

But even after Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, it was still several years before we got to the 13th Amendment, which ended slavery; the 14th Amendment, which guaranteed citizenship and due process; and then the 15th Amendment, which gave us and ratified for us the right to vote.

I think that, without a doubt, when we look back on all that has happened, particularly considering how we got here, that this commemoration is important. It is overdue. It ought to be an annual celebration.

I, again, thank the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina for convening us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from North Carolina has expired.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 155th anniversary of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. Passed by the House of Representatives on January 31, 1865, the 13th Amendment was ratified and put into effect on December 6, 1865.

Section 1 of the 13th Amendment states, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

This amendment is what allows Black people the legal status to be free, unbound, and unchained here in our country. If this amendment were not in place, we would still be slaves and subject to the forced subjugation of others. Before the ratification of this amendment, Black people in the U.S. were enslaved and owned by other people. Now, we are owned by no one.

This legacy in the U.S., this original sin, is recognized as an abomination to mankind. As I travel throughout the world, I am reminded of the greatness of our nation, but I am also intensely aware of the faults, shortcomings, and injustices that still plague us today. It is a sad reflection on our society that we are still fighting for complete and pure freedom in our country, to share in the fundamental rights guaranteed by our constitution to every person.

It is without question that we love this country and for most people, know no other place to call home. We have struggled, fought, and even died along the path to freedom. Our very existence has been met with severe hardships. No one today can imagine the horrors that slaves were subjected to daily.

However, there are those who, even today, say that slavery for Black people was a good thing and a blessing in disguise. This errant view is void of reality and ridiculous on its face.

The evils of slavery are too many to comprehensively and adequately express. There are thousands of helpless people who were bound, shackled, whipped, quartered, hung, burned and endured unspeakable horrors whose stories will never be told.

The lasting effects of slavery permeate many aspects of society today. Institutionalized racism, discrimination and prejudices are each lasting remnants of our history and are present with us even now. Our challenge is to continue to fight to wipe out these insidious vestiges of a time long passed and a gruesome period of every day American life.

Our nation will be forever stained with the blood of slavery. Our nation will be forever blessed by the freedom and liberty that the ratification of the 13th Amendment brings. Let us continue the never ending fight for freedom as we move towards prosperity for everyone.

While the 13th Amendment legally ended slavery in the United States, we know that for many it did not end in 1865. Thousands of Black people were either uninformed of their liberty or just outright denied their rights to be free. They were forced into continued servitude and grueling work to support the needs of their owners and masters. In Texas, word of freedom and liberation from the slave owners and masters of plantations and farms did not reach Black people until a whole two years later.

Slavery in the United States was not just a way of life, but an oppressive institution that was designed to profit off of the free labor of Black folk. It was extremely prosperous. It is without question that our nation was built on the backs of Black people who continuously suffered the indignities, degradation and humiliation of being enslaved.

We cannot afford to rest, sleep or be caught off guard. Even though the 13th Amendment is in place, it does not mean that it cannot be changed. All we truly have to do is look at the last administration and its constant attacks on the freedom of people in the U.S. and its attacks on our democratic institutions. Our freedom must be protected.

Please allow me to briefly turn my attention to the relationship between the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments. The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, proposed after the Civil War, granted enslaved Black people freedom, citizenship, and the right to vote. The 15th Amendment declared that the right of U.S. citizens to vote could "not be abridged or denied" by any state "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." These rights are still being attacked by those who would deny all people of color freedom, citizenship and the fundamental right to vote. The third and final Amendment during the Reconstruction Era—was adopted to protect the freedoms outlined in the 13th and 14th Amendments. Make no mistake—Reconstruction for Black people was devastating and a gross erosion of rights that were supposed to be guaranteed.

Mr. Speaker, our country is no longer divided between free states and slave states. We are now one. While we take this time to recognize and celebrate this critical benchmark in the history of our country, we must continue to fight to be the land of the free.

MARKING RATIFICATION OF 13TH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank all the speakers this evening. I understand the time has been precious, and I thank all of them for their patience and willingness to participate.

The 13th Amendment reads as follows: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude . . . shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

This amendment was added to the United States Constitution by an act of

Congress on January 31, 1865, ratified by the requisite number of States on December 6, 1865, 155 years ago.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GREG WALDEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) for 30 minutes.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, this 30 minutes is a tribute to our leader who is leaving us, GREG WALDEN, the top Republican on the Energy and Commerce Committee and the former chairman, and, obviously, a good friend to everyone on both sides of the aisle.

