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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless abundantly the Members of this people's House. During this season of new growth, may Your redemptive power help them to see new ways to productive service, fresh approaches to understanding each other, especially those across the aisle, and renewed commitment to solving the problems facing our Nation.

May they, and may we all, be transformed by Your grace and better reflect the sense of wonder, even joy, at the opportunities to serve that are ever before us.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CRAWFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

END SUPPORT TO SAUDI ARABIA

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, right now, the United States continues to support Saudi Arabia's genocidal war in Yemen. This support has been ongoing since 2015 yet has never been authorized by Congress. It must end now.

U.S. support for this war has resulted in dire consequences. Just last week, the Saudi coalition bombed a hospital. They have bombed school buses, weddings, markets, funerals—tens of thousands of Yemen civilians killed. Millions more are in dire need of humanitarian aid, starving and sick, without access to food and water or basic medicine. This has created the worst humanitarian disaster in the world.

We are voting later today on an important resolution to finally end U.S. support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen. We need to put politics aside. Lives are at stake. We cannot afford to delay.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to recognize the urgency with which we must act, to vote against any attempts to delay or block this resolution, and to vote to pass S.J. Res. 7 today.

BUDGET

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

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss our Nation's ballooning debt and the

lack of interest across the aisle to address this crisis. We currently face a national debt that exceeds \$22 trillion and a deficit reaching \$1 trillion.

President Reagan's chief economic adviser recently called our Nation's fiscal situation "the most dangerous domestic problem facing America's Federal Government."

The majority party—so, the Democratic Party—is responsible for producing a budget representative of their values and priorities. Despite our grim fiscal reality, Democrats have made the decision to skip their duty of writing a budget, foregoing the only opportunity to look at our entire fiscal picture.

Speaker PELOSI has stated on numerous occasions: Show me your budget, and I will show you your values.

So, since the Democrats refuse to pass a budget, do they truly have any values that represent the American people? These are Speaker PELOSI's own words.

If my businesses spent money like the Federal Government, I would be forced to file bankruptcy. These wasteful habits are encouraged by politicians who do not see Federal dollars for what they are: hard-earned American taxpayer money.

The failure to produce this budget begs the question: Are our friends across the aisle concerned about our national debt? Again, I refer to the Speaker's words: No budget, no values.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, every 16 hours, a woman in this country is shot and killed by a current or former partner.

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Just last week, an 18-year-old woman in Las Vegas was shot dead by her boyfriend while they sat in their car outside of a neighborhood barbecue.

This country has an epidemic of violence against women, which is why I stand here today to ask this body to reauthorize and expand the Violence Against Women Act.

This bill will provide crucial resources to survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse. It will invest in education programs that teach young men to stop the cycle of violence. It will provide Tribes with new mechanisms to hold non-Indian predators accountable for preying on Native women. And it will close the boyfriend loophole that allows physically abusive ex-boyfriends and convicted stalkers access to guns.

Madam Speaker, this legislation will save lives, and I urge every Member of this body to support its passage.

HONORING SERGEANT JOSEPH "JOEY" COLLETTE

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to mourn the loss of an explosive ordnance disposal warrior.

On Friday, March 22, EOD Sergeant Joey Collette was killed in action in Afghanistan. At the time, Collette was participating in a joint U.S.-Afghan special operation.

Sergeant Collette deeply wanted to deploy overseas. He did all he could and gave his all to serve his country in Afghanistan. He was loved and respected by his brothers in arms.

He is survived by his wife, Caela, whom he had married only 2 weeks prior to deploying, and by his beautiful young daughter.

I offer my most sincere condolences to Joey's family and friends. I ask the rest of Congress to join me in ensuring that Sergeant Joey Collette and his sacrifice will not be forgotten.

Rest in peace, Sergeant Collette.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

(Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

This critical legislation is important not only for survivors, but it impacts all of us. When we are talking about survivors, we need to also look at the root of the problem and the lasting impacts of trauma on the survivors and individuals as a whole. We must acknowledge the impact of adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs.

ACE scores are based on a list of events one can witness or undergo before turning 18, including sexual abuse or death in a family. If a person scores

higher than 4, they are 700 times more likely to develop depression and other negative impacts. Obesity, diabetes, and stroke also become more likely the higher one's ACE score.

Oklahoma's average ACE score is 4.8, significantly higher than the rest of the country. It is no coincidence that we rank at the bottom for health, too.

I am proud of leaders in my own district, like the Palomar Family Justice Center that uses ACE data and addresses trauma in treating survivors. I am thankful for the work of the Potts Family Foundation, which has helped lead the conversation on trauma in Oklahoma and across the Nation.

These models need to be implemented on a wider scale across the country, and I am proud to stand with the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act today.

VOTE ON BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVOR PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, I signed the discharge petition to force a vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. 193 Members, including two Democrats, have already signed it. A discharge petition has not received such overwhelming support in the first 24 hours in at least 22 years.

I applaud Congresswoman ANN WAGNER for reintroducing this bill and Republican Whip STEVE SCALISE for filing the discharge petition.

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would require that a child who is born alive after an attempted abortion receives treatment and be transferred to a hospital. This legislation penalizes the intentional killing of a child who is born alive.

Unfortunately, we have seen horrific actions in New York and Virginia to allow late-term abortion. It is, essentially, the execution of a defenseless child after birth.

Madam Speaker, this isn't abortion; this is infanticide. Any doctor who would leave a child to die should face the full extent of the law.

Americans deserve to know whether their Representatives stand against infanticide or not. I urge the House to act on this bill. I urge us to choose life over murder.

□ 0915

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MS. BESSIE M. SWINDLE

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commemorate and celebrate the life of a great and noble American,

Ms. Bessie Swindle, who will be laid to rest.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Swindle was born in 1939 at a time when she could buy a hat but she couldn't try it on. She was relegated to the balcony of the movie and the back of the bus.

Yet, notwithstanding all of the obstacles that life afforded her, she was a servant to multiple elected officials: two constables and two mayors.

She has been given a day in her honor by Mayor Bill White in 2007.

She was, literally, a commissioner without a commission. She was a council person without a council. She was a lawyer without a license. She was the person who gave hope to the hopeless and help to the helpless.

She lived up to the words of Ruth Smeltzer:

Some measure their lives by days and years,

Others by heartthrobs, passions, and tears.
But the surest measure under God's sun,
Is what for others in your lifetime have you done.

God bless you, dear Bessie. We love you. Your spirit will live forever, and your legacy will continue to change the lives of others.

You made headway when others were making headlines.

We love you.

VOTE FOR THE BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to encourage the Speaker of the House to let us vote on H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. It is more than common sense; it is common decency legislation being put forth to end the barbaric act of infanticide.

Every day, Kansans watching from back home assume this must already be law. There is no way that, in America, it is legal to murder a child who already has been born.

Sadly, in some parts of this country, it isn't common sense; it isn't common decency. In some parts of the country, it isn't something inherently wrong to kill a child who was born alive.

This is murder. It is appalling that it is being protected. This is murder.

Madam Speaker, let us vote.

HEALTHCARE

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

Mr. WATKINS. Madam Speaker, last week the administration made yet another attempt to strip healthcare away from our families.

Let me be clear: My community in the Central Valley needs more health coverage, not less. We need more doctors; we need more nurses; we need

more mental health services; and we need everyone with a preexisting condition to have coverage.

Each and every one of us in this Chamber has a loved one or a neighbor who would be hurt by this effort. This includes my friend Vicky, from Moxdesto.

She was healthy her whole life until she had her first seizure. She was hospitalized and was having four to five seizures a day until her doctor was able to find a medication that worked. She has to pay \$400 a month even now for this medicine, and she has insurance.

Imagine if this lawsuit goes through. Vicky will completely lose her insurance. There are 100,000 other people in my community with a story just like hers. These are real people who would be hurt.

Folks in my community have been crystal clear on this issue: We need more healthcare for more people.

My community needs us to move this discussion forward, not backwards.

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARDER of California). Pursuant to House Resolution 281 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1585.

Will the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) kindly take the chair.

□ 0919

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1585) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes, with Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, amendment No. 38 printed in part B of House Report 116-32 offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MRS. AXNE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 39 printed in part B of House Report 116-32.

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 29, strike lines 3 through 7 and insert the following:

SEC. 201. SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM.

Section 41601(f)(1) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12511(f)(1)) is amended by striking “\$40,000,000 to remain available until expended for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018” and inserting “\$60,000,000 to remain available until expended for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 281, the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. AXNE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa.

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Chair, the Violence Against Women Act expired on September 30, 2018. It is incredibly disappointing that we ever let this landmark bill expire in the first place, but we now have an opportunity to provide additional resources and address gaps in the expired law to better protect women in Iowa and across the land from violence. My amendment will help do that.

I have introduced an amendment that will increase STOP grants to help local law enforcement agencies and community organizations better combat and prosecute violence against women. This funding will help law enforcement agencies develop and strengthen strategies to end domestic and sexual violence.

I have met with local police officers and sheriffs throughout my district, and they all tell me they are under-resourced and they are understaffed. I promised them I would do anything in my power to make sure they get what they need to protect our communities.

STOP grants also provide prosecutors with the proper tools and resources they need to get justice for survivors and prosecute those who commit violence against women.

While we must do everything in our power to stop violence against women, the sad reality is domestic and sexual violence is prevalent in this country. It is prevalent across all socioeconomic backgrounds, and it is something that is not exclusive to any one part of this country. We have it in our own backyard.

For many victims of domestic and sexual violence, recovery can be a lifelong process. We need to make sure that we are providing organizations that provide victim services, like the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault, with the resources they need to develop and strengthen programs to help as many survivors as possible.

When I worked at the State of Iowa, I helped the Crime Victims Assistance Unit in the AG’s office improve their processes, so I know that in Iowa—I have seen it firsthand—we don’t have enough resources to address the needs that we have.

There are simple steps that we can take that have a major impact on the amount of people that we can help, and that is what these grants do. They will help our local law enforcement agencies, our local prosecutors, and local community organizations stop more crimes, prosecute more perpetrators, and provide services to more survivors.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment, which increases the authorization of STOP grants from \$40 million to \$60 million. The amendment does not have an offset from any other account.

We had a hearing on this important legislation in committee. The gentlewoman is correct in stating that domestic violence is a problem and we must take action to confront it. It was disappointing that the legislation was taken from what was a bipartisan consensus and turned into a partisan document that went far beyond the underlying legislation which was allowed to expire.

We had a hearing, and no witness that I recall advocated, during committee, for increasing the authorization level for STOP grants.

STOP grants do perform a vital service. In fact, one of my first jobs out of law school was prosecuting under a STOP grant, prosecuting domestic violence cases in Rockingham County in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

In the markup in committee, not a single Democrat offered any amendment to increase the authorization level by an additional \$20 million. There has been no reason given to add an additional 50 percent to this specific program as opposed to any program. So I would urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), my colleague.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Chair, I support this amendment which would increase the sexual assault services program authorization from \$40 million to \$60 million.

This program assists States, Tribes, and territories to provide intervention, advocacy support, and related assistance to victims of sexual assault.

Experts in the field have indicated that this program is underfunded for the depth and the breadth of the work it covers, despite the remarks of the gentleman from Virginia.

It is underfunded. We need more money here. I support the amendment of the gentlewoman.

Now, the gentleman from Virginia says there is no offset. That is true. We do not need an offset.

Of course, we could take it away from President Trump’s personal part of the tax, of the \$1.8 trillion tax break that the Republicans voted for for the rich.

But the fact is we don’t need an offset. Under the rules, the appropriations bill has to deal with that. This simply makes funds available, and for a very worthy purpose.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Chair, I would state to the esteemed chairman of the committee that we have proceeded without offsets for many, many years

on many, many things, and that is one of the reasons why we are over \$20 trillion in debt right now.

This House must exercise fiscal restraint and bring its budget back into some semblance of order and exercise responsibility. And so an offset is responsible, is appropriate, does not exist, and was never discussed.

The chairman talks about experts. We heard from no expert at the committee level as to the need for the additional \$20 million in STOP grants.

Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Chair, I appreciate what my colleague across the aisle is saying; however, our debt can be looked at in many ways to amend. However, our local police officers, our local communities, and our organizations that support victims with assistance are in dire need of the additional funding.

I would argue that this administration is the cause of this major debt that we have, and we should not take that out on our local communities that I know are supported across the aisle.

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. AXNE).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 0930

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MS. TORRES
SMALL OF NEW MEXICO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 40 printed in part B of House Report 116–32.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Chairwoman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 171, insert after line 2 the following (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

SEC. 1408. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH IMMIGRATION LAWS.

Nothing in this Act, or in any amendments made by this Act, shall affect the obligation to fully comply with the immigration laws.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 281, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Chairwoman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairwoman, I rise to offer amendment No. 40 to H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.

My amendment is simple. It will ensure that everything in this bill complies with current immigration law. One in three women in the United

States will experience domestic violence. That is unacceptable. It doesn't matter who you are. Domestic violence is unacceptable. This law protects all survivors.

It ensures that our Nation recognizes domestic violence and sexual assault as crimes. It provides crucial protections against domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. It provides survivors with the support they deserve.

It provides our law enforcement with everything they need to provide justice to these survivors, and it sends a clear message nationwide that our Federal Government will protect all survivors and condemn all domestic and sexual assault offenders.

That is why the reauthorization of VAWA should not be impacted by the current debate on our immigration system. That debate is for another day and it is a debate we should have soon in this Chamber. But I felt it was necessary to offer this amendment to acknowledge that as the House passes this legislation, it is also in accordance with the laws already enacted.

Again, this is all this amendment attempts to do. It is important that funding goes where it is intended. And the eligibility for VAWA grant funding is clear in this bill. VAWA is the cornerstone for safety and justice to survivors of violence and abuse. Our sole focus today should be to keep that cornerstone strong.

All of us know a survivor. She may be our mother, he may be our best friend. It may be ourselves. We, as a country, know what to do and we should do it together. Therefore, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this essential legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Chairwoman, I would answer the gentlewoman by saying that we are in agreement that domestic violence is a problem, and regardless of who you are in this country, you deserve protection if you are a victim of domestic violence. No matter, woman, man, gay, straight, you deserve protection if you are a victim of domestic violence, and we need to provide adequate protection.

Unfortunately, this bill does not provide that protection when you are allowing environments to be created where victims are at risk of being re-victimized, whether it is through the legal process, or through the shelter process. We have problems with this bill overall. But I commend the gentlewoman for her amendment, because it does ensure that the laws regarding immigration in this country are complied with.

I wish that we had gone further. I offered an amendment on another bill at

committee to ensure that ICE was notified whenever an illegal immigrant committed a crime involving a firearm so that they could be deported quicker. I wish that that had been attempted in this legislation as well. ICE deserves to be notified when someone is convicted of a crime of domestic violence if that defendant is illegal.

So while we could not go further, I thank the gentlewoman for offering the amendment. I do not oppose it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Chairwoman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Chairwoman, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership in presenting the important amendment to the Violence Against Women Act. I thank the distinguished chairman of the committee for his leadership in bringing this VAWA reauthorization to the floor. I commend KAREN BASS, the author of the legislation, the chair of the subcommittee of jurisdiction, and I want to recognize and acknowledge the work of Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE over the years in terms of ending violence against women.

Again, we take an oath to protect the American people. Nearly 25 years ago, Congress honored that oath when we enacted the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act. It united our communities and our country in a fight against domestic violence in America.

Today, we honor that oath once more by passing strong, bipartisan, long-term VAWA reauthorization that will save lives.

Again, I want to salute KAREN BASS, a champion for women's safety and security as chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, and the many champions of VAWA in the Congress who have made today possible. Again, I acknowledge Congresswoman JACKSON LEE.

We thank all of the survivors, victims, and advocates who have shown the generosity of spirit to tell their stories. Nothing is more eloquent or effective than the stories which show that this is not a legislative fight or an issues fight. It is a personal fight about America's families.

I commend Congresswoman TORRES SMALL for this important amendment that recognizes and ensures that all provisions of the bill comply with current immigration law. This isn't a bill about immigration, but I wanted to make that assertion, and I thank the gentlewoman, Congresswoman TORRES SMALL for this amendment.

We are pleased that the bill is bipartisan. There should be nothing partisan or political about ending the scourge of domestic violence and sexual assault, which one in three women faces today.

Madam Chairwoman, with this bill, we are reinforcing what we did 25 years ago, and what we did in 2013. We are making it stronger with the legislation

today, with lifesaving updates that reflect the voices of victims and survivors and the input of experts.

With this bill, we are empowering law enforcement and making new investments in prevention. We are improving lifesaving services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We are supporting survivors with protections against discrimination in the workplace and supporting their financial security.

We are closing dangerous loopholes in our laws that right now allow those who have been convicted of stalking or dating violence to obtain firearms. These are commonsense reforms that will save lives and that no one should object to.

We are strengthening protections for Native American women because every woman everywhere has the right to live free from abuse. We thank the Indian Country and the Native American women for their input on this. And aren't we blessed now to have for the first time in American history, two Native American women serving in the Congress of the United States: Congresswoman SHARICE DAVIDS from Kansas, and Congresswoman DEB HAALAND from New Mexico, and they have already made their presence felt.

This bill has historically been bipartisan. We urge all Members to join us in a strong bipartisan vote for this bill, which honors our oath, upholds our values, and saves lives. Again, I urge a "yes" vote.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Chairwoman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Madam Chairwoman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I rise in support of the gentlewoman's amendment. Representative TORRES SMALL's amendment makes it clear that nothing in this bill impacts or changes any obligations or requirements to comply with our immigration laws.

This amendment alleviates any potential concern or confusion about the intent of this legislation. It makes clear that the bill does not change any immigration law, nor does it affect any of the immigration obligations and requirements under current law. It is that simple, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Chair, I thank the chairman; the authors of this bill, Representative BASS and Representative FITZPATRICK; and the tireless advocates who have worked to bring this bill to the floor today for the safety and justice of all survivors of violence and abuse.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, please support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico will be postponed.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Chair, I move that the committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to. Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico) having assumed the chair, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

□ 0945

DIRECTING THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 274, I call up the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 7) to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN). Pursuant to House Resolution 274, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 7

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Congress has the sole power to declare war under article I, section 8, clause 11 of the United States Constitution.

(2) Congress has not declared war with respect to, or provided a specific statutory authorization for, the conflict between military forces led by Saudi Arabia, including forces from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal, and Sudan (the Saudi-led coalition), against the Houthis, also known as Ansar Allah, in the Republic of Yemen.

(3) Since March 2015, members of the United States Armed Forces have been introduced into hostilities between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis, including providing to the Saudi-led coalition aerial targeting assistance, intelligence sharing, and mid-flight aerial refueling.

(4) The United States has established a Joint Combined Planning Cell with Saudi Arabia, in which members of the United States Armed Forces assist in aerial targeting and help to coordinate military and intelligence activities.

(5) In December 2017, Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis stated, "We have gone in to be very—to be helpful where we can in identifying how you do target analysis and how you make certain you hit the right thing."

(6) The conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis constitutes, within the meaning of section 4(a) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1543(a)), either hostilities or a situation where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances into which United States Armed Forces have been introduced.

(7) Section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(c)) states that "at any time that United States Armed Forces are engaged in hostilities outside the territory of the United States, its possessions and territories without a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization, such forces shall be removed by the President if the Congress so directs".

(8) Section 8(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(c)) defines the introduction of United States Armed Forces to include "the assignment of members of such armed forces to command, coordinate, participate in the movement of, or accompany the regular or irregular military forces of any foreign country or government when such military forces are engaged, or there exists an imminent threat that such forces will become engaged, in hostilities," and activities that the United States is conducting in support of the Saudi-led coalition, including aerial refueling and targeting assistance, fall within this definition.

(9) Section 1013 of the Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (50 U.S.C. 1546a) provides that any joint resolution or bill to require the removal of United States Armed Forces engaged in hostilities without a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization shall be considered in accordance with the expedited procedures of section 601(b) of the International Security and Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-329; 90 Stat. 765).

(10) No specific statutory authorization for the use of United States Armed Forces with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen has been enacted, and no provision of law explicitly authorizes the provision of targeting assistance or of midair refueling services to warplanes of Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates that are engaged in such conflict.

SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS.

Pursuant to section 1013 of the Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1984 and 1985 (50 U.S.C. 1546a) and in accordance with the provisions of section 601(b) of the International Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-329; 90 Stat. 765), Congress hereby directs the President to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in or affecting the Republic of Yemen, except United States Armed Forces engaged in operations directed at al Qaeda or associated forces, by not later than the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution (unless the President requests and Congress authorizes a later date), and unless and until a declaration of war or specific authorization for such use of United States Armed Forces has been enacted. For purposes of this resolution, in this section, the term "hostilities" includes in-flight refueling of non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the ongoing civil war in Yemen.

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING CONTINUED MILITARY OPERATIONS AND COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL.

Nothing in this joint resolution shall be construed to influence or disrupt any military operations and cooperation with Israel.

SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING INTELLIGENCE SHARING.

Nothing in this joint resolution may be construed to influence or disrupt any intelligence, counterintelligence, or investigative activities relating to threats in or emanating from Yemen conducted by, or in conjunction with, the United States Government involving—

- (1) the collection of intelligence;
- (2) the analysis of intelligence; or
- (3) the sharing of intelligence between the United States and any coalition partner if the President determines such sharing is appropriate and in the national security interests of the United States.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON RISKS POSED BY CEASING SAUDI ARABIA SUPPORT OPERATIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, the President shall submit to Congress a report assessing the risks posed to United States citizens and the civilian population of Saudi Arabia and the risk of regional humanitarian crises if the United States were to cease support operations with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen.

SEC. 6. REPORT ON INCREASED RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS TO UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES ABROAD, ALLIES, AND THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES IF SAUDI ARABIA CEASES YEMEN-RELATED INTELLIGENCE SHARING WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, the President shall submit to Congress a report assessing the increased risk of terrorist attacks on United States Armed Forces abroad, allies, and to the continental United States if the Government of Saudi Arabia were to cease Yemen-related intelligence sharing with the United States.

SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING NO AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE.

Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(a)(1)), nothing in this joint resolution may be construed as authorizing the use of military force.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on S.J. Res. 7.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, it is a little surprising that we find ourselves back on the floor debating this resolution. After all, it has already passed both Chambers with bipartisan support. It has passed the Senate twice.

Opponents of this measure have used every trick in the book to slow it down, to try and derail it, but we have reached the last page in that book, and I am confident that after we vote today, this resolution will head to the President's desk, and the President will have to face the reality that Congress is no longer going to ignore its constitutional obligations when it comes to foreign policy and when it comes to determining when and where our military is engaged in hostilities.

We are taking up this resolution because we see a policy from this administration that has strayed from our values and a crisis that demands moral leadership, which is the war in Yemen.

I fully understand America's security concerns in Yemen. I appreciate the complexities of our interests in the region. The Houthis are trouble. They launch missiles and armed UAVs into Saudi territory and international waters, and that is a direct threat to Americans. They are starving the Yemeni people, diverting assistance, and holding civilians hostage to their political demands.

The Houthis are one of the groups Iran uses to drive instability and gain influence. We all know what a serious threat Iran poses in the region. The regime is the world's prolific state sponsor of terrorism, so it is important that we push back against Iran and those who depend on Iranian support.

But the Saudi-led coalition's response has not grappled with this problem in a responsible way, in a way designed to minimize damage to civilians and the communities where they live, and in a way that could help bring about a political solution to this crisis.

Instead, time after time after time, coalition strikes have resulted in the loss of innocent life, and the violence has set off ripple effects that have contributed to the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

Madam Speaker, 85,000 children have starved to death and 14 million are on the brink of famine. More than 1 million suffer from cholera, and just last week, the coalition reportedly bombed a hospital run by Save the Children.

In the face of this catastrophe, the administration has demanded no accountability from the Saudis and Emiratis. But Congress won't remain silent.

This brings us, once again, to the resolution we are now considering. This measure would specifically ban aerial refueling of warplanes carrying out airstrikes. The Defense Department has stopped refueling as a matter of policy. This measure would do so as a matter of law.

The Defense Department also says that the United States is not engaged in hostilities when it comes to this

war. Well, the Defense Department is entitled to its opinion, but Congress is a coequal branch of government, and only we say when the United States is at war. We don't look to the executive branch to explain the war powers that reside in this body or for permission to exercise that power, the power the Framers gave to Congress.

This measure is written very narrowly, so it won't tie the hands of the executive branch or set new precedents or cause unintended consequences when it comes to our other security agreements around the world.

It does nothing to expand or modify the authority provided under the Authorization for Use of Military Force this body passed in 2001. Instead, it focuses on this particular tragedy and sends the message that enough is enough, that Congress will no longer abdicate its responsibility when it comes to foreign policy, and that we will push to make sure our values are at the core of how the United States conducts itself around the world.

This resolution is rooted in those values: respect for human rights, for human dignity, and for the belief that all people should be able to live free of fear, oppression, and violence.

I hope the President understands that; and if he uses his veto pen, I hope he understands just what it is he is vetoing.

Let me thank Mr. KHANNA for his hard work and leadership on the resolution we are considering today.

I also want to thank our ranking member on the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. MCCAUL. We have an honest disagreement on this one, but he has consistently and forthrightly made his case on the policy. I am grateful to all my colleagues who have contributed so much to this important debate.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, let me first say, at the outset, that the chairman and I work very closely together. There is a recent article that said that Chairman ELIOT ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL forge a rare bipartisan bond, and I think that is the way we like to conduct this committee. It is a national security committee, and it needs to be bipartisan. However, as the chairman mentioned, there are times when we do have policy differences, but we do have respect in those differences.

We did take this up on the floor several weeks ago. I did oppose it then, and I oppose it for the same reasons today, most importantly, because the resolution uses the war powers mechanisms to direct the removal of U.S. troops from hostilities.

The problem is there are no U.S. Forces to remove, and the basic premise of this resolution is that somehow we have forces in Yemen that need to be removed that are engaged in hostilities. As the Department of Defense

has repeatedly confirmed, no United States Forces are conducting hostilities against the Houthis in Yemen.

This resolution abuses a war powers tool to get at a completely different security assistance issue which Congress already has clear tools to address. If Members want to condition or cut off U.S. security assistance to Saudi Arabia, then bring forward a bill to do just that.

But this resolution does nothing to address the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. It does nothing to secure justice for the heinous murder of Jamal Khashoggi. It does not even make real decisions on U.S. security assistance to Saudi Arabia. The only thing it addresses clearly is the midair refueling of coalition aircraft, ended in November of 2018, which is not in danger of restarting.

Meanwhile, this resolution stretches the definition of war powers hostilities to cover non-U.S. military operations by other countries. Specifically, it interprets U.S. support to these countries as “engagement in hostilities.”

This radical reinterpretation has implications far beyond Saudi Arabia. This precedent will empower any single Member to use privileged war powers procedures to force congressional referendums that could disrupt U.S. security cooperation agreements with more than 100 countries around the world.

Just days after Israel was forced to respond to rocket attacks from Gaza, I believe this would be a dangerous precedent to legitimize this abuse of process.

It could also be used to call into question our commitments to NATO members. Let me remind my colleagues that we are celebrating NATO’s 70th anniversary this week, as we saw the Secretary of NATO address a joint session of Congress.

Finally, this one-sided resolution completely ignores the destructive role of the Houthis and their backers in Tehran. The Houthis violently overthrew the Government of Yemen. They are attacking Saudi Arabia with weapons they got from Iran in violation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions. They have killed Saudi civilians and endangered many Americans living there.

Human Rights Watch accused the Houthis of taking hostages and torturing detainees. The United Nations says the Houthis use civilian human shields. The World Food Program has criticized them for illegally stealing urgently needed food aid. The Houthis have targeted ships in the Red Sea.

These realities are ignored in the text of this resolution. The only impact this resolution will have on the Houthis will be to encourage them.

In addition, Madam Speaker, this is very important because, since the last time we debated this on the floor, the Houthis engaged in a propaganda outlet, supported by Hezbollah, actively touting this very resolution online. They used our debate on the floor of

the Congress to advance their propaganda, a proxy of Iran and Yemen.

This is what we are doing here today. I would submit, Madam Speaker, that is very dangerous. It is dangerous, and I believe it is reckless.

This will weaken the hand of the U.N. Special Envoy, as well, to Yemen, whose efforts currently represent the best hope we have of bringing a negotiated end to this conflict and ending the suffering of the people of Yemen.

So, for these reasons, I continue to oppose this pro-Iran, pro-Houthi resolution. I hope that my colleagues will join me in voting against it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, the blood of innocents stains this Trump administration. And while the Trump family pals around with Saudi murderers, that blood continues to flow in the world’s worst humanitarian disaster. Only last week, four years after the first Saudi assault on Yemen, they killed another group of children at a hospital, apparently with American bombs.

Just as the Trump administration has aided and abetted war crimes in Yemen, this Congress has aided and abetted the Trump administration in avoiding any accountability.

Last year, Republicans blocked any consideration of a bipartisan Senate resolution to stop U.S. involvement in this war. Most recently, these folks used a devious motion to recommit, whose real purpose was not the very worthy goal of condemning anti-Semitism, but the sole purpose was to obstruct this resolution and ensure it never became adopted by Congress.

Today, we must reject any such motion—no matter how worthy it may be, it can be dealt with in other legislation—in order to halt all American involvement in this travesty.

We are talking about our relations with the Saudis. You know those folks, Madam Speaker. They are the ones with the leader with the bone saw to dismember an opponent and who tortures women for asserting their rights.

Hearts do break for those who are lost and tortured, but until we break with the Saudis in Yemen, the bombing, the starvation, the disease, and the slaughter will continue.

Months, years, hundreds of small graves ago, this Congress should have done its job. Today is a moment of moral clarity, a moment for this Chamber to act as the Constitution requires: to weigh war and peace and, for once, to extract ourselves from a war we did not start and to find a way to make peace the victor.

We can finally place a clean War Powers Act resolution directly on President Trump’s desk, and do so today. Let us do what is right, and let us do so before more young lives are destroyed.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, first of all, let me thank Chairman ENGEL for yielding and also for his leadership.

Also, I want to just mention Congressmen KHANNA, POCAN, and MCGOVERN. I want to also thank them in addition to Chairman ENGEL for bringing this critical measure to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S.J. Res. 7, which, of course, is a joint resolution directing the removal of U.S. Armed Forces from hostilities in Yemen.

This critical resolution, which we are taking now for the second time this Congress, would end America’s unconstitutional participation in the war in Yemen.

Since 2015, the United States has participated in the Saudi-led military campaign in Yemen without authorization from Congress. We have helped create and worsen the world’s greatest and largest humanitarian crisis.

Madam Speaker, 22.2 million Yemenis—that is 75 percent of the population—needs humanitarian assistance.

□ 1000

At least 85,000 children under the age of 5—85,000—have died from war-related hunger and disease.

Our involvement in this war is shameful. That is why this bipartisan and bicameral measure to end the United States’ unconstitutional role in this war is so important.

Yes, Madam Speaker, I voted against that 2001 resolution, because I knew it was open-ended and would set the stage for endless wars. It was a blank check. We see this once again today in Yemen. We must repeal this 2001 blank check for endless wars.

Over the past 18 years, we have seen the executive branch use this AUMF time and time again. It is a blank check to wage war without congressional oversight.

It is past time for Congress to reassert our Constitutional duty to debate on matters of war and peace, and it is past time to end this illegal, horrific war in Yemen.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” and to support this bipartisan bill to end the United States’ role in Yemen.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Texas. We may have some agreements because, frankly, I think there is not one person on this floor, in this House and in the Senate, who does not believe that there has been enormous violence in Yemen.

I have been to Yemen. I want to go back. I know that it is, if not the poorest, one of the poorest nations in the world. The children are suffering. There is a humanitarian crisis.

If the United States should be engaged in any aspect of this, let our presence loom large in a humanitarian way.

I think it is important to remind my colleagues of the vicious bombing of an innocent school bus where 40 children died and any number of other incidences where children were involved and died.

Now, these children are suffering from malnutrition and are dying from lack of access to healthcare, as well as no food. We can be a major force, the United States, in providing that humanitarian aid.

But this is a resolution already passed by the other body, the Senate, that indicates that, if we are to be engaged in a war, there must be a debate under the Constitution about taking Americans into war. Because the Americans who offer their sons and daughters clearly are sacrificing. And those who put on the uniform—and we thank them—are willing to sacrifice their lives.

This is a conflict between the Saudis and Houthis. It is a violence that is going to go on and on. And if we are to prop them up—the Saudis—they will never stop. They will never seek reconciliation. They will never stop killing the babies because of an “accident,” they declared: It was a mistake. We don’t know how it happened.

We cannot allow Yemeni children, or any children, to be in the line of fire.

So, this resolution indicates that the Congress must make a determinative, if you will, assessment and engagement through the War Powers Act and its powers to declare war under the Constitution.

Frankly, I believe that this is a must-pass resolution. It must be signed immediately, and can be signed, by the President of the United States, and we can begin to, in an effective manner, withdraw troops and provide humanitarian aid to save the lives of children.

Madam Speaker, I support the resolution, and I thank the Senate for sending it to us. We should vote on it and pass it now.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership on this, and I really want to thank Representative RO KHANNA for his continued, steadfast efforts to end this situation.

So, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution and finally end U.S. involvement in the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

If we fail to act today, if we let one more opportunity to end these horrors pass us by, we are telling the world we are okay with another day in which innocent civilians are killed; another day that nearly 20 million people go without basic healthcare, and even more in need of emergency food aid; another day that a child must battle illnesses that could easily have been prevented,

if not for this crisis happening on our watch.

We have an opportunity, as Members of this body, Republicans and Democrats, to tackle the difficult problems and have the debates that others have ignored for too long. This is one of those problems. And this is one of those moments that makes me optimistic that the tide is finally turning.

I want to thank the chairman for making this a top priority. It is long past time for Congress to reassert its role, our role, in foreign policy and exercise our Constitutional duty.

Seeing the level of suffering in Yemen, we cannot wait one more day to do it. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA), who has been so instrumental in bringing everyone together to make a change in policy that is much needed.

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for his leadership and his entire staff’s leadership for getting us to this point. Let me be very clear. If it weren’t for Chairman ENGEL, we would not have this vote on the floor today.

My motivation for this bill is very simple. I don’t want to see 14 million Yemenis starve to death. That is what Martin Griffith had said at the U.N., that if the Saudis don’t stop their blockade and let food and medicine in, within 6 months we will see one of the greatest humanitarian crises in the world.

That should be a bipartisan issue, that this Congress speak with a moral voice that food and medicine should get to civilians.

Now, as Chairman ENGEL knows, and others know, I am not for the BDS movement. I have supported very strongly resolutions condemning anti-Semitism. But I also don’t think that these tactics should be used as weapons to prevent efforts to stop the greatest humanitarian crisis in the world. That is insulting. It is insulting.

Those issues should be voted on separately, and I will proudly vote, when the time comes, against the BDS efforts.

Madam Speaker, I want to, with that, thank again Chairman ENGEL, Representative MCGOVERN, Speaker PELOSI, and Majority Leader HOYER and their teams for getting us to this point.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in strong support of S.J. Res. 7 invoking the War Powers Resolution to withdraw U.S. military support for the Gulf coalition in Yemen.

For 4 years, the war in Yemen has ground on, killing tens of thousands of Yemeni civilians, and putting millions at imminent risk of starvation and deprivation.

The cause of the war is complicated and has much to do with Iran’s malign influence.

But our interest today is not in debating the blame for the war, but in bringing it to an end. That is why I urge all Members to support this resolution, because it is in our interest and, above all, in the interest of the Yemeni people to end the war.

U.S. military support for the Saudi coalition has not prevented civilian suffering, and it is my hope that, by withdrawing our support, we will make clear that a diplomatic resolution is the only resolution to the conflict.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for this resolution. I urge Members to oppose any motion to commit, which would have the effect of killing this bill and prolonging the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

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

As I close, I include in the RECORD a statement of administration policy issued on Monday.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY
S.J. RES. 7—DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT TO REMOVE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS—SEN. SANDERS, I-VT AND 19 COSPONSORS

The Administration strongly opposes passage of S.J. Res. 7, a joint resolution that purports to direct the President to remove United States forces from hostilities in or affecting the Republic of Yemen, with certain exceptions.

The premise of the joint resolution is flawed. Since 2015, the United States has provided limited support to member countries of the Saudi-led coalition, including intelligence sharing, logistics support, and, until recently, aerial refueling, to assist in the defense of United States allies and partners. The provision of this support has not caused United States forces to be introduced into hostilities. Such support is provided pursuant to licenses and approvals under the Arms Export Control Act, statutory authorities for Department of Defense to provide logistics support to foreign countries, and the President’s constitutional powers. Because the President has directed United States forces to support the Saudi-led coalition under his constitutional powers, the joint resolution would raise serious constitutional concerns to the extent it seeks to override the President’s determination as Commander in Chief.

In addition to its erroneous premise, the joint resolution would harm bilateral relationships in the region, negatively affect our ability to prevent the spread of violent extremist organizations—such as al-Qa’ida in the Arabian Peninsula and ISIS in Yemen—and establish bad precedent for future legislation by defining “hostilities” to include defense cooperation such as aerial refueling for purposes of this legislation. While we appreciate that sections 5 and 6 of the resolution acknowledge these serious consequences to some extent, after-the-fact reporting is not an effective means to mitigate them. Our continued cooperation with regional partner nations allows the United States to support diplomatic negotiations to end the conflict, promote humanitarian access, mitigate civilian casualties, enhance efforts to recover United States hostages in Yemen, and defeat terrorists who seek to harm the United States.

If S.J. Res. 7 were presented to the President, his senior advisors would recommend he veto the joint resolution.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, it really, basically, states yet again that the fundamental premise of this resolution is flawed, because U.S. forces are not engaged in hostilities against the Houthis in Yemen, which is what the War Powers Act requires.

If we want to cut off economic assistance or logistic assistance, security assistance to Saudi, there is a way to do that, but it is not through the War Powers Act.

I think it is unfortunate that we couldn't work that out, but I think we are using the wrong vehicle here. I think this confrontation abuses the War Powers process, and we need to protect the integrity of the War Powers Act that Congress, in its wisdom, passed.

Also, what worries me is the resolution stays silent on the role of Iran. It does not condemn the Houthis, who are responsible for the killings. It tells them both to press on. It also undermines the peace negotiations going on, as I speak. The U.S. envoy is working with the full support of the United States to negotiate a political end to this conflict.

Getting all parties to the table has taken substantial pressure, which I believe this resolution would relieve.

Again, I think the fact that the Houthis are using this resolution as propaganda to advance their cause is concerning and disturbing.

The other side cannot tell us specifically what assistance this resolution would cut off. What I can say for sure is that this resolution says to the Houthis and to Iran to keep going, because you can gain more ground.

It only emboldens the rebels who violently overthrew Yemen's government and the radical regime that backs them. That would be Iran.

So I think this resolution would set a dangerous precedent with respect to the War Powers Act, a dangerous, damaging policy. Once again, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, let me say this. Everyone who knows me knows that I hold Iran guilty to many nefarious things that are happening in that region. This is not really about Iran. Iran is providing dangerous weapons to the Houthis, and the Houthis have starved the Yemeni people, killed civilians, and diverted assistance. I am not here to defend the Houthis.

The Saudis do have legitimate concerns about the Houthis, and the Houthis are not my vision of good and righteous. Quite the opposite.

But this resolution doesn't empower Iran. Quite the opposite. The longer the conflict goes on, and the longer the United States supports it, the better off Iran is.

We are really doing two things here. We are saying to the administration—and I, frankly, would say this, given my experience over the past two decades—to any administration. There is no blank check for war. We have abrogated our responsibility in the years that I have been here—and I am as guilty as anyone—by allowing administration after administration after administration to conduct wars that this body should have voted on.

Only Congress can declare war. And if we ignore what is happening with the civilian population in this war with the Houthis, then we do so at our own peril. We then say that, because Saudi Arabia does have legitimate concerns—and they do—we are giving them a blank check to do whatever they want.

□ 1015

No blank checks anymore. No blank checks to say the administration can run wars without getting the approval of Congress. And no blank checks to indiscriminately bomb and have innocent civilians and schoolchildren in buses be killed, and people starving in a humanitarian crisis.

We can't just sit back and say: "Well, you know, we have difficulties with Iran, so we are going to look the other way." I have lots of difficulties with Iran, but we can't look the other way when people are starving or when people are being killed. That is what we are doing now.

So we are doing two things. We are saying no more war in which we are complicit, where a population is wholesale starving. We are also saying that this body is not giving a blank check to every administration. And I would be doing this no matter who the President of the United States was.

We need to reclaim our authority. We have fought in war after war after war. As everyone knows, we haven't declared war since before all of us were born, since December 7, 1941, when President Roosevelt stood up right here and declared war. That was the last time.

I hope this will be the start of Congress taking back its constitutional power, not for the sake of having a fight with the executive branch, but for the sake of doing what we are supposed to do.

Congress has the power to declare war. Congress has the power to say what we do when it comes to war. We are taking that back today. We are saying that America will not be complicit in the wholesale beating down of civilian populations and looking the other way.

Let me say that again. Iran has fueled this conflict through its support for the Houthis, but the longer this conflict rages, the better it is for Iran. Iran thrives on every misstep of the Saudi-led coalition. A vote for this resolution is a vote to end the United States' involvement in this war, a war which helps Iran.

Let me say again, for Congress, this is an important step in reclaiming our

role in foreign policy, by debating where and when the United States military is engaged abroad. With the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, it is critical that we act now. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

Before I yield back, I want to, again, tell Mr. MCCAUL that we don't always agree on things. I think we agree on things more than we don't. But I do appreciate his earnest attempts with me to try to make foreign policy as bipartisan as we can. I think that is what we need to do.

We need to show unity in strength. In unity, there is strength. We are all Americans. We may disagree from time to time, but I think we are not going to be disagreeable. So I thank Mr. MCCAUL.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S.J. Res. 7, which directs the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

The passage of S.J. Res. 7 would mark the first time in the 45 years since the enactment of the War Powers Act that the House of Representatives successfully invoked the statute's removal mechanism to compel the Executive Branch to remove American troops from harm's way.

I support this resolution because, Congress has the sole power to declare war under Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 of the United States Constitution.

Madam Speaker, Congress has not declared war with respect to, or provided a specific statutory authorization for, the conflict between military forces led by Saudi Arabia, including forces from the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal, and Sudan (the Saudi-led coalition), against the Houthis, also known as Ansar Allah, in the Republic of Yemen.

Since March 2015, members of the United States Armed Forces have been introduced into hostilities between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis, including providing to the Saudi-led coalition aerial targeting assistance, intelligence sharing, and mid-flight aerial refueling.

The United States has established a Joint Combined Planning Cell with Saudi Arabia, in which members of the United States Armed Forces assist in aerial targeting and help to coordinate military and intelligence activities.

Madam Speaker, the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis constitutes, within the meaning of Section 4(a) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1543(a)), either hostilities or a situation where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances into which United States Armed Forces have been introduced.

Section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(c)) states that, "at any time that United States Armed Forces are engaged in hostilities outside the territory of the United States, its possessions and territories without a declaration of war or specific statutory authorization, such forces shall be removed by the President if the Congress so directs."

Most importantly, no specific statutory authorization for the use of United States Armed

Forces with respect to the conflict between the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis in Yemen has been enacted.

Also, no provision of law explicitly authorizes the provision of targeting assistance or of midair refueling services to warplanes of Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates that are engaged in such conflict.

For this reason, the resolution directs that the President remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in or affecting the Republic of Yemen, except United States Armed Forces engaged in operations directed at al-Qaeda or associated forces, by not later than the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment.

The resolution makes clear that the term “hostilities” includes in-flight refueling, non-United States aircraft conducting missions as part of the ongoing civil war in Yemen.

Madam Speaker, Yemen is the largest humanitarian crisis in the world right now. The Yemen crisis began in the Arab Spring of 2011, when an uprising forced the country’s long-time authoritarian president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, to hand over power to his deputy, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi.

Since 2015, Saudi Arabia has launched an estimated 18,000 air strikes on Yemen, attacking hospitals, schools, water treatment plants, funerals, markets and even farms.

The Saudis also imposed a blockade on food, fuel and medicine from freely entering the country in what can only be described as a deliberate effort to starve the civilian population into submission.

More than 14 million Yemenis are steps away from starvation and at least 85,000 children under the age of five have perished from war-related hunger and disease.

The United States has supported the Saudi led air campaign with mid-air refueling support, intelligence and targeting assistance, and other support.

Yemen is experiencing the world’s worst famine in 100 years, with 12 million to 13 million innocent civilians at risk of dying from the lack of food within months.

Madam Speaker, too many lives hang in the balance to allow American involvement in Yemen war to continue.

I ask all members to join me in supporting S.J. Res. 37.

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

Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be 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 S.J. Res. 7 is postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 18 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1045

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) at 10 o’clock and 45 minutes a.m.

ARMY SPECIALIST THOMAS J. WILWERTH POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 829) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1450 Montauk Highway in Mastic, New York, as the “Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken. The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Ms. HILL of California. 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 423, nays 0, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 151]
YEAS—423

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amash
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
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
Chu, Judy
Ciilline
Cisneros
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cummings
Cunningham
Curtis
Davids (KS)

Davidson (OH)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Estes
Evans
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx (NC)
Frankel
Fudge
Fulcher
Gabbard
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi

Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
Gooden
Gosar
Gottheimer
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Harder (GA)
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill (AR)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack

Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCarthy
McCauley
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meadows
Meeks
Meng
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O’Halloran
Ocasio-Cortez
Olson
Omar
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
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

Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schraeder
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Shimkus
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Suozi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small
(NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yarmuth
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—8

Clark (MA)	Kustoff (TN)	Rutherford
Cook	McEachin	Ryan
Granger	Rooney (FL)	

□ 1113

Mr. RUSH changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”
So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DIRECTING THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARSON of Indiana). Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 7) to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

MOTION TO COMMIT

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to commit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the joint resolution?

Mr. MCCAUL. I am in its current form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. McCaul moves to commit the joint resolution S.J. Res. 7 to the Committee on Foreign Affairs with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

At the end of section 1, add the following new paragraph:

(11) It is in the national security interest of the United States to condemn and oppose—

(A) the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS Movement) targeting Israel, including efforts to target United States companies that are engaged in commercial activities that are legal under United States law; and

(B) all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, let me first say that the Yemen resolution before us here today is pro-Iran and anti-Israel.

I rise today to offer a motion stating that it is in the national security interest of the United States to oppose the global movement to boycott the State of Israel. This motion will not kill the joint resolution or send it back to the committee. If adopted, the resolution will immediately proceed to final passage.

As we heard from the powerful speech of the Secretary of NATO yesterday, it is in our national interest to work with our allies to counter our shared threats and promote our shared values.

Since its founding in 1948, the United States has stood shoulder to shoulder with Israel against enemies that want to destroy it.

Let’s be clear about the BDS movement: It is yet another enemy of Israel. It wants to exclude, isolate, and, ultimately, destroy Israel.

The founder of the BDS movement has stated: “We oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine. No Palestinian . . . will ever accept a Jewish state in Palestine.”

The BDS movement is not about equality. It is not about peace. It is about undermining negotiation between Israel and the Palestinians, and it is about placing all of the blame on one party, and that is Israel.

We do not support a movement that demands concessions from one party alone. We do not stand with a movement that seeks to isolate and shame our strongest ally in the Middle East.

By weakening Israel, the global BDS movement endangers American security. When foreign entities like the U.N. foster boycotts against Israel, they are interfering with the United States’ foreign policy.

The Senate passed a bill, S. 1, in its wisdom, 2 months ago with overwhelming bipartisan support to tackle BDS, better support Israel and Jordan, and sanction Assad’s brutal regime. Sadly, the House Democratic leadership won’t let that bill or a House version of that bill to this floor for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close with this: As the son of a World War II veteran, a B-17 bombardier who bombed the Nazis and was part of the D-day air campaign, it saddens me that we are still struggling here today with the same issues that the Greatest Generation defeated.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this motion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this motion.

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with solemn responsibility. I carry the legacy of the history of the Jewish people, a history of persecution, of discrimination, of scapegoating, but also a history of perseverance and survival. The embodiment of that perseverance is the establishment of the State of Israel, the home of the Jewish people.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly condemn the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, economic warfare against the State of Israel, and there is no one in this Chamber—no one—who would question my commitment to opposing BDS or fighting anti-Semitism or supporting our ally, Israel. But I also

strongly reject what my colleagues are doing here today.

My colleague, my friend from Texas, is right. There has been a long and bipartisan history of support for Israel, and it has been so strong because of that bipartisanship.

This is not a motion to commit about BDS. We have seen this play out before. The last time this resolution came up, my colleagues introduced a resolution condemning BDS and anti-Semitism and supporting Israel, and we all voted for it until it was time to actually go on the record, and almost every one of them voted against it.

This is about politics. This is about trying to drive a wedge into this Caucus where it does not belong. That is what they are trying to do today.

Mr. Speaker, the Jewish community also has a history of standing up against atrocities like the humanity crisis in Yemen. My colleagues are trying to block us from standing in support of our human rights and American values to condemn what is happening there. That is what this is about. That is why I am opposed to it, and we should all oppose it.

I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the majority leader, for his comments.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I have taken no backseat to my support for Israel for half a century. I rise in opposition to this cynical, political ploy.

We are about to vote on a resolution concerning U.S. involvement in the conflict in Yemen and how to promote an end to a humanitarian crisis in a country that threatens the lives of 22 million people. They are hungry. They are displaced. They are scarred by a war and violence. This resolution is about them and about what we as a nation can do to put a stop to that conflict.

The gentleman is incorrect. The gentleman did not tell us the truth. This kills this resolution.

In an effort to prevent Congress from taking action on such an important issue, however, House Republicans are trying to make this a vote about something else; and in doing so, they risk undermining the long history of bipartisan consensus supporting our ally, Israel.

How shameful. How sad.

The American people will not be fooled or misled by this tactic. Our fellow supporters of Israel will not be fooled. No one can accuse me of failing to defend the U.S.-Israel partnership and strongly opposing BDS.

Mr. Speaker, I will be voting against this motion, and I urge all of my colleagues to do so as well. I urge every single one of them to do so.

And I urge every Republican who believes that using Israel as a partisan cudgel is dangerous, cynical, and harmful to Israel to join me in voting against this motion.

Mr. Speaker, none of the major organizations supporting Israel have any illusions about what this motion seeks

to do. Its intention is not to unite, but to divide. Its intention is not to support our ally, but to sabotage our resolution about the conflict in Yemen. This vote on this motion is a vote to kill this joint resolution through a cynical and dishonest tactic.

So let's move past this charade of a motion. Let's stop playing games with this very important and serious issue in support of Israel. Reject "gotcha" politics.

Let me be clear: For as long as I am majority leader, House Democrats will never waiver in our party's steadfast support for a strong Israel relationship. Vote "no."

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

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

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

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, will the majority leader schedule S. 1, a vote on this floor with his commitment to Israel and his commitment to ending BDS?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not stated a proper parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, further parliamentary inquiry.

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. First, the gentleman did not answer my last. But this one, Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman was not stating a proper parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. The minority only has one ability to bring something to the floor in an MTR. This body wants to have a vote on S. 1.

Will the majority leader schedule on this floor a vote on BDS?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not stating a proper parliamentary inquiry.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, as a staunch supporter of the U.S.-Israel relationship, I am disgusted by the Republicans' ongoing attempts to politicize serious issues related to anti-semitism and support for the U.S.-Israel partnership. The vast majority of members on both sides of the aisle in this chamber oppose BDS. But that's not what this vote today on the motion to recommit was really about.

What actually occurred here today was a political stunt to sink a bill addressing the world's worst humanitarian crisis, which is why I voted against the Motion to Recommit. Twenty four million—let me repeat: 24 million—desperate Yemenis are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Families are displaced. Children are starving. Lives are in imminent danger.

But instead of working with Democrats to stop U.S. support for the Saudi and Emirati

coalition that is perpetuating this suffering, Republicans politicized the U.S.-Israel relationship in a vote intended to ensure this bill cannot pass in the Senate and reach the President's desk.

We know it would kill the bill, of course, because the Senate already rejected a similar measure attached to this bill the first time we considered it. That measure sought unsuccessfully to create political division among Democrats based on anti-semitism. It is particularly heinous to politicize hate given the rise in all forms of bias-based violence in recent years.

I have consistently worked to combat BDS and will partner with House leadership to ensure that real legislation opposing this divisive political movement is brought to the House floor. But I will not give legitimacy to these Republican attempts to threaten bipartisan support for the U.S.-Israel relationship and leave millions of men, women, and children in danger of starvation and death.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to commit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to commit.

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 194, noes 228, answered "present" 1, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 152]

AYES—194

Abraham	Collins (NY)	Guest
Aderholt	Comer	Guthrie
Allen	Conaway	Hagedorn
Amodei	Crawford	Harris
Armstrong	Crenshaw	Hartzler
Arrington	Cunningham	Hern, Kevin
Babin	Curtis	Herrera Beutler
Bacon	Davidson (OH)	Hice (GA)
Baird	Davis, Rodney	Higgins (LA)
Balderson	DesJarlais	Hill (AR)
Banks	Diaz-Balart	Holding
Barr	Duffy	Hollingsworth
Bergman	Duncan	Hudson
Biggs	Dunn	Huizenga
Bilirakis	Emmer	Hunter
Bishop (UT)	Estes	Hurd (TX)
Bost	Ferguson	Johnson (LA)
Brady	Fitzpatrick	Johnson (OH)
Brindisi	Fleischmann	Johnson (SD)
Brooks (AL)	Flores	Jordan
Brooks (IN)	Portenberry	Joyce (OH)
Buchanan	Foxx (NC)	Joyce (PA)
Buck	Fulcher	Katko
Bucshon	Gallagher	Kelly (MS)
Budd	Gianforte	Kelly (PA)
Burchett	Gibbs	King (IA)
Burgess	Gohmert	King (NY)
Byrne	Gonzalez (OH)	Kinzinger
Calvert	Gooden	LaHood
Carter (GA)	Gosar	LaMalfa
Carter (TX)	Gottheimer	Lamborn
Chabot	Graves (GA)	Latta
Cheney	Graves (LA)	Lesko
Cline	Graves (MO)	Long
Cloud	Green (TN)	Loudermilk
Cole	Griffith	Lucas
Collins (GA)	Grothman	Luetkemeyer

Luria	Rice (SC)	Thompson (PA)
Marchant	Riggleman	Thornberry
Marshall	Roby	Timmons
Mast	Rodgers (WA)	Tipton
McCarthy	Roche, David P.	Turner
McCaul	Rogers (AL)	Upton
McClintock	Rogers (KY)	Van Drew
McHenry	Rose, John W.	Wagner
McKinley	Rouzer	Walberg
Meadows	Roy	Walden
Meuser	Scalise	Walker
Miller	Schweikert	Walorski
Mitchell	Scott, Austin	Waltz
Moolenaar	Sensenbrenner	Watkins
Mooney (WV)	Shimkus	Weber (TX)
Mullin	Simpson	Webster (FL)
Newhouse	Smith (MO)	Wenstrup
Norman	Smith (NE)	Westerman
Nunes	Smith (NJ)	Williams
Olson	Smucker	Wilson (SC)
Palazzo	Spano	Wittman
Palmer	Staubert	Womack
Pence	Stefanik	Woodall
Perry	Steube	Wright
Posey	Steubert	Yoho
Ratcliffe	Stivers	Young
Reed	Taylor	Zeldin
Reschenthaler		

NOES—228

Adams	Fletcher	McAdams
Aguilar	Foster	McBath
Allred	Frankel	McCollum
Amash	Fudge	McGovern
Axne	Gabbard	McNerney
Barragan	Gallego	Meeks
Bass	Garamendi	Meng
Beatty	Garcia (IL)	Moore
Bera	Garcia (TX)	Morelle
Beyer	Golden	Moulton
Bishop (GA)	Gomez	Mucarsel-Powell
Blumenauer	Gonzalez (TX)	Murphy
Blunt Rochester	Green (TX)	Nadler
Bonamici	Grijalva	Napolitano
Boyle, Brendan F.	Haaland	Neal
Brown (MD)	Harder (CA)	Neguse
Brownley (CA)	Hastings	Norcross
Bustos	Hayes	O'Halleran
Butterfield	Heck	Ocasio-Cortez
Carbajal	Higgins (NY)	Omar
Cárdenas	Hill (CA)	Pallone
Carson (IN)	Himes	Panetta
Cartwright	Horn, Kendra S.	Pappas
Case	Horsford	Pascrell
Casten (IL)	Houlihan	Payne
Castor (FL)	Hoyer	Perlmutter
Castro (TX)	Huffman	Peters
Chu, Judy	Jackson Lee	Peterson
Ciциlline	Jayapal	Phillips
Cisneros	Jeffries	Pingree
Clarke (NY)	Johnson (GA)	Pocan
Clay	Johnson (TX)	Porter
Cleaver	Kaptur	Pressley
Clyburn	Keating	Price (NC)
Cohen	Kelly (IL)	Quigley
Connolly	Kennedy	Raskin
Cooper	Khanna	Rice (NY)
Correa	Kilmer	Richmond
Costa	Kim	Rose (NY)
Courtney	Kind	Rouda
Cox (CA)	Kirkpatrick	Roybal-Allard
Craig	Krishnamoorthi	Ruiz
Crist	Kuster (NH)	Ruppersberger
Crow	Lamb	Rush
Cuellar	Langevin	Sánchez
Cummings	Larsen (WA)	Sarbanes
Davids (KS)	Larson (CT)	Scanlon
Davis (CA)	Lawrence	Schakowsky
Davis, Danny K.	Lawson (FL)	Schiff
Dean	Lee (CA)	Schneider
DeFazio	Lee (NV)	Schrader
DeGette	Levin (CA)	Schrier
DeLauro	Levin (MI)	Scott (VA)
DelBene	Lewis	Scott, David
Delgado	Lieu, Ted	Serrano
Demings	Lipinski	Sewell (AL)
DeSaulnier	Loeb sack	Shalala
Deutch	Lofgren	Sherman
Dingell	Lowenthal	Sherrill
Doggett	Lowey	Sires
Doyle, Michael F.	Lujan	Slotkin
Engel	Lynch	Smith (WA)
Escobar	Malinowski	Soto
Eshoo	Maloney	Spanberger
Espallat	Maloney, Sean	Speier
Evans	Massie	Stanton
Finkenauer	Matsui	Stevens
		Suozi
		Swalwell (CA)

Takano Trahan Wasserman
Thompson (CA) Trone Schultz
Thompson (MS) Underwood Waters
Titus Vargas Watson Coleman
Tlaib Veasey Welch
Tonko Vela Wexton
Torres (CA) Velázquez Wild
Torres Small Vislosky Wilson (FL)
(NM) Yarmuth

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Gaetz

NOT VOTING—8

Clark (MA) Kustoff (TN) Rutherford
Cook McEachin Ryan
Granger Rooney (FL)

□ 1136

So the motion to commit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 247, noes 175, answered "present" 1, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 153]

AYES—247

Adams Cunningham Himes
Aguilar Davids (KS) Hollingsworth
Allred Davidson (OH) Horn, Kendra S.
Axne Davis (CA) Horsford
Barragán Davis, Danny K. Houlihan
Bass Dean Hoyer
Beatty DeFazio Huffman
Bera DeGette Jackson Lee
Beyer DeLauro Jayapal
Biggs DelBene Jeffries
Bishop (GA) Delgado Johnson (GA)
Blumenauer Demings Johnson (TX)
Blunt Rochester DeSaulnier Jordan
Bonamici Deutch Kaptur
Boyle, Brendan Dingell Keating
F. Doggett Kelly (IL)
Brindisi Doyle, Michael Kennedy
Brown (MD) F. Khanna
Brownley (CA) Engel Kildee
Buck Escobar Kilmer
Bustos Eshoo Kim
Butterfield Espaillat Kind
Carbajal Evans Kirkpatrick
Cárdenas Finkenauer Krishnamoorthi
Carson (IN) Fletcher Kuster (NH)
Cartwright Foster Lamb
Case Frankel Langevin
Casten (IL) Fudge Larsen (WA)
Castor (FL) Gabbard Larson (CT)
Castro (TX) Gaetz Lawrence
Chu, Judy Gallego Lawson (FL)
Cicilline Garamendi Lee (CA)
Cisneros Garcia (IL) Lee (NV)
Clarke (NY) Garcia (TX) Levin (CA)
Clay Gohmert Levin (MI)
Cleaver Golden Lewis
Cloud Gomez Lieu, Ted
Clyburn Gonzalez (TX) Lipinski
Cohen Gosar Loebsack
Connolly Gottheimer Lofgren
Cooper Green (TX) Lowenthal
Correa Griffith Lowey
Costa Grijalva Lujan
Courtney Haaland Luria
Cox (CA) Harder (CA) Lynch
Craig Hastings Malinowski
Crist Hayes Maloney,
Crow Heck Carolyn B.
Cuellar Higgins (NY) Maloney, Sean
Cummings Hill (CA) Massie

Matsui Pocan Smith (WA)
McAdams Porter Soto
McBath Posey Spanberger
McCollum Pressley Speier
McGovern Price (NC) Stanton
McNerney Quigley Stevens
Meadows Raskin Titus
Meeks Rice (NY) Suozzi
Meng Richmond Swalwell (CA)
Mooney (WV) Rose (NY) Takano
Moore Rouda Thompson (CA)
Morelle Roy Thompson (MS)
Moulton Roybal-Allard Titus
Mucarsel-Powell Ruiz Tlaib
Murphy Ruppertsberger Tonko
Nadler Rush Torres (CA)
Napolitano Sánchez Torres Small
Neal Sarbanes (NM)
Neguse Scanlon Trahan
Norcross Schakowsky Trone
O'Halleran Schiff Underwood
Ocasio-Cortez Schneider Van Drew
Omar Schrader Vargas
Pallone Schrier Veasey
Panetta Schweikert Vela
Pappas Scott (VA) Velázquez
Pascarell Scott, David Wasserman
Payne Serrano Schultz
Pelosi Sewell (AL) Waters
Perlmutter Shalala Watson Coleman
Peters Sherman Welch
Peterson Sherrill Wexton
Phillips Sires Wild
Pingree Slotkin Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOES—175

Abraham Graves (GA) Pence
Aderholt Perry Graves (LA)
Allen Ratcliffe Graves (MO)
Amodei Reed Green (TN)
Armstrong Grothman Reschenthaler
Arrington Guest
Babin Guthrie Rice (SC)
Bacon Riggleman Rigglesman
Baird Hagedorn Roby
Balderson Harris Rodgers (WA)
Banks Hartzler Roe, David P.
Barr Hern, Kevin Rogers (AL)
Bergman Herrera Beutler Rogers (KY)
Bilirakis Hice (GA) Rose, John W.
Bishop (UT) Higgins (LA) Rouzer
Bost Hill (AR) Scalise
Brady Holding Scott, Austin
Brooks (AL) Hudson Sensenbrenner
Brooks (IN) Huizenga Shimkus
Buchanan Hunter Simpson
Bucshon Hurd (TX) Smith (MO)
Budd Johnson (LA) Smith (NE)
Burchett Johnson (OH) Smith (NJ)
Burgess Johnson (SD) Smucker
Byrne Joyce (OH) Spano
Calvert Joyce (PA) Stauber
Carter (GA) Katko Stefanik
Carter (TX) Kelly (MS) Steil
Chabot Kelly (PA) Steube
Cheney King (IA) Stewart
Cline King (NY) Stivers
Cole Kinzinger Taylor
Collins (GA) LaHood Thompson (PA)
Collins (NY) LaMalfa Thornberry
Comer Lamborn Timmons
Conaway Latta
Crawford Lesko
Crenshaw Long
Curtis Loudermilk
Davis, Rodney Lucas
DesJarlais Luetkemeyer
Diaz-Balart Marchant
Duffy Marshall
Duncan Mast
Dunn McCarthy
Emmer McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Fortenberry Moolenaar
Flox Foxx (NC)
Fulcher Mullin
Gallagher Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Gooden

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—9

Clark (MA) Kustoff (TN) Rutherford
Cook McEachin Ryan
Granger Rooney (FL) Vislosky

□ 1145

Mr. POSEY changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 281 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1585.

Will the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1147

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1585) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes, with Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 40 printed in part B of House Report 116-32 offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico, Ms. TORRES SMALL, had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MS. TORRES SMALL OF NEW MEXICO

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 425, noes 0, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 154]

AYES—425

Abraham Arrington Bass
Adams Axne Beatty
Aderholt Babin Bera
Aguilar Bacon Bergman
Allen Baird Beyer
Allred Balderson Biggs
Amash Banks Bilirakis
Amodei Barr Bishop (GA)
Armstrong Barragán Bishop (UT)

Blumenauer Flores
Blunt Rochester Fortenberry
Bonamici Foster
Bost Foxx (NC)
Boyle, Brendan Frankel
F. Fudge
Brady Fulcher
Brindisi Gabbard
Brooks (AL) Gaetz
Brooks (IN) Gallagher
Brown (MD) Gallego
Brownley (CA) Garamendi
Buchanan Garcia (IL)
Buck Garcia (TX)
Bucshon Gianforte
Budd Gibbs
Burchett Gohmert
Burgess Golden
Bustos Gomez
Butterfield Gonzalez (OH)
Byrne Gonzalez (TX)
Calvert Gooden
Carbajal Gosar
Cárdenas Gottheimer
Carson (IN) Graves (GA)
Carter (GA) Graves (LA)
Carter (TX) Graves (MO)
Cartwright Green (TN)
Case Green (TX)
Casten (IL) Griffith
Castor (FL) Grijalva
Castro (TX) Grothman
Chabot Guest
Cheney Guthrie
Chu, Judy Haaland
Cicilline Hagedorn
Cisneros Harder (CA)
Clarke (NY) Harris
Clay Hartzler
Cleaver Hastings
Cline Hayes
Cloud Heck
Clyburn Hern, Kevin
Cohen Herrera Beutler
Cole Hice (GA)
Collins (GA) Higgins (LA)
Collins (NY) Higgins (NY)
Comer Hill (AR)
Conaway Hill (CA)
Connolly Himes
Cooper Holding
Correa Hollingsworth
Costa Horn, Kendra S.
Courtney Horsford
Cox (CA) Houlihan
Craig Hoyer
Crawford Hudson
Crenshaw Huffman
Crist Huiזנגa
Crow Hunter
Cuellar Hurd (TX)
Cummings Jackson Lee
Cunningham Jayapal
Curtis Jeffries
Davids (KS) Johnson (GA)
Davidson (OH) Johnson (LA)
Davis (CA) Johnson (LA)
Davis, Danny K. Johnson (SD)
Davis, Rodney Johnson (TX)
Dean Jordan
DeFazio Joyce (OH)
DeGette Joyce (PA)
DeLauro Kaptur
DelBene Katko
Delgado Keating
Demings Kelly (IL)
DeSaulnier Kelly (MS)
DesJarlais Kelly (PA)
Deutch Kennedy
Diaz-Balart Khanna
Dingell Kildee
Doggett Kilmer
Doyle, Michael Kim
F. Kind
Duffy King (IA)
Duncan King (NY)
Dunn Kinzinger
Emmer Kirkpatrick
Engel Krishnamoorthi
Escobar Kuster (NH)
Eshoo LaHood
Españillat LaMalfa
Estes Lamb
Evans Lamborn
Ferguson Langevin
Finkenauer Larsen (WA)
Fitzpatrick Larson (CT)
Fleischmann Latta
Fletcher Lawrence

Lawson (FL) Rose (NY)
Lee (CA) Rose, John W.
Lee (NV) Rouda
Lesko Rouzer
Levin (CA) Roy
Levin (MI) Roybal-Allard
Lewis Ruiz
Lieu, Ted Ruppertsberger
Lipinski Rush
Loeb sack San Nicolas
Lofgren Sánchez
Long Sarbanes
Loudermilk Scalise
Lowenthal Scanlon
Lowe y Schakowsky
Lucas Schiff
Luetkemeyer Schneider
Luján Schrader
Luria Schrier
Lynch Schweikert
Malinowski Scott (VA)
Maloney, Carolyn B. Scott, Austin
Maloney, David Scott, David
Maloney, Sean Sensenbrenner
Marchant Serrano
Marshall Sewell (AL)
Massie Shalala
Mast Sherman
Matsui Sherrill
McAdams Shimkus
McBath Simpson
McCarthy Sires
McCaul Slotkin
McClintock Smith (MO)
McCollum Smith (NE)
McGovern Smith (NJ)
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meadows
Meeks
Meng
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Norton
Nunes
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Olson
Omar
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Kim
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)

Smith (WA) Vargas
Smucker Veasey
Soto Vela
Spanberger Velázquez
Spano Visclosky
Speier Wagner
Stanton Walberg
Stauber Walden
Stefanik Walker
Steil Walorski
Steube Waltz
Stevens Wasserman
Stewart Schultz
Stivers Waters
Suzuki Watkins
Swalwell (CA) Watson Coleman
Takano Weber (TX)
Takano Webster (FL)
Taylor Welch
Thompson (CA) Wenstrup
Thompson (MS) Westerman
Thompson (PA) Weston
Thornberry Wild
Timmons Williams
Tipton Wilson (FL)
Titus Wilson (SC)
Tlaib Torres (CA)
Tonko Torres Small
Torres (CA) (NM)
Turner Womack
Underwood Trahan
Upton Trone
Van Drew Turner
Van Drew Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—12

Clark (MA) Kustoff (TN) Rutherford
Cook McEachin Ryan
González-Colón Plaskett Sablan
(PR)
Radewagen
Granger Rooney (FL)

□ 1155

Mr. DUNCAN changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Chair, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 154.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas) having assumed the chair, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 281, she reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Ms. STEFANIK. I am, in its current form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Stefanik moves to recommit H.R. 1585 to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Page 1, strike line 4 and all that follows and insert the following:

SEC. 2. STOP GRANTS.

Section 1001(a)(18) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(18)), by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 3. GRANTS TO ENCOURAGE ARREST POLICIES AND ENFORCEMENT OF PROTECTION ORDERS.

Section 1001(a)(19) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(19)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 4. LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS.

Section 1201(f)(1) of the Violence Against Women Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. 20121(f)(1)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 5. GRANTS TO SUPPORT FAMILIES IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

Section 1301(e) of the Violence Against Women Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. 12464(e)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 6. SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT.

Section 40152(c) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12311(c)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 7. COURT-APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM.

Section 219(a) the Crime Control Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13014(a)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 8. RURAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, STALKING, AND CHILD ABUSE ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE.

Section 40295(e)(1) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12341(e)(1)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 9. GRANTS FOR ENHANCED TRAINING AND SERVICES TO END ABUSE LATER IN LIFE.

Section 40801(b)(5) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12421(b)(5)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 10. CREATING HOPE THROUGH OUTREACH, OPTIONS, SERVICE, AND EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH GRANTS.

Section 41201(f) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12451(f)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 11. GRANTS TO COMBAT VIOLENT CRIMES ON CAMPUSES.

Section 304(e) of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (34 U.S.C. 20125(e)) is

amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 12. STUDY CONDUCTED THROUGH THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.

Section 402(c) of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 280b-4(c)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 13. SAVING MONEY AND REDUCING TRAGEDIES THROUGH PREVENTION.

Section 41303(f) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12463(f)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 14. ADDRESSING THE HOUSING NEEDS OF VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND STALKING.

(a) **COLLABORATIVE GRANTS TO INCREASE THE LONG-TERM STABILITY OF VICTIMS.**—Section 41404(i) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12474(i)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

(b) **GRANTS TO COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN PUBLIC AND ASSISTED HOUSING.**—Section 41405(g) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12475(g)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 15. NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON WORKPLACE RESPONSES TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

Section 41501(e) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12501(e)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 16. GRANTS FOR TRIBAL JURISDICTION OVER CRIMES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Section 204 of Public Law 90-284 (25 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968”) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 17. ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIAN WOMEN.

Section 905(b)(2) of the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (28 U.S.C. 534 note) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 18. STALKER DATABASE.

Section 40603 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12402) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 19. FEDERAL VICTIM ASSISTANCE REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 40114 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322; 108 Stat. 1910) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 20. GRANTS FOR STRENGTHENING THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM'S RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND STALKING.

Section 399P(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g-4(g)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 21. TRAINING AND SERVICES TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

Section 1402(e) of division B of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. 20122(e)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 22. SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM.

Section 41601(f)(1) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12511(f)(1)) is amended by striking “through 2018” and inserting “through 2020”.

SEC. 23. RAPE SURVIVOR CHILD CUSTODY.

Section 409 of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (34 U.S.C. 21308) is amended by striking “through 2019” and inserting “through 2020”.

Ms. STEFANIK (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the House reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, in the United States, 1 in 3 women have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner; 1 in 7 women have been injured by an intimate partner; 1 in 10 women have been raped by an intimate partner; and 1 in 7 women have been stalked.

Let those numbers sink in for a moment. These are more than just numbers. These are our mothers, sisters, daughters, friends, and colleagues in this Chamber.

Today's motion to recommit would extend the Violence Against Women Act through 2020 in order to continue critical services that protect millions of women, girls, and children across our country.

I have a proven track record of supporting VAWA, and today I am continuing the fight by standing up for the victims and survivors to make sure their voices are heard.

Last year, I introduced legislation that would extend the Violence Against Women Act; and then just last month, I introduced another bill that would reauthorize this program.

We all know, in this Chamber, that the bill Speaker PELOSI has put on the floor today will not pass the Senate and be signed into law. However, my bill, this motion to recommit, could pass the House, the Senate, and be signed into law this week.

This extension gives Republicans and Democrats time to work together to pass a truly bipartisan, long-term reauthorization of VAWA, just as Congress has done many times before.

Sadly, there has been very little effort from my Democratic colleagues to meaningfully engage in a process to reauthorize VAWA that could pass with broad bipartisan support.

The Democratic bill, H.R. 1585, was referred to seven House committees, but was only reported out of the Judiciary Committee on a party-line vote. It politicizes VAWA, and could put women, girls, and children at potential risk in the future.

Ending violence against women and protecting women and children should not be a partisan issue. But, unfortunately, Speaker PELOSI and House Democrats have made it a partisan issue. They have refused to work with Republicans in a meaningful way to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act every chance they got, including

most recently in February during spending negotiations.

House Democrats are the reason this law has lapsed, putting lives in jeopardy, and leaving victims, survivors, and families at risk. Every single minute that this critical, lifesaving program goes unauthorized is another minute that women who need help can't get it.

I ask my colleagues today; can we stop playing political games at the expense of vulnerable women?

We must. Voting “yes” on this motion to recommit is the only opportunity to extend current law. Voting “no” on this motion to recommit means that you are voting to end the Violence Against Women Act and, instead, knowingly voting for a partisan bill that will never see the light of day in the Senate. This will collect dust in the Senate.

Once again, the Democratic bill on the floor today will collect dust in the Senate. Scoring political points, we should never prioritize that over the millions of women and children in this country.

Let's pass this clean extension today to extend the Violence Against Women Act. Fight for millions of women in this country. Fight for survivors. Fight for victims.

I am asking you to vote “yes” on the motion to recommit, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I have nothing but great respect for my colleague who offered this; and I do wish that we could do this together and not politicize it. But that is exactly what we are doing.

This motion to recommit would just totally undermine this bill because it is a short and incomplete reauthorization; and it undermines the Violence Against Women Act and this important effort to reauthorize it.

This bill takes out things that have become so basic, like the Rape Prevention Fund, testing of rape case kits, which is a horror across this country in how many haven't been tested.

It takes away child abuse training. None of that is in this motion to recommit.

And what makes me really sad is that this bill is one of the most successful laws this House has passed. In the 25 years since it was enacted, violence against women by a spouse, or an intimate partner, has dropped by 65 percent. We need to build on that progress.

Since then, victims, survivors, and the communities where we live have relied on the Congress to help provide resources needed to prevent and investigate these crimes and to assist survivors.

I remember what it was like. I remember what it was like when you

called the police and they didn't come because your father was an important man in town.

I remember what it was like when someone on our college campus was raped, and the police came to them and said: "It's your fault" and would do nothing.

And I don't want anybody in this House to forget that Michigan State University, with hundreds of victims, was only brought to the forefront last year, when hundreds of victims tried to tell people something was happening, and nobody would listen. We cannot go back to those days. Since the original passage of this bill, we have learned from experience and from the unfortunate continued perpetuation of these crimes.

This House, together, on a bipartisan basis, we authorized VAWA in 2000, 2005, and 2013. This bill builds on our progress and success. We must not only reauthorize it, but make its programs even more effective, and help survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and other forms of harm with issues that they face.

Women are staying in these situations because they need to go to the doctor and they can't afford healthcare; they can't find a place to live; they don't have economic security. These are among the issues that this bill is trying to address.

This motion to recommit would kill the bill, and it leaves victims vulnerable.

I do volunteer work at these domestic—at places where people go for domestic abuse.

Have you talked to anybody there? Do you know how scared they are because funding is already being impacted?

Stepping back means looking the other way when victimization is taking place; and they are counting on us to do something. That is why we cannot undermine this important law.

And I am going to say one other thing. Do not let the NRA bully you. This is not a poison pill. The provision in this bill—don't forget who I was married to. John Dingell was on the NRA board. Hell, he helped start it. But all this does—we are not taking away due process. All this does is say that if someone has been convicted, convicted, as an intimate partner, that they would not have access to a gun. And if someone has been convicted of stalking—

You know what I would say to all of you?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman from Michigan has expired.

Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 185, noes 237, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 155]

AYES—185

Abraham	Gosar	Palazzo
Allen	Graves (GA)	Palmer
Amash	Graves (LA)	Pence
Amodei	Graves (MO)	Perry
Armstrong	Green (TN)	Peterson
Arrington	Griffith	Posey
Babin	Grothman	Ratcliffe
Bacon	Guest	Reed
Baird	Guthrie	Reschenthaler
Balderson	Hagedorn	Rice (SC)
Banks	Harris	Riggleman
Barr	Hern, Kevin	Rodgers (WA)
Bergman	Herrera Beutler	Roe, David P.
Biggs	Hice (GA)	Rogers (KY)
Bilirakis	Higgins (LA)	Rose, John W.
Bishop (UT)	Hill (AR)	Rouzer
Bost	Holding	Roy
Brady	Hollingsworth	Scalise
Brooks (IN)	Hudson	Schweikert
Buchanan	Huizenga	Scott, Austin
Buck	Hunter	Sensenbrenner
Bucshon	Hurd (TX)	Shimkus
Budd	Johnson (LA)	Simpson
Burchett	Johnson (OH)	Smith (MO)
Burgess	Johnson (SD)	Smith (NE)
Calvert	Jordan	Smith (NJ)
Carter (GA)	Joyce (OH)	Smucker
Carter (TX)	Joyce (PA)	Spano
Chabot	Katko	Staubert
Cheney	Kelly (MS)	Stefanik
Cline	Kelly (PA)	Steil
Cloud	King (IA)	Steube
Cole	King (NY)	Stewart
Collins (GA)	Kinzinger	Stivers
Collins (NY)	LaHood	Taylor
Comer	LaMalfa	Thompson (PA)
Conaway	Lamborn	Thornberry
Crawford	Latta	Timmons
Crenshaw	Lesko	Tipton
Curtis	Loudermilk	Turner
Davidson (OH)	Lucas	Upton
Davis, Rodney	Luetkemeyer	Wagner
DesJarlais	Marchant	Walberg
Diaz-Balart	Marshall	Walden
Duffy	Massie	Walker
Duncan	Mast	Walorski
Dunn	McCarthy	Waltz
Emmer	McCaul	Watkins
Estes	McClintock	Weber (TX)
Ferguson	McHenry	Webster (FL)
Fleischmann	McKinley	Wenstrup
Flores	Meadows	Westerman
Fortenberry	Meuser	Williams
Fox (NC)	Miller	Wilson (SC)
Fulcher	Mitchell	Wittman
Gaetz	Moolenaar	Womack
Gallagher	Mooney (WV)	Woodall
Gianforte	Mullin	Wright
Gibbs	Newhouse	Yoho
Gohmert	Norman	Young
Gonzalez (OH)	Nunes	Zeldin
Gooden	Olson	

NOES—237

Adams	Boyle, Brendan	Castor (FL)
Aderholt	F.	Castro (TX)
Aguilar	Brindisi	Chu, Judy
Allred	Brooks (AL)	Cicilline
Axne	Brown (MD)	Cisneros
Barragán	Brownley (CA)	Clarke (NY)
Bass	Bustos	Clay
Beatty	Butterfield	Cleaver
Bera	Byrne	Clyburn
Beyer	Carbajal	Cohen
Bishop (GA)	Cardenas	Connolly
Blumenauer	Carson (IN)	Cooper
Blunt Rochester	Cartwright	Correa
Bonamici	Case	Costa
	Casten (IL)	Courtney

Cox (CA)	Kelly (IL)	Pressley
Craig	Kennedy	Price (NC)
Crist	Khanna	Quigley
Crow	Kildee	Raskin
Cuellar	Kilmer	Rice (NY)
Cummings	Kim	Richmond
Cunningham	Kind	Roby
Dauids (KS)	Kirkpatrick	Rogers (AL)
Davis (CA)	Krishnamoorthi	Rose (NY)
Davis, Danny K.	Kuster (NH)	Rouda
Dean	Lamb	Roybal-Allard
DeFazio	Langevin	Ruiz
DeGette	Larsen (WA)	Ruppersberger
DeLauro	Larson (CT)	Rush
DelBene	Lawrence	Sánchez
Delgado	Lawson (FL)	Sarbanes
Demings	Lee (CA)	Scanlon
DeSaulnier	Lee (NV)	Schakowsky
Deutch	Levin (CA)	Schiff
Dingell	Levin (MI)	Schneider
Doggett	Lewis	Schrader
Doyle, Michael	Lieu, Ted	Schrier
F.	Lipinski	Scott (VA)
Engel	Loebsock	Scott, David
Escobar	Lofgren	Serrano
Eshoo	Lowenthal	Sewell (AL)
Espallat	Lowe	Shalala
Evans	Lujan	Sherman
Finkenauer	Luria	Sherrill
Fitzpatrick	Lynch	Sires
Fletcher	Malinowski	Slotkin
Foster	Maloney,	Smith (WA)
Frankel	Carolyn B.	Soto
Gabbard	Maloney, Sean	Spanberger
Gallego	Matsui	Speier
Garamendi	McAdams	Stanton
Garcia (IL)	McBath	Stevens
Garcia (TX)	McCollum	Suozzi
Golden	McGovern	Swalwell (CA)
Gomez	McNerney	Takano
Gonzalez (TX)	Meeks	Thompson (CA)
Gottheimer	Meng	Thompson (MS)
Green (TX)	Moore	Titus
Grijalva	Morelle	Tlaib
Haaland	Moulton	Tonko
Harder (CA)	Mucarsel-Powell	Torres (CA)
Hartzler	Murphy	Torres Small
Hastings	Nadler	(NM)
Hayes	Napolitano	Trahan
Heck	Neal	Trone
Higgins (NY)	Neguse	Underwood
Hill (CA)	Norcross	Van Drew
Himes	O'Halleran	Vargas
Horn, Kendra S.	Ocasio-Cortez	Veasey
Horsford	Omar	Vela
Houlahan	Pallone	Velázquez
Hoyer	Panetta	Visclosky
Huffman	Pappas	Wasserman
Jackson Lee	Pascrell	Schultz
Jayapal	Payne	Waters
Jeffries	Perlmutter	Watson Coleman
Johnson (GA)	Peters	Welch
Johnson (TX)	Phillips	Wexton
Kaptur	Pingree	Wild
Keating	Pocan	Wilson (FL)
	Porter	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—9

Clark (MA)	Kustoff (TN)	Rooney (FL)
Cook	Long	Rutherford
Granger	McEachin	Ryan

□ 1216

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 263, noes 158, answered "present" 1, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 156]

AYES—263

Adams Gonzalez (OH) Panetta
Aguilar Gonzalez (TX) Pappas
Allred Gottheimer Pascrell
Axne Green (TX) Payne
Balderson Grijalva Perlmutter
Barragan Haaland Peters
Bass Harder (CA) Phillips
Beatty Hastings Pingree
Bera Hayes Pocan
Beyer Heck Porter
Bishop (GA) Herrera Beutler Pressley
Blumenauer Higgins (NY) Price (NC)
Blunt Rochester Hill (CA) Quigley
Bonamici Himes Raskin
Bost Horn, Kendra S. Reed
Boyle, Brendan Horsford Rice (NY)
F. Houlahan Richmond
Brindisi Hoyer Rose (NY)
Brooks (IN) Huffman Rouda
Brown (MD) Hurd (TX) Roybal-Allard
Brownley (CA) Jackson Lee Ruiz
Burchett Jayapal Ruppertsberger
Bustos Jeffries Johnson (GA)
Butterfield Johnson (TX) Sánchez
Carbajal Joyce (OH) Sarbanes
Cárdenas Kaptur Scanlon
Carson (IN) Katko Schukowsky
Carter (TX) Katko Schiff
Cartwright Keating Kelly (IL) Schneider
Case Kennedy Schriber
Casten (IL) Khanna Schrier
Castor (FL) Kildee Scott (VA)
Castro (TX) Kilmer Scott, David
Chu, Judy Kim Serrano
Cicilline Kind Sewell (AL)
Cisneros King (NY) Shalala
Clarke (NY) Kinzinger Sherman
Cleave Kirkpatrick Sherrill
Clyburn Krishnamoorthi Simpson
Cohen Kuster (NH) Sires
Cole Lamb Slotkin
Connolly Langevin Smith (WA)
Cooper Larsen (WA) Soto
Correa Larson (CT) Spanberger
Costa Lawrence Speier
Courtney Lawson (FL) Stanton
Cox (CA) Lee (CA) Stauber
Craig Lee (NV) Steil
Crist Levin (CA) Stevens
Crow Levin (MI) Stivers
Cuellar Lewis Suozzi
Cummings Lieu, Ted Swalwell (CA)
Cunningham Lipinski Takano
Davids (KS) Loeb sack Thompson (CA)
Davis (CA) Lofgren Thompson (MS)
Davis, Danny K. Lowenthal Titus
Davis, Rodney Lowey Tlaib
Dean Lujan Tonko
DeFazio Luria Torres (CA)
DeGette Lynch Torres Small
DeLauro Malinowski (NM)
DelBene Maloney, Trahan
Delgado Carolyn B. Trone
Demings Maloney, Sean Turner
DeSaulnier Marchant Underwood
Deutch Matsui Upton
Diaz-Balart McAdams Van Drew
Dingell McBath Vargas
Doggett McCaul Veasey
Doyle, Michael McCollum Vela
F. McGovern Velázquez
Engel McNerney Visclosky
Escobar Meeks Wagner
Eshoo Meng Walden
Espallat Moore Walorski
Evans Morelle Waltz
Finkenauer Moulton Wasserman
Fitzpatrick Mucarsel-Powell Schultz
Fletcher Murphy Waters
Foster Nadler Watson Coleman
Frankel Napolitano Welch
Fudge Neal Wexton
Gabbard Neguse Wild
Gallego Norcross Williams
Garamendi O'Halleran Wilson (FL)
Garcia (IL) Ocasio-Cortez Yarmuth
Garcia (TX) Olson Young
Golden Omar Zeldin
Gomez Pallone

NOES—158

Abraham Amodei Bacon
Aderholt Armstrong Baird
Allen Arrington Banks
Amash Babin Barr

Bergman Grothman Palmer
Biggs Guest Pence
Bilirakis Guthrie Perry
Bishop (UT) Hagedorn Peterson
Brady Harris Posey
Brooks (AL) Hartzler Ratcliffe
Buchanan Hern, Kevin Reschenthaler
Buck Hice (GA) Rice (SC)
Bucshon Higgins (LA) Riggleman
Budd Hill (AR) Roby
Burgess Holding Rodgers (WA)
Byrne Hollingsworth Roe, David P.
Calvert Hudson Rogers (AL)
Carter (GA) Huizenga Rogers (KY)
Chabot Hunter Rose, John W.
Cheney Johnson (LA) Rouzer
Cline Johnson (OH) Roy
Cloud Johnson (SD) Scalise
Collins (GA) Jordan Schweikert
Collins (NY) Joyce (PA) Scott, Austin
Comer Kelly (MS) Sensenbrenner
Conaway Kelly (PA) Shimkus
Crawford King (IA) Smith (MO)
Crenshaw LaHood Smith (NE)
Curtis LaMalfa Smith (NJ)
Davidson (OH) Lamborn Smucker
DesJarlais Latta Spano
Duffy Lesko Stefanik
Duncan Loudermill Steube
Dunn Lucas Stewart
Emmer Luetkemeyer Taylor
Estes Marshall Thompson (PA)
Ferguson Massie Thornberry
Fleischmann Mast Timmons
Flores McCarthy Tipton
Foxy (NC) McClintock Walberg
Fulcher McHenry Walker
Gaetz McKinley Watkins
Gallagher Meadows Weber (TX)
Gianforte Meuser Webster (FL)
Gibbs Miller Wenstrup
Gohmert Mitchell Westerman
Gooden Mooleenaar Westerman
Gosar Mooney (WV) Wilton (SC)
Graves (GA) Mullin Wittman
Graves (LA) Newhouse Womack
Graves (MO) Norman Woodall
Green (TN) Nunes Wright
Griffith Palazzo Yoho

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

NOT VOTING—9

Clark (MA) Kustoff (TN) Rooney (FL)
Cook Long Rutherford
Granger McEachin Ryan

□ 1233

So the bill was passed.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.
A motion to reconsider was laid on
the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, due to a conflict on
Thursday, April 4, 2019, I was not present to
cast my vote on the Republican Motion to Re-
commit on H.R. 1585 and Final Passage of
H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Re-
authorization Act of 2019.

As a cosponsor of H.R. 1585, I whole-
heartedly support reauthorization of the Vi-
olence Against Women Act (VAWA). Had I
been present my vote would have been NAY
on Roll Call 155 and YEA on Roll Call 156.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The
Chair will remind all persons in the
gallery that they are here as guests of
the House and that any manifestation
of approval or disapproval of pro-
ceedings is in violation of the rules of
House.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO
MAKE CORRECTIONS IN EN-
GROSSMENT OF H.R. 1585, VIO-
LENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I ask
unanimous consent that in the engross-
ment of H.R. 1585, the Clerk be author-
ized to correct section numbers, punc-
tuation, spelling, and cross-references
and to make such other technical and
conforming changes as may be neces-
sary to reflect the actions of the
House, including the changes now at
the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The
Clerk will report the changes.

The Clerk read as follows:

In amendment number 7 offered by Ms.
Waters of California, modify the amendatory
instruction to read:

"Page 39, line 6, insert after 'efforts.' the
following:"

In amendment number 9 offered by Ms.
Johnson of Texas, modify the ninth amend-
atory instruction to read:

"Page 62, beginning on line 1, strike 'inter-
nal emergency transfers' and insert 'internal
transfers'"; modify the tenth amendatory
instruction to read:

"Page 62, line 3, strike 'external emer-
gency transfers' and insert 'external trans-
fers'"; and modify the twenty-second amend-
atory instruction to read:

"Page 80, line 24, strike 'external emer-
gency transfers' and insert 'external trans-
fers'".

In amendment number 13 offered by Mr.
Grijalva of Arizona, modify the amendatory
instruction to read:

"Page 134, strike line 3 and all that follows
thru page 135, line 5, and insert the fol-
lowing:"; and add at the end the following
amendatory instruction:

"Strike page 135, lines 16 through 18."

Mr. NADLER (during the reading).
Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent
that the changes be considered as
read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there
objection to the request of the gentle-
man from New York?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there
objection to the original request of the
gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLU-
TION OF INQUIRY TO THE PRESI-
DENT

Mr. NADLER, from the Committee
on the Judiciary, submitted a privi-
leged report (Rept. No. 116-33) on the
resolution (H. Res. 243) of inquiry re-
questing the President and directing
the Attorney General to transmit, re-
spectively, certain documents to the
House of Representatives relating to
the actions of former Federal Bureau of
Investigation Acting Director Andrew
McCabe, which was referred to the
House Calendar and ordered to be
printed.

REMOVAL OF MEMBERS AS
COSPONSORS OF H.R. 1904

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I
ask unanimous consent that Rep-
resentatives MARK AMODEI of Nevada,

SCOTT TIPTON of Colorado, KEN BUCK of Colorado, TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, and SUSIE LEE of Nevada be removed as cosponsors of H.R. 1904.

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

There was no objection.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 962, BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, I urge the Speaker to immediately schedule this important bill.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to sections 5580 and 5581 of the revised statutes (20 U.S.C. 42-43), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution:

Mr. SHIMKUS, Illinois

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I will be happy to yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my friend, the majority leader of the House for the purpose of inquiring about the week to come.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. SCALISE, for yielding. I also thank him for not mentioning the LSU-Maryland game one more time.

Mr. SCALISE. Only because we are no longer in the mix as well.

Mr. HOYER. We are both lamenting that fact.

On Monday, Madam Speaker, the House will meet at 12 p.m. for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate and 12 p.m. for legislative business. On Wednesday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.

On Thursday and Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules. The complete list of suspension bills will be announced by close of business tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, the House will also consider H.R. 1644, Save the Internet Act of 2019. This bill will reverse the administration's repeal of critical net neutrality protections, which will empower the FCC to prohibit unjust, unreasonable, and discriminatory practices and ensure consumers can make informed decisions when shopping for internet plans. This bill also enacts authorities to support expanding broadband to rural communities and struggling Americans.

In addition, Madam Speaker, it is possible the House will take action to set the budget levels for discretionary spending for the next 2 fiscal years.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I look forward to a robust debate on the unapplied bill, "Save the Internet." I think a lot of people shiver at the thought of the Federal Government saving us from the internet.

The title II regulation that would be imposed would allow the internet to be regulated like a utility. This is not the phone company of the 1970s. This is probably one of the greatest innovations that America has produced for the world, allowing us to be a world leader, dominant leader, in a growing technology field. Primarily because the government hasn't figured out how to regulate it, it has been able to grow so robustly.

I would hope that we have that full debate and people are very aware of the negative connotations and, ultimately, the damaging effects of a Federal regulation of the internet that could slow down that dramatic innovation that we have seen with the Federal Government not regulating it. It will be a robust debate.

Hopefully, we debate a number of other issues. I know we had a robust debate on the floor just a little while ago on the BDS movement. It is a growing concern for all of us who feel passionately about Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State.

I know the leader has been a leader in this Congress and a leader throughout this country in an incredibly bipartisan way standing up for that unique relationship, but we have seen threats from other countries. You have seen heavy debate in Europe.

You have seen debate in areas in Palestinian circles that want to undermine Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State by trying to boycott products made in Israel, to crush Israel's economy. That is why it is so important that we stand up against this BDS movement.

While we weren't successful in the motion to commit, there is legislation that is incredibly bipartisan.

S. 1, a bill that has come over from the Senate, unfortunately, hasn't been referred to committee, nor, also, H.R.

336, similar legislation that would allow us to help support our friends around the world who want to stand up against the BDS movement and stand with our good friend Israel.

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the gentleman, is there any plan to allow either or both of those bills to come to the floor so we can send a strong message to our friends around the world and to enemies of Israel, as well, that we are not going to support this BDS movement.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, as the gentleman knows, we share views, as he has expressed, and we are awaiting committee action. When the committee acts, we will make a determination of how to go forward.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, if I could further inquire, S. 1 has not been referred to committee. Is there a plan to refer the bill to committee and, ultimately, to allow it to move through the process, as it has been incredibly bipartisan but also incredibly timely, that we as the United States Congress stand with our friend Israel and stand against what is a growing movement that should be of concern to all of us?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, as I said, I agree with the gentleman's objective and position with respect to BDS. The committee has legislation before it and is considering it.

As you know, Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. NADLER, I think, are the cosponsors of that legislation. I expect the committee to consider it, and then, at that point in time, we will make a decision how to move forward.

□ 1245

Mr. SCALISE. That is correct. And I know those pieces of legislation are just resolutions, not actual policy.

And, ultimately, if we are going to make the stand, it has to be legislation with teeth, with actual authorizing language and with the ability for us to give true support to our friends—not just words, but actions as well.

So, hopefully, we can move both, and I would just continue to urge.

And the gentleman from Maryland's support for Israel is unquestioned and has been admired by people on both sides. I would just urge that we, as a House, move those bills, one or both of the actual substantive bills, to the floor as quickly as possible, as they have already moved through the Senate.

S. 1 had 77 votes in support—so, strongly bipartisan—coming out of the Senate, but still no referral in the House. Hopefully, we can get that expedited.

And with that, on the idea of legislating by resolution, I know that has been a growing trend in this Congress of this majority to move, instead of substantive bills to deal with things like lowering healthcare costs or helping create more jobs.

There have been a lot of bills that are just press releases, resolutions that

don't actually change law or help change policy or work in a bipartisan way to get bills to the President's desk that can address the growing issues that our country faces.

Are we going to see a continued trend in this majority of just resolutions, or are we going to finally get to bipartisan policy on some of these big issues?

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Well, of course, as the gentleman well knows, we have, Madam Speaker, passed many substantive pieces of legislation. We have sent to the Senate H.R. 1, a very broad-reaching reform bill trying to ensure voting rights and access for everybody, trying to ensure fair redistricting throughout the country, trying to make sure that dark money does not control our elections, and making sure that we are operating both in the executive and the legislative agency with ethical conduct.

That passed unanimously on our side. I forget exactly how many.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, opposed unanimously on our side, if I can point out.

Mr. HOYER. Today's vote, obviously, we had two very substantive pieces of legislation, one of which is going now to the President, and the other of which—the Violence Against Women Act—had a signature bipartisan vote, as the gentleman knows, passed the House.

We have done the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which had been pending for some period of time in making that a permanent piece of legislation.

We made sure that women—in 1963, we passed the Equal Pay Act. John Kennedy signed it. Unfortunately, we are still struggling to make sure that that promise is realized and that women are, in fact, paid based upon what they do, not based upon what their gender is.

So I would say to my friend, we have passed a lot of legislation we had pending, and we are doing a lot of hearings. We are dealing with infrastructure. We are dealing with drug prices. