcomed Congressman JOHN YARMUTH to be the first cosponsor with the intention of always being bipartisan. This provision will restore the full amount of the survivor benefit annuity to more than 65,000 surviving military families. The repeal of the widow's tax will impact families who could receive an average of almost \$12,000 a year. Surviving spouses visited and called representatives and were very convincing.

This effectiveness was truly remarkable, and I commend Edith Smith, Barb Christie, Kathy Prout, Kathy Thorpe, Kristy DiDomenico, and Kristin Fenty for their perseverance. Veterans service organizations were also instrumental. I am thankful that the families who have given the greatest sacrifice in service to our country are no longer burdened by this unfair offset.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to vote in support of the NDAA conference report.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Madam Speaker, I just point out that there was nothing in the House bill or any bill that would have ended the war in Yemen. It is not just Orwellian to say that. It is breathtakingly dishonest to tell people out there that there was something we could have done to end the war in Yemen. We need to work hard to bring a peaceful solution to that conflict. Being dishonest with the American public does not accomplish that.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for his hard work, as well as the committee staff on an NDAA that affirms our values and delivers progressive wins for the American people.

The NDAA tackles the pressing security challenges facing our country and makes important investments in our warfighters and their families.

We confront Russian aggression by bolstering the European Deterrence Initiative and providing our allies in Ukraine with additional military support.

We make a commitment to a diverse and inclusive military by: Increasing defense spending at historically Black colleges and universities; incentivizing more minority and women-owned businesses to be part of our defense industrial base; and finally, gender integrating basic training for the Marine Corps.

This NDAA makes good on the commitments to address serious problems with private military housing; and give

military families a pathway to seek justice, if they suffer from medical malpractice.

Yet, this NDAA is also a compromise. I am disappointed that we couldn't reverse the President's ban on transgender servicemembers or force Congress to reconsider the 2001 AUMF. But ultimately, this NDAA gets the job done, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS), the co-author, along with Mr. COOPER of the Space Force provision.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member THORNBERRY and Chairman SMITH for their leadership in bringing this conference report to the floor.

I am very pleased that Space Force, an issue that my good friend, JIM COOPER, and I have been working on for several years, is finally becoming a reality. This report establishes the U.S. Space Force in title 10 as the sixth Armed Service of the United States under the Department of the Air Force. It is the first new branch of the military since 1947.

It also recognizes space as a warfighting domain and authorizes the transfer of Air Force personnel to the newly established Space Force. This is an important step for our national security. Our adversaries are moving quickly in space, and this new service will allow us to quickly realign our resources and efforts towards countering them.

Finally, the original House-passed NDAA that every Republican opposed, included a number of open border provisions that would have undermined our efforts to secure our Southwest border. I am pleased that those unreasonable border security restrictions have been removed.

Madam Speaker, this is a strong defense bill, and I urge the House to support this legislation.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this NDAA conference report, and particularly for its inclusion of language from my bill, the Federal Employee Paid Leave Act. This provision will provide 12 weeks paid parental leave for all Federal employees for the birth of a child or adoption of a child.

For far too long, the United States has been behind the times. There are only two countries in the entire world, according to a United Nations' study, that do not provide paid parental leave for the birth of a child, and those two countries are the United States and Papua New Guinea.

When we pass this National Defense Authorization Act, we will no longer be part of that infamous group. I thank, from the bottom of my heart, chairman of the House Committee on Armed

Services, ADAM SMITH, who worked selflessly and tirelessly with great determination to include this provision that will help over 2.1 million Federal employees. It will turn this priority of balance in family life into a reality in millions of families' lives. I also thank my friend and colleague, Congresswoman CHRISSY HOULAHAN from Pennsylvania, for her partnership on this effort.

While this agreement is not perfect, it is an extraordinary first step toward full paid family and medical leave for all American workers. By providing this leave, studies indicate we could prevent the departure of over 2,600 female employees per year and save the government \$50 million per year in costs associated with employee turnover. On top of that, paid family leave also improves productivity, boosts morale, and attracts more talent. It also provides a benefit to families and the broader economy.

Paid parental leave is an investment in our future in American families and the workforce. And that is why I am urging all of my colleagues to support the NDAA, which includes this important provision.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ).

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this defense bill because we are a nation at war.

We are in a hot war with extremists around the world, and we are in a cold war with our peer competitors, Russian and China and other rogue states.

And Madam Speaker, if the country isn't safe, everything else that we do in this body is secondary. Our domestic priorities, our economy, our education, trade, everything else that we debate in this Congress is at risk if we fail to protect this great Nation.

One of the reasons that I ran for elected office, was that often what comes out of Washington isn't worthy of our previous veterans, my fellow special operators around the world, as we speak, and other military currently deployed, and it is not worthy of their families and the sacrifices of their families.

This defense bill, from the sixth branch of the military and the Space Force, to childcare for Gold Star families, it is worthy. It is worthy of their sacrifice, past and present.