Knowing that many Members have plenty of meetings that are starting, I am going to yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON).

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend and my colleague, Congressman GREG WALDEN, on his retirement, following more than 20 years representing Oregon's Second District here in Congress.

As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Chairman WALDEN has been a real mentor to me. I have seen firsthand Chairman WALDEN's love for his country, dedication to his district, and hard work on so many important priorities for our Nation, like healthcare, energy independence, and telecommunications.

I have so many fond memories of the work we have done together and the time we have spent. I especially enjoyed working with Chairman WALDEN on H.R. 6, landmark legislation to combat the opioid crisis.

Chairman WALDEN, you will be dearly missed, but I wish you, Mylene, Anthony, and your entire family all the best.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Congressman GREG WALDEN for his extraordinary service.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON), also a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I, too, rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and mentor on the Energy and Commerce Committee, GREG WALDEN.

I spent 27 years in the United States Air Force. We lived by a code of conduct every day. We came to work. We embodied those core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all that we do.

In my experience, it is not often that you find people in private life or in other sectors of public life who also embody those same core values, but Chairman GREG WALDEN does.

Whether he was fighting for healthcare changes for the American people, to make America more energy independent and secure, whether he was trying to make sure that Big Tech did not overrun the American people,

you could always count on GREG WALDEN to be out in front leading, not following, and, certainly, not leading from behind.

I learned a lot in the 6 years that I served with GREG WALDEN when he was on the Energy and Commerce Committee as the chairman, and even before that as chair of our National Republican Congressional Committee.

It is with a great deal of sadness that we see him leave because a lot of core institutional knowledge is going to go out the door. But I want to say how much I have admired working with GREG WALDEN.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), a colleague.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have been honored to know and work around GREG WALDEN for 40 years. It is kind of scary to think about that.

He came to public service honestly.

I was privileged to serve with his father in the Oregon State Legislature when GREG started as a staff member in the State senate. He was bright, capable, and committed to the people of the Second Congressional District, a special place in Oregon, and GREG was quick to always represent it forcefully, clearly, and effectively.

We have shared some highlights over the years. I remember floating in the Dead Sea early in our congressional career. I was able to work with him in a small way on something that he is very proud of, the Steens Mountain Wilderness, almost 100,000 acres of cow-free wilderness. Now, some of us would have done it a little differently, but knowing where GREG came from in his district, that was a signal accomplishment. And we were able to work together in the Clinton administration.

I was pleased to have one of the best field hearings I ever had in public service as GREG and I, and his wife, Mylene, and his son, Anthony, and our staff members did a 43-mile, 3-day hike around Mount Hood, that magnificent mountain that we share in our districts.

We were able to meet with various interest groups and work together to lay the foundation for significant wilderness legislation that was signed into law by President Obama but that we worked together on a bipartisan basis to make possible.

Recently, we were able to work on legislation that almost nobody paid any attention to. It dealt with a significant change to enhance the ability of physicians, particularly in emergency rooms, to know the family history of people there who suffered from opioid addiction.

Again, not many people know about it, and it was several years and harder than I thought, but it will make a difference to be able to make sure that those emergency room personnel will be able to treat the whole person. It solved a problem that maybe shouldn't have been, but it is part of that nagging problem that we have, in terms of

trying to work through the legislative process. And GREG was a master at that.

I didn't always agree with GREG. Occasionally, we had some differences. But we often were able to find common ground to represent the people of our State in a way that they wanted us to.

□ 1730

It is an honor. I will say, even though we didn't always agree, I always respected GREG in terms of his commitment, his intellect, and his sense of humor.

It has been an honor, GREG, to serve with you 22 years—really?

You have escaped, and I can't wait to find out what the next chapters in your career bring.

I wish the very best to you, Mylene, and Anthony, and a long and prosperous next step.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

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

Mr. Speaker, I speak on the House floor tonight, not as somebody who has ever served on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, but as someone who was a freshman in the 115th Congress with a very, very specific and very direct link to a piece of legislation we were advocating known as the right-to-try bill.

When I got sworn in, one of the first people I sought out was Chairman GREG WALDEN. I went to his office, and I was initially taken aback by the photography he had throughout his office of his district, which is an incredibly beautiful district in Oregon.

We have all had many meetings in our time in Congress here, but one of my memories is, when I met with Chairman WALDEN, I have to acknowledge I was very intimidated. I was a freshman Member speaking to a committee chairperson of a very, very significant committee.

The time, the attention, and the respect that he showed me and the issue that I cared about I will never forget. It is one of those memories that I have of my freshman term that I will never forget.

We have all heard many definitions of character being spoken throughout our lives. My favorite definition is character being defined as the things that we do and the decisions that we make when nobody else is watching.

Having worked with Chairman WALDEN on the right-to-try bill, his honesty, his integrity, and his commitment to doing the right thing—not the politically popular thing, not what any interest group was advocating for, but trying to get the specifics and the details of a piece of very important legislation right—was very, very instructive to me. It was probably the greatest experience and the greatest learning experience I had as a freshman Member of Congress.

For GREG to walk away having accomplished all that he has on his own

is reminiscent of my favorite President, George Washington. Everybody wanted him to continue serving, and all he wanted to do was go back home to his farm in Mount Vernon, live under the laws he helped pass, and make way for a new generation of leadership, which is one of the reasons he is so revered throughout history.

Likewise, we ought to respect Chairman WALDEN, our friend, GREG, for doing the same thing: for understanding the important things in life, for valuing his family the way he does, knowing that as much as he enjoys this job and how humbled he is to serve in the capacity he has, he is going back home to his family because they are the most important things to him.

So, Chairman WALDEN, Godspeed to you. We love you. Thank you for all you have done, not just for this Chamber, but for the United States.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the State of Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), the GREG WALDEN successor as the top Republican on the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee and, as we like to say, chairman-in-waiting in the next aisle.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. To the former chairman, I will say thank you. Thank you for bringing us together tonight. It is a real honor for me to join in recognizing the life and the service of GREG WALDEN here in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure of considering him a friend and a colleague. He is also my neighbor to the south in Oregon. Both of us have deep roots in the Pacific Northwest, although he will be quick to remind me that his family came out a few years ahead of mine. I think it was 1845. We didn't get there until 1853, I think. Anyway, he is always excelling.

I was thinking he probably has the most frequent flier points today, now, because there is no one who has worked harder and traveled back and forth across this country in representing the people of Oregon all these years.

I want to join in just celebrating a tremendous leader. He was chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. He led that committee in a way that just reflects what a great history this committee has. It is always focused on results and always focused on solving the problems of bringing people together to get big things done.

I just appreciate the vision and the foundation that you have led during your time on the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

There is a long list of successes and accomplishments here: leading on combating the opioid crisis—a huge package of bills—and building a 21st century economy.

This committee is at the heart of America's competitiveness and our future, such as expanding rural broadband.

I appreciate all your leadership there. Our districts are very similar,

eastern Washington and eastern Oregon. You worked to make sure that no one is left behind.

Recognizing and reauthorizing the Children's Health Insurance Program, lowering prescription drugs and the prices of prescription drugs, and unleashing innovation in energy and healthcare is a part of a long list, and because of your leadership at the Energy and Commerce Committee, people's lives have been improved. People have been lifted out of poverty, and we have raised the standard of living even more.

I appreciate the way that he leads, Mr. Speaker, and the joy that he brings to every assignment. This is somebody who has held a lot of different titles while serving in the House of Representatives. I have been around him many times through the years. He is a strong advocate.

I remember, early on, being down at the White House, when I was first elected, with George W. Bush, and GREG WALDEN was there. But he didn't miss an opportunity to put in a good word about the need for better forest management and combating the catastrophic wildfires. He was always, always on, and always advocating for the people of eastern Oregon.

This is one that we are going to miss. He is just the ultimate legislator. He is the one who has come, worked hard, made a difference for the people of eastern Oregon, and leaves a high standard for the rest of us in his commitment, his hard work, and his record of results.

No no matter where life takes you next, I know it is going to be something good. I wish you, Mylene, and Anthony all the best in this next chapter. It is well earned and well deserved.

God bless you, and the best is yet to come.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), who is another member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I was in my office just finishing up a meeting when I saw this going on down here, and I knew I had to come because Chairman WALDEN—

You don't mind if I call you chairman still?

I don't know if that violates any House policy, Mr. Speaker.

You will always be my chairman.

You were my first chairman as I came on the Energy and Commerce Committee, a committee that I wanted to be on for an awful long time. Representative UPTON and I talked about that for quite some time. He assured me that that was the key committee to be on. I knew that for a fact, and I have not been disappointed.

One of the quotes that means most to me is the quote that is above the Speaker's rostrum. It is a quote from Daniel Webster, who said:

Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its

institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered.

It is a powerful quote, and we all aspire to that, but a few actually achieve that.

Chairman WALDEN, I want to say that, through the Speaker to you, I believe you have achieved that purpose in doing something here that will be remembered, if not in all of the policy issues and the legislative issues you fronted and pushed for, you will leave that in the lives of Members who have served with you on your committee and under your leadership.

I will never forget a 27-hour markup and a debate that went on after the pattern that ought to be here in the House of Representatives. I remember the firmness with which you led that committee markup, the passion that you displayed on the issues, the agreements and disagreements that you had and you let in. But you treated us all on that committee with respect worthy of this institution, and you treated each Member with a purpose that said to all of us: You are important, and your ideas should be considered.

I know for a fact I have served under chairmen and Speakers over the course of my tenure in State and in national politics who have led, but only a few have led in such a way as you, that the people you led felt that you really meant it, that you wanted their best whether you agreed or disagreed with us, and you made us better for the calling and for the purpose.

So I want to say to you, Mr. Chairman, thank you for your service. I wish you well, your family, and in all of your endeavors. You can count on it that I will pray prayers of thanks for you and blessings on your life.

All the best.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I know other Members may be on the way over.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks as part of this Special Order for Mr. WALDEN.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. UPTON. So, Mr. Speaker, this is a farewell for GREG WALDEN.

He started off in public service serving as the youngest State house majority leader in Oregon's history before he was elected to the U.S. House for Oregon's Second District.

He came to the Energy and Commerce Committee in 2001, and, of course, I referenced the Energy and Commerce Committee a little bit earlier as the greatest committee, and that is because I simply took the words of John Dingell, our former chairman, who agrees with me, I know, but as he would say, our committee's jurisdiction is really just two words: the world.

We have jurisdiction over energy, the environment, healthcare, telecommunications, trade, manufacturing, and then some, and, of course, that very important issue called oversight and investigations.

GREG chaired the Telecommunications Subcommittee from 2010 until 2016. He jumped up over others in seniority because of his knowledge on that issue and his passion, whether it be broadband or digital broadcasting, anything involving the telecommunication industry. He became chairman of the full committee in 2017, and, obviously, the top Republican now, as Republicans no longer serve in the majority.

As you look back at his career, Mr. Speaker, and you look at some of these landmark issues—CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS indicated a couple—but CHIP, children's healthcare, so important for all of our States. He was a leader on that.

For the first time ever, we actually passed something with a 10-year authorization bill called the community health centers authorization.

Opioids were a big issue 3, 4 years ago. It still is today, but literally every member of our committee had a piece of that bill. I want to say maybe more than 100 different separate bills were fashioned together as one. President Trump signed it into law, and it made a meaningful difference for so many people as they struggle with this addiction across the country.

I couldn't forget this one bill, and I had to write the title down, the Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Servers. I think I got that right. If you take the first letter of every word, that spells RAY BAUM.

Ray Baum was our staff director of the committee for a couple years until a terrible brain cancer took his life. This bill was named in honor of Ray.

I will tell you, 911 calls wouldn't work today without this, because this provided the location, when that call is made, to make sure that the first responder, in fact, is going to get to that delivery site. So it is very important legislation, and Ray was just an awesome leader on our committee.

But I see other Members have joined us now.

May I ask, Mr. Speaker, how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY), who is a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Michigan. I can tell you a couple minutes is enough time because I am a brief speaker, but it says a lot that I am willing to come down here and risk COVID to speak in favor of a Republican. So there you have it.

I have known GREG WALDEN for many years now in the committee. On trips

and on new legislation, he has been a gentleman, and he has been a person I could work with.

We have some disagreements, don't we, GREG?

But that says a lot that we can disagree and still be friends.

I went to Oregon to visit and to see the eclipse, and GREG invited me to go to his place with his friends and watch it with them. I really appreciated that. So it shows you that people can get along in this institution, work together, and have respect for each other.

□ 1745

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend from Michigan for organizing this really important Special Order.

I have to say, many of you probably heard the phrase, a politician thinks about the next election, but it is a statesman who thinks about the next generation.

GREG WALDEN of Oregon is both. He is an amazing politician, but he is an even more important statesman for our next generation.

Representative WALDEN has been a mentor to many. When he was chair of NRCC, he mentored and helped so many people become a part of this great institution. But then he mentored people like me, along with Representative UPTON of Michigan, to make it to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, where I knew that big things got done and that the world was our jurisdiction.

Not only was he a mentor, but he rose to chair of that committee, and he did it with humility, he did it with humor, he did it with wisdom. And I am so glad you talked about all of the things he accomplished, but he always reminded us that he was an Oregon broadcaster, first and foremost, and that he loved his incredible State of Oregon, and was such a leader.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my pleasure—and my husband David's pleasure—to travel with he and Mylene, and more importantly, most recently, to get to know his son, that next generation of leaders, Anthony.

I thank you for the opportunities you gave me and so many of my colleagues. I wish you the best in retirement. You have been an amazing mentor, an amazing friend, and an amazing leader in this country. You are a statesman, my friend.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to report some breaking news. Roll Call has just put something out online, it will be published tomorrow. And the headline is: "Adulthood might be alive and well in Congress. The retiring LAMAR ALEXANDER and GREG WALDEN show it's possible to do your job in public life while acting like a grown-up."

That is GREG. He got things done. He was an Eagle Scout when he was a

youngster, still is a mighty big Ducks fan. You can't walk into his office without seeing the Ducks. He is in a lot better mood on Monday when you see him if the Ducks win. They didn't win the other day. But he has been a really special individual with real care and handling of all the different issues that our committee deals with.

A partner in leadership on both sides of the aisle, his word is his bond. His staff has been terrific, all of them: All the subcommittee staff, his personal staff, and obviously, his greatest staff person, Mylene. Mylene and his son, Anthony, we have watched him grow up from when Anthony was a youngster, but Mylene has been a special friend, really, to all of us. She puts up with GREG. Usually, she is on the West Coast while he is over here.

Mr. Speaker, he has been a special talent that has been lent to our committee to make this country a better place.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank all my colleagues who came down tonight to share these words. I want to assure the American people—it feels like a eulogy—I am actually still alive but deeply indebted for their generosity, their kindness, and their words tonight. It means a lot.

I have told people I am not one of the grumpy, cranky Members leaving. This is a great institution with really good people who do good work here. We may not always agree, as my friend from Oregon or my friend from California said, but it doesn't mean we have to be disagreeable. We come here to solve problems. We approach them from different angles representing different Americans, but we come here to find solutions.

I have been so blessed to work with people like Mrs. BROOKS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and my friend from Michigan, Mr. UPTON, and the others who were down here. It is a team effort, and we live in a really, really great country. I have been so blessed to be a part of this institution for the last 22 years.

Mr. Speaker, I had hair when I came here. Honest. I can show you photos. So it will take a lot out of you. But when I do return home, I will complete my 644th round trip between the Nation's Capitol and home. I did that because I really wanted to stay in touch, and my family is here, and yet it proves the point. On almost every flight, my friend from the Portland area, Mr. BLUMENAUER, has been right there with me, and our colleague, Mr. DEFazio, almost every trip. And it is what we do as Members here. We go home, we listen to our constituents, we come back, we try and find solutions, whether it is on opioids or internet connectivity, or all the things that have been referenced tonight.

My success is attributed to the people I have been able to work with, my colleagues. And as Mr. UPTON said, our terrific, brilliant staff in this institution, who work literally day and night. And I know because I get texts from them at midnight when they are reading through a bill or working on an agreement and negotiating at the staff-to-staff level. America is well-served by this institution, and I wish more Americans saw the kind of camaraderie that we have here, the comity we have here, and the accomplishment that we do here.

Mr. Speaker, this place still works, and I just wish well the incoming class of new Members who bring new energy and new ideas to this process. I know they, too, come here to represent their people back home.

Mr. Speaker, to my friends, thank you. This was most generous, over the top, and a big surprise. I thought I was just headed off as a homeless Member of Congress with no office to find something to eat, but instead, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS said I needed to come with her over here.

Thank you to my friends. Mr. UPTON, my dear friend—he and Amey and my wife and I are very close—thank you for your kindness and your words. I will have a more formal farewell speech I will give later this week on the House floor, so I will reserve any further comments to that time.

Mr. Speaker, I just would, again, thank my friend from Michigan, Mr. UPTON.

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

NATIONAL CYBER DIRECTOR ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Conference Report to accompany the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021 that we will be considering tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, this is my 20th NDAA, and as ever, I am incredibly proud of the bipartisan work that went in to creating it. Amidst all the 1300 provisions, however, I want to focus on section 1752.

Section 1752 is based on my bill, H.R. 7331, the National Cyber Director Act, and it is the result of more than 10 years of deliberative thought and advocacy. The provision is simple enough. It creates an Office of the National Cyber Director within the Executive Office of the President. The office is led by a director who will be Presidentially appointed and confirmed by the Senate.

The National Cyber Director is charged with being the President's principal adviser on matters of cybersecurity policy with developing and overseeing implementation of the national cyber strategy. He or she will