I deeply and personally thank the chairman, ADAM SMITH. I thank the ranking member, Mr. THORNBERRY, and everyone else who stepped up, frankly, and all of my colleagues who stepped up to make the compromises necessary to pass this critical piece of legislation to be worthy of those who have sacrificed for all of us breathing free air today.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it. It is worthy of them, as we all are with this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF),

the distinguished chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and rise in support of the fiscal 2020 NDAA conference report.

This legislation supports our national security and it also accomplishes long-sought Democratic priorities, like extending paid paternal leave to over 2 million Federal employees. I hope that this achievement will pave the way to making paid paternal leave the norm across the workforce.

I am very pleased that as a part of this legislation, we are also passing the fiscal year 2018, 2019, and 2020 Intelligence Authorization Acts, aptly named in honor of HPSCI's Damon Nelson and SSCI's Matt Pollard, two dedicated staffers who tragically passed away last year.

The Intelligence Authorization Act is the primary legislative product of the Committee on Intelligence and securing its passage into law after it passed the House with nearly 400 votes, strengthens our oversight of the intelligence community and military intelligence immeasurably.

I am also proud that the IAA includes many vital important provisions; among them, protecting our elections from foreign interference, understanding and mitigating the effects of climate change, and a competition to improve Deepfake detection.

While I support the bill, it is a bitter pill that bipartisan House amendments to finally fix the injustice that has kept 74 sailors who died aboard the USS *Frank E. Evans* in 1969 off the Vietnam Memorial was removed from the conference report. I will not relent on that issue until we get it done.

I am also disappointed that the repeal of the 2002 AUMF was removed. There is no reasonable basis to keep this outdated authorization in effect.

Nevertheless, I congratulate the chair and ranking member on their good work. And I personally thank all of the members of the Intelligence Committee's staff for the extraordinary work that the staff did for many years on this legislation.

I thank my fellow members of the intelligence community as well. We have worked now for 3 years to reach this point. I am very grateful that these important provisions will now pass into law.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member THORNBERRY and Chairman SMITH. I say a special thank you to Mr. THORNBERRY and his staff. They have been great partners in this journey of addressing PFAS in the NDAA.

First and foremost, I am pleased that we have reached a deal on the funding of our Armed Services. Ensuring appropriate and sufficient resources for our men and women who serve on the frontline every day should be our top priority.

Having said that, I am disappointed about two provisions that did not get in. One would have required EPA to set a national drinking water standard on PFOA and PFOS within 2 years. And the second one would have instituted a mandate on DOD to clean up immediately any DOD sites contaminated with PFOA or PFOS.

Republican Members supported these two provisions as part of a larger package, and I think not including them amounts to a very great lost opportunity.

Nonetheless, I support the NDAA and PFAS provisions that we were able to get into the bill. Those provisions include:

Mr. UPTON's Federal facilities and cooperative agreements;

Funding for reducing PFAS and rural economically disadvantaged drinking water systems;

Health data collection from PFAS manufacturers under TSCA;

Guidance on proper disposal of PFAS chemicals;

More reporting on PFAS chemicals on the Toxic Release Inventory; and

Funding for further research into PFAS chemicals.

As my Republican colleagues on the Committee on Energy and Commerce discussed at a recent markup, getting PFAS provisions into the NDAA means that they will be signed into law and will start making a difference in our communities back home right now.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this important bill.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, first of all, I thank the chairman for his leadership and for ensuring paid parental leave for Federal employees.

I strongly support this and many other provisions in this bill. Unfortunately, this bill does not include very important provisions, such as the provision to end support for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, and two provisions I fought to include that would help end our forever wars.

The first is the repeal of the 2001 authorization to use military force, which is a blank check for endless war.

The second is the repeal of the 2002 AUMF. The House passed my amendment to repeal the 2002 AUMF. It makes absolutely no sense that this outdated AUMF still exists. We must restore some congressional authority on matters of war and peace and finally repeal these AUMFs.

Also, I encourage my colleagues to read The Washington Post's recently published "Afghanistan Papers," if they need any more justification for why Congress must reassert itself in matters of war and peace. I can tell you, it is an appalling and shocking read.

Finally, the bill before us authorizes a Pentagon budget of about \$733 billion, which is the largest ever author-

ized. Given the waste, fraud, and abuse at the Pentagon, the failure of the Pentagon to pass an even basic audit, and the unnecessary spending, I am simply unable to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for his work, and I thank him for yielding.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

□ 1645

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the NDAA conference report, which includes the phaseout of the offset provision known as the widow's tax.

Ending this egregious offset is a momentous victory for the more than 60,000 surviving spouses and families of our Nation's fallen heroes and the families who, unfortunately, may come after them.

It is not every day that Congress comes together and fixes a problem that has been on the books for more than four decades, but that day is here.

I got involved in this issue years ago when I heard from my constituent Ellen, a woman in Louisville whose husband tragically passed away during training exercises.

When I became the Democratic lead on legislation to repeal this offset, along with Congressman WILSON of South Carolina, I was told it would never pass, that people had tried for years and had failed every time. Well, here we are. We got it done.

Chairman SMITH and I, with the help of Chairman MCGOVERN and Speaker PELOSI, came up with a plan to add the offset repeal to the must-pass NDAA bill and then worked our tails off to keep it there.

We knew if it passed the House as a freestanding piece of legislation, it would land in the stack of bills of more than 270 bipartisan bills languishing on MITCH MCCONNELL's desk and would never be seen again.

So I thank Chairman SMITH for his dedication on behalf of families whose loved once made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our Nation.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for his long-time passionate leadership on this issue.

But most of all, I want to thank my constituent Ellen and all the surviving spouses who fought for this moment for years, who lit up phone lines, flooded email inboxes, walked the Halls of Congress, and demanded we act. Your fallen loved ones would be so proud of what you have accomplished in their honor.

Now it is time for Congress to honor them as well by passing this legislation.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I thank the good gentleman for all his incredible work as chairman. I know it is difficult and it was the best that we could do, especially with so much opposition on the Senate side.

But as a voice and advocate for a district that encompasses frontline communities facing concentrated poverty, growing healthcare costs, decreasing education funding, and continuous assaults on our environment, I could not support and cannot support a bill that provides \$738 billion for wars and defense contractors while, this year, we only provided \$190 billion in discretionary funding for healthcare, education, antipoverty programs, and workforce development.

After the House took action to end U.S. involvement in the war and humanitarian crisis in Yemen, this NDAA fails to include necessary provisions to end the U.S. support for military action in Yemen.

This bill also keeps Guantanamo Bay open, provides for new nuclear warheads, and establishes the absurd Space Force.

By removing the House's repeal of the Iraq war AUMF, we have also agreed to endless war abroad.

By removing language that would have stopped, Madam Speaker, Pentagon spending at Trump hotels and properties, we are authorizing corruption.

By removing critical PFAS protections, we have also left our communities at risk.

So I am asking my colleagues to please not rubberstamp this annual increase of the world's largest military budget. We can do better.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished majority leader.

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member for his service and the chairman for his service.

I also want to thank the staff. It has been an extraordinarily arduous, sleep-depriving and angst-creating process, I know, to get this bill from this floor over to the Senate floor and through conference, so I congratulate the staff.

We are blessed as a country and as a Congress to have extraordinarily qualified people who could, frankly, make very significantly more in the private sector stick with us and with our country. Their patriotism and their talent is an extraordinary benefit to us all.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman SMITH and the Democratic members and the majority staff of the Armed Services Committee, as well as the ranking member and the minority staff. They have been working very hard on this legislation.

The conference report before us represents a compromise. No one ought to think that is a pejorative. It is what we do. And it means, in compromising, you do not get everything you want.

Obviously, many of the things that we passed on the floor of this House that we believed were very, very important items are not in this conference report. It could lead some to say, well, then we won't vote for it. That would be a mistake on either side of the aisle.

I am particularly pleased, however, that this report, this bill does include, for the first time, 12 weeks of paid parental leave for the birth or adoption of a child for all Federal civilian employees. There was, for a period of time, a suggestion that it only apply to defense employees.

I would suggest that the national security of our country is, in interrelated ways, dependent upon all of our employees, and we ought to treat them equally. I wrote a letter urging that, and others weighed in as well.

I am pleased that the committee ultimately decided to treat all Federal employees the same, even though we limited it not to family leave, but to parental leave.

Now, that is a step in the right direction. We know that the bonding between moms and dads and infant children is critically important, and this will give them the opportunity to do so. And it will give them the opportunity to not have to make a determination whether or not they don't get paid in order to create this bond, but they will be enabled to, as so many could not if they were not paid, take advantage of this benefit.

So I am disappointed that we don't have full coverage, but this is a first and very significant step.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), who has been a giant in her advocacy of this policy for our people, for our employees, and, by the way, for our infants, whether they are adopted or whether they are naturally born.

I will continue to fight for the full measure of paid family and medical leave to be extended to our employees and would urge others around the country to do the same. While some private businesses are already instituting paid leave, it would be appropriate that all do so.

In addition, this conference report, unfortunately, does not include a comprehensive set of provisions that were adopted in this House to protect communities affected by PFAS.

Now, PFAS is a category of chemicals that essentially do not disappear and are toxic when introduced into our waters and exist on our military bases, in some respects, because of the use of foam for fire suppression, but for other reasons as well.

I know that the chairman fought very hard for this. I know that the President's position was that he did not want this in the bill and indicated

that it would not happen. But I thank Mr. SMITH for fighting so hard for this, and I know that we will keep fighting.

I want to tell the House that I intend to bring a bill to the floor incorporating the provisions that were in the defense bill but dropped. I will bring it to the floor in January. I have talked to Mr. PALLONE about that, and he is looking forward to doing just that.

I am trying to shorten this up a little bit, Madam Speaker.

The last two things I want to mention before I make some general comments is that I was sorry that the anti-discrimination provision that was included in this House dealing with transgender people who wanted to serve their country was eliminated from the bill. I think that was wrong.

I am one of the people like John McCain. John McCain, when asked whether or not gays and the LGBT community ought to be able to serve in the military, said: I want to know whether they shoot straight, not whether they are straight.

Martin Luther King, Jr., told us to judge people by the content of their character, not other arbitrary distinctions which may or may not impact on their performance and their value.

I will continue to fight that ban, which undermines our national security and the military's effectiveness and does not reflect the values and ideals that our military defends.

And if you review the 1948 actions, or 1947 actions of Harry Truman when he integrated the services and he was told, "Oh, if you do that, it is going to undermine morale; you ought not to do that," very frankly, I see this exclusion as very much like that opposition to that action.

Finally, I will also continue to advocate for a change in policy regarding Yemen. That war is a human-made disaster. It is not our fault, but we ought not to be complicit.

In closing, let me say this: This is \$738 billion of hard-earned tax money, more than anybody in the world spends. I have been, for the 39 years that I have been here, a strong supporter of our national security.

I don't know that, other than when we had political fights such as the Republicans voting against the defense bill when it passed the House here, that I have voted against a defense bill or an appropriations bill. I am certainly not going to vote against this one. I am urging people to support it.

But, Madam Speaker, I want to say to all of my colleagues that we need, with great diligence and courage, to look at the defense budget and look at that \$738 billion with an eye that the pot is not unlimited and that our national security depends not only on our defense investment, but on our domestic investment and education and healthcare and the welfare of our people. I would urge that the committee focus on how it can effect diligent oversight on the expenditure of this extraordinary amount of money, which I will support.

We included \$733 billion. We have no more security because of that extra \$5 billion. And I will tell my friends that \$733 billion was acceptable to some of the folks I talked to on the Republican side of the aisle.

So I am supporting this bill, but as I have urged privately, both the chairman and the ranking member, we need to look very carefully at how we are expending this amount of money to ensure that it is spent effectively and that we cannot get the same level of defense at a lower level of expenditure. That is a tough job to do, but it needs to be done.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time each side has left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 3½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 9½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close at this time. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, Majority Leader HOYER made two points on which I want to emphatically agree.

Number one, he said that we are blessed in this Nation to have the benefit of dedicated staff working on important legislation such as is before us today, and their patience has been tried more than in most years to bring this bill to this point with what I expect will be strong bipartisan support. A tremendous amount of credit goes to them as well as, as I said before, to Chairman SMITH, Chairman INHOFE, and Senator REED.

The second point the majority leader made is this is a compromise, and he is exactly right. I can give you a list of things in the bill that I wish were not in the bill, and I also have a list of things that I wish were in the bill that I tried to get into the bill. So I have some strong opinions about things I would do differently. And yet it is not about me; it is about what this process can produce.

□ 1700

There is no question that what we have today on the floor is very different from the bill that the House passed on July 12. It is a very different bill. Also, the House-passed bill was very different than the Senate bill, which they passed something like 86-8. So bringing those two together has been a challenge, but it is done.

I will confess, Madam Speaker, that I feel better that at least some Members came to the floor to oppose it because I was beginning to worry that this conference report was not as good or as important as I thought it was. But I do feel better that at least some Members with whom I do not normally agree have come to oppose it. I am somewhat relieved on that point.

I am also relieved that the President has said emphatically that he will sign

this bill, that he strongly supports the pay raise, the Space Force, the paid parental leave, and other provisions that are in this package.

I believe, Madam Speaker, the first job of the Federal Government is to defend the country. We need to do the things that are in this bill first before we look at the other things that all of us would like to see done. I agree with the point that as we do this first job of the Federal Government, we as a body and certainly the Armed Services Committee need to carefully oversee this large amount of funding. That is absolutely part of our responsibility.

I resent, by the way, any implication that we have not been doing our best to oversee that funding over the years because under both parties I believe that is exactly what we have been doing. The challenge is we face more risk in the world than we have ever faced before in our history with Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, terrorism, and the list goes on, new technologies moving faster than ever.

Just cutting back a little bit on funding does not ensure that the country will be protected. As a matter of fact, this amount of money does not ensure that the country will be protected. But it is what we do need to keep working to do.

By the way, with support of both parties, what we have been trying to do is see that the taxpayers get more value for the money we spend and also see that, when we send a warfighter out on a mission, he or she is equipped with the best equipment, the best support, the best training that this country can provide because it is wrong to send them out there on that mission without providing the best that this country can provide.

Madam Speaker, this is the last point I want to make. This bill is not about us, as important as we think we are sometimes. It is not about our preferences. It is about them. It is about men and women who risk their lives to defend us and our freedom. It is about their families who sacrifice in order that that service may take place.

Going back to where I started, there is so much in this bill that is good for the men and women who serve and their families. To me, that is the thing to be most proud of in this bill because it is about them and what they do for us. That is the reason I ask all Members to support this conference report.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

As I said at the opening, this was an extraordinarily difficult process. It is worth noting this final conference report also is not anywhere close to what was passed out of the Senate. In fact, of the nearly 1,400 provisions that were adopted, 70 percent of them were House provisions. The House firmly put its stamp on this bill in a bipartisan way, and I think the policies we adopted were very positive.

We tried to do more in this bill than has been attempted to do in an NDAA in the 23 years that I have been here, and I am proud of that. We didn't get everything, but we tried to do everything that we could, that we felt was important for the national security of this country and for our interests.

I am particularly disappointed that we weren't able to get some of the provisions to help reduce the U.S. influence on the war in Yemen. I completely agree with that. My quibble is with the fact that there was something we could have done to stop it completely. But the humanitarian crisis in Yemen is the greatest humanitarian crisis around the globe right now. If there is anything we can do to reduce that, we need to do it.

I will say that the pressure that was put on by the House-passed bill that called for cutting off aid to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, the military aid, has put some pressure over there. The UAE has almost unilaterally or almost completely pulled out of Yemen, and they recently signed a peace deal with the southern part of Yemen to resolve some aspect of that complex civil war.

Make no mistake about it, that is enormously important to me, and I will continue to fight to get it done.

Lastly, I want to say this process, I think, has been incredibly productive. The amount of work that the staff behind us and more people than I could possibly count or name did to make this possible cannot be overstated. It was an incredible amount of work, and it is so important.

We are in an incredibly divisive time. There are people who are upset about just about everything, sometimes justified, sometimes not.

Passing legislation in a democracy when we have to take into account all of those voices is both extraordinarily difficult and unbelievably important. We have to show the world that representative democracy works, that we can listen to the people. You don't have to be a dictatorship. You can listen to a bunch of people and still get a product done that meets the needs of the people.

That is what we did in the defense bill. I will also say it is what we have done in a couple of other bills. The agriculture and immigration bill that we will vote on as part of this was another example of that getting done. We are now working, knock on wood, to pass the appropriations bills in that same spirit.

I hope we don't lose that spirit. I hope we don't realize that just because when you participate in a representative democratic process and you don't get everything you want, that that means the process didn't work. Quite the opposite. The fact that you have that voice, the ability to say your piece and advocate for what you want, it is essential to freedom, essential to this country. Frankly, I think it is essential to peace and stability throughout the globe. We should continue to advocate for that passionately.

I thank all who were involved. This was a lengthy but important undertaking. Ultimately, we produced something that I am very, very proud of. I don't want to speak for anybody else. I know there are probably a lot of people who are, but just for my part, I am incredibly proud of what I was a part of creating. I think it represents the best of our country and the best of this body, and I urge everybody to vote for it.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I applaud Chairman SMITH for including in the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Conference Report language to include the Coast Guard in the Department of Defense STARBASE Program. The NDAA is the culmination of many long hours of hard work, compromise, and showcases the best of the legislative process. The modified authorization of the STARBASE Program included in this year's NDAA will help improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education for the youth of America.

Coast Guard support of the STARBASE Program, which the NDAA now authorizes, will allow an already successful STEM education program to be offered in more communities across our country. Teaching STEM concepts to elementary and secondary students is more important than ever to prepare students for our increasingly complex world that requires innovation and critical thinking. Introduction of STEM at an early age allows the best opportunity for our workforce of the future to gain skills and expertise needed, to include the prerequisites to serve in our Coast Guard, Armed Forces, and broader federal government.

Additionally, to build on the NDAA provision that includes the Coast Guard in the STARBASE Program, I introduced the Coast Guard Youth STEM Programs Expansion Act (H.R. 3205). H.R. 3205 ties in the Department of Education into the STARBASE Program, improves STEM curriculum, and includes curriculum topics applicable to maritime environments.

As the FY 2020 NDAA is implemented, I look forward to ensuring the Coast Guard and the Department of Defense continue to support STARBASE and STEM education initiatives. I urge support of the NDAA and hope that in the future, the House will advance the Coast Guard Youth STEM Programs Expansion Act.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, today I will vote against the Conference Report to Accompany S. 1790, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020.

This legislation includes a number of provisions that I strongly support, including giving servicemen and women a well-deserved raise of 3.1 percent—the largest pay raise for our troops since the last Democratic House majority in 2010. Those who serve in uniform have made extraordinary sacrifices for our country and have earned and deserve a pay raise.

I am also strongly supportive of the inclusion of twelve weeks of paid parental leave for federal employees. However, the omission of, at least, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and United States Postal Service (USPS) employees from this coverage is an inexcusable oversight, and I look forward to working with House and Senate leaders to enact a legislative correction.

Moreover, I am pleased that this Conference Report ends the unfair Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset—also known as the “widow's tax”—which currently reduces spouse survivor benefits by an average of \$1,250 per month. The families of the men and women serving in the Armed Forces make significant sacrifices and deserve the full benefits they have earned from their spouses' service.

Unfortunately, this final package is a little more than a continuation of the status quo, and it falls well short of the NDAA bill the House passed earlier this year. The final legislation strips out a number of policy priorities that were included in the House-passed NDAA, which I strongly supported, and includes yet another massive spending increase to an already bloated Pentagon budget.

I believe this legislation could have made responsible cuts to our defense budget without jeopardizing the safety of our troops, preventing a pay increase, or undermining our national security. For years, Congress has continued to increase the Pentagon's budget despite overwhelming evidence of its waste and abuse of taxpayer money. This year's legislation—with its outrageous topline defense budget of \$738 billion—is yet another example of Congress's habit of increasing the defense budget every year. While this administration has cut SNAP benefits, Medicaid, reproductive health services, and more, Congress has thus far boosted the Pentagon's budget by more than \$130 billion during President Trump's first term.

I have long supported a financial audit of the Pentagon, and for the second year in a row, the Pentagon has spectacularly failed its comprehensive audit. While I am pleased the Pentagon is finally undergoing comprehensive audits in order to identify waste, it is ridiculous to provide the Department of Defense (DoD) another massive spending increase when they cannot even account for how it spends taxpayer money.

In particular, I have always opposed the DoD's Overseas Contingency Operation (OCO) account, a fiscally irresponsible fund that is not counted in the budget, recklessly adds to our mounting debt, and has no congressional oversight. This Conference Report allocates \$71.5 billion for OCO, a Pentagon slush fund that gives a blank check to fund endless wars that Congress hasn't authorized. The bottom line is that fiscal responsibility and accountability at the Pentagon would allow for funds to be better spent supporting the needs of our troops, meeting our obligations to veterans, and ensuring our legitimate defense needs are prioritized.

Beyond bloated Pentagon spending, I am extremely disappointed that the Conference Report strips out provisions that would have prevented the president from using unauthorized force against Iran, prohibited U.S. support for and participation in the Saudi-led coalition's military operations in Yemen, and repealed the long-outdated 2002 authorization for the use of military force (AUMF) in Iraq. These provisions passed with bipartisan support in the House, and failure to include them is yet another abdication of Congress's constitutional war powers. I have always advocated for reaffirming Congress's constitutional authority to declare war and limiting the president's authority to engage in armed conflict without the consent of Congress and will continue to do so.

While I am pleased that this legislation blocks any backfill for DoD funds raided by President Trump for his unnecessary, ineffective border wall, it fails to include House-passed language that prevented the president from diverting additional funding under his so-called national emergency declaration. Under this emergency declaration, President Trump has taken more than \$3.6 billion from the DoD's high-priority military construction projects, \$2.5 billion from the DoD's drug interdiction program, and has transferred funds from other critical, lifesaving agencies under the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and more. As Chairman of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, I twice led the debate on the House floor to terminate this emergency declaration. Despite the fact that Congress has voted multiple times, with strong bipartisan support, to terminate this declaration, President Trump has repeatedly vetoed. I will continue to fight to bring an end to this national emergency declaration.

Additionally, the House unanimously adopted an amendment to the NDAA that would have required the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate PFAS as a hazardous substance under our nation's Superfund law, as well as restrict future discharges from manufacturers into drinking water under the Clean Water Act. PFAS are dangerous carcinogens that are virtually ubiquitous in American's drinking water, and Congress must restrict their use and clean up our water sources that are contaminated.

Unfortunately, Senate Republicans refused time and time again to negotiate any compromise on these important provisions, and the language was removed from the Conference Report. Fortunately, Majority Leader HOYER has already stated that he will bring the PFAS Action Act to the House floor in January, and I look forward to voting for that legislation.

Lastly, this Conference Report strips out a House-passed prohibition on sending new detainees to Guantanamo Bay, doing almost nothing to hasten the closing of this detention facility. This facility, which costs almost \$450 million each year to house 40 prisoners, has been a black eye for the United States, eroding relationships with our allies, bolstering terrorist recruitment tools, undermining U.S. missions abroad, and putting U.S. citizens and our troops at risk of retaliation.

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on Section 1011 in the NDAA conference report relating to contracting submissions about disciplinary proceedings involving audit personnel to be made to the Department of Defense will be afforded confidentiality and other protections otherwise due under existing law, including those that Congress has separately accorded such proceedings. As a result of Section 1011, Section 1006 from the FY 2019 NDAA submissions must be treated in a manner “consistent with any protections or privileges established by any other provision of federal law.” Section 1011 in this year's NDAA requires Section 1006 from the FY 2019 NDAA to henceforth require disclosure of the existence of a PCAOB proceeding against relevant personnel doing important DoD audit work, and in a manner that is compliant with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which reflects the hard work of the House Armed Services Committee to craft legislation that ensures that the military has the resources needed to defend our nation. I was particularly pleased that the legislation included a pay increase for servicemembers, repeal of the Survivor Benefit Plan/Indemnity Compensation Offset to provide Gold Star Families with their full, earned benefits, and changes to allow access to justice for military members and their families harmed by medical malpractice.

I want to take a moment to clarify the intent behind Section 1101 of the legislation. Like my colleagues on the Committee, I feel strongly that the finances of the Department of Defense must be subject to meaningful audit and oversight. It is clear to me that requiring accounting firms supporting this critical mission to disclose ongoing disciplinary proceedings, including Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) proceedings, to the Department of Defense is a backdoor attempt to begin intruding on a process that Congress determined as part of Sarbanes-Oxley and should remain confidential. Section 1011 of the NDAA makes clear that these disclosures should not impinge on the confidentiality of PCAOB proceedings governed by Sarbanes-Oxley. The best way to reconcile these two statutes, which I believe has been done, is to require accounting firms to disclose the existence of a proceeding to the Department when those proceedings are relevant to the important work of the Department and such a disclosure is consistent with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Conference Report to S. 1790, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020."

The National Defense Authorization Act is designed to meet the threats we face today as well as into the future.

The results of our work here today will reflect our strong commitment to ensure that the men and women of our Armed Services receive the benefits and support that they deserve for their faithful service.

Building on our efforts from previous years, this bill contains a number of initiatives designed to provide the resources and support needed for the men and women who keep our nation safe.

This legislation recognizes the reality that we live in a dangerous world, where threats are not always easily identifiable, and our enemies are not bound by borders.

Confronting this unique type of enemy requires unique capabilities.

As we have seen time and time again, our military has the ability to track down violent extremists who wish to do our country harm, regardless of where they reside.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased that seven of my amendments adopted during House consideration of the NDAA are included in the final legislation or in language in the accompanying report:

Jackson Lee Amendment directing the Secretary of Defense to promulgate regulations to ensure that candidates granted admission to attend a military academy undergo screening for speech disorders and be provided the re-

sults of the screening test and a list of warfare unrestricted line (URL) Officer positions and occupation specialists that require successful performance on the speech test. Academy students shall have the option of undergoing speech therapy to reduce speech disorders or impediments.

Jackson Lee Amendment directing the Secretary of Defense to submit a report analyzing the capacity of the Department of Defense to provide survivors of natural disasters with emergency short-term housing to the congressional defense committees not later than 220 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Jackson Lee Amendment directing the Secretary of Defense to provide a briefing to update the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House no later than March 15, 2019 on the status of the program required in section 1277 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, including an assessment of whether the program is beneficial to students interning, working part time, or in a program that will result in post-graduation employment with the Department of Defense components or contractors.

Jackson Lee Amendment requiring report on Maternity Mortality Rates for military members and their dependents.

Jackson Lee Amendment requiring report to be submitted to Congress within 240 days following enactment on the risks posed by debris in low earth orbit and to make recommendations on remediation of risks and outline plans to reduce the incident of space debris.

Jackson Lee Amendment requiring that a report from the Secretary of Defense 240 days after the date of the enactment to the congressional defense committees that accounts for all of the efforts, programs, initiatives, and investments of the Department of Defense to train elementary, secondary, and postsecondary students in fields related to cybersecurity, cyber defense, and cyber operations.

Jackson Lee Amendment adding "instruction on the opportunities and risks posed by advancements in AI" to the objectives of the Artificial Intelligence Education Strategy.

The passing of this bill today brings us one step closer to enacting the 57th consecutive National Defense Authorization Act.

Despite disagreements on key issues, Members have not failed to reach consensus on behalf of our fighting men and women.

I am proud of the work we have done here today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 758, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on adoption of the conference report.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 377, nays 48, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 672]

YEAS—377

Abraham
Adams

Aderholt
Aguilar

Allen
Allred

Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Biggs
Billirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clay
Clever
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Cole
Collins (GA)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson (OH)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Estes
Evans
Ferguson

Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy (NC)
Frankel
Fudge
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Golden
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
Gooden
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huizenga
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Levin (CA)
Lewis
Lipinski

Loebach
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowery
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marshall
Mast
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCarthy
McCauley
McCollum
McEeachin
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meadows
Meeks
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Neal
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascarelli
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Porter
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Rouda
Rouzer
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schiff
Schneider
Schradler
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin

Scott, David	Stivers	Walberg
Sensenbrenner	Suozzi	Walden
Sewell (AL)	Swallow (CA)	Walker
Shalala	Takano	Walorski
Sherman	Taylor	Waltz
Sherrill	Thompson (CA)	Wasserman
Shimkus	Thompson (MS)	Schultz
Simpson	Thompson (PA)	Waters
Sires	Thornberry	Watkins
Slotkin	Timmons	Weber (TX)
Smith (MO)	Tipton	Webster (FL)
Smith (NE)	Titus	Wenstrup
Smith (NJ)	Torres (CA)	Westerman
Smith (WA)	Torres Small	Wexton
Smucker	(NM)	Wild
Soto	Trahan	Williams
Spanberger	Trone	Wilson (FL)
Spano	Turner	Wilson (SC)
Speier	Underwood	Wittman
Stanton	Upton	Womack
Staubert	Van Drew	Woodall
Stefanik	Vargas	Wright
Steil	Veasey	Yarmuth
Steube	Vela	Yoho
Stevens	Visclosky	Young
Stewart	Wagner	Zeldin

NAYS—48

Amash	Garcia (IL)	Nadler
Bass	Gohmert	Napolitano
Blumenauer	Gomez	Neguse
Buck	Griffith	Ocasio-Cortez
Chu, Judy	Grijalva	Omar
Clarke (NY)	Huffman	Pocan
Cohen	Jayapal	Pressley
Davis, Danny K.	Kennedy	Raskin
DeFazio	Khanna	Rice (SC)
DeGette	Kildee	Schakowsky
DeSaulnier	Lee (CA)	Tlaib
Dingell	Levin (MI)	Tonko
Doyle, Michael	Lowenthal	Velázquez
F.	Massie	Watson Coleman
Engel	McClintock	Welch
Espallat	McGovern	
Gabbard	Meng	

NOT VOTING—5

Barragán	Lieu, Ted	Serrano
Hunter	Rooney (FL)	

□ 1738

Messrs. DeSAULNIER, COHEN, GARCIA of Illinois, RASKIN, Ms. BASS, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. ADAMS, Messrs. BISHOP of Utah, YOHO, and Ms. GRANGER changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FARM WORKFORCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5038) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

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

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

Mr. BIGGS. I am in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Biggs moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5038 to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 112, strike line 10 and all that follows through page 115, line 11 (and redesignate provisions accordingly).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, in its current form, H.R. 5038 would subject growers to a new private right of action in Federal court. As a result, these employers would face countless frivolous lawsuits and higher costs in the form of damages and other litigation costs.

The bottom line is that many American farmers and other agricultural employers would be sued right out of business. This provision is one of the main reasons that, arguably, the biggest agricultural group in the world, the American Farm Bureau, does not support this bill.

Our motion to recommit would simply strike sections 204(a) and (b) of the bill. This motion to recommit is supported by the American Farm Bureau, and I ask all Members to support it as well.

As a technical matter, Madam Speaker, we seek to recommit this bill to the Judiciary Committee. And that is interesting to me, and I think it should be of interest to all of us here because, in just a few hours, that committee is going to meet on a completely bogus Articles of Impeachment, where we will consider that there.

Over a week ago, every Republican member of the Judiciary Committee signed a letter to request a minority day hearing.

We are going to have the markup in 2 hours, and we haven't had the minority hearing yet, with no intention, I guess, of allowing the minority its rights under the rules.

Specifically, clause(2)(j)(1) of House rule XI states: “Whenever a hearing is conducted by a committee on a measure or matter, the minority members of the committee shall be entitled, upon request to the chairman by a majority of them before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon.”

And here we sit. We sit, and we are going to be going in, in 2 hours or so. We are going to have our opening statements, and then we will proceed to vote on the Articles of Impeachment offered by our friends on the other side of the aisle.

To what end? It is this obviation of the rule that is consistent with how we have seen this whole process play out.

We have written the chair of the Rules Committee to remind all chairs of their obligation to adhere to the rules of the House. Unfortunately, the hearing is yet to be scheduled.

I would suggest that the Democratic case for impeachment is not nearly so strong as they would have us believe. Otherwise, they would be affording us a simple minority hearing day.

When one considers it, and I wish everyone would consider it, we are being afforded more procedural rights on this bill, which is dead on arrival in the Senate, than we are in the impeachment proceeding of the President of the United States. That is simply wrong, Madam Speaker.

One day, I suggest, we will be beyond this mania, this hysteria that has set in here, and the other shoe will drop. I know that many in this body do not care for this President, and I understand that. But I think we all should have respect for this institution, and we should take care of this institution.

We should respect the due process rights of the minority. That is all we are asking. We want that minority hearing day.

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

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Speaker, I claim the time in opposition.

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

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this motion to recommit and in strong support of this underlying legislation.

Madam Speaker, America's farmers, producers, and ranchers provide the American people with the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the world.

Their job is challenging enough, but for too long, our broken immigration system has made this job even more difficult. I have heard from farmers across upstate New York and across the country, sharing the urgent need for responsible, commonsense action to address the labor shortage on American farms and ranches.

In fact, every time I visit a farm in my community, immigration is one of the top issues I hear about from farmers. A shortage of workers has led to crops rotting in the fields, billions of dollars in lost productivity, and farmers shuttering their operations.

For too long, the broken politics in Washington have made it impossible to make progress on bipartisan immigration reform. But thanks to the tireless work of Congresswoman LOFGREN and Congressman NEWHOUSE, and the engagement of dozens of Members and hundreds of agricultural and labor stakeholders, we have a solid, bipartisan bill that finally moves the ball forward.

The Farm Workforce Modernization Act is something people don't think happens much in Congress anymore, a bipartisan answer to a serious challenge. Republicans and Democrats came together, worked with each other, and found a solution that both sides can live with and that delivers results for American agriculture and workers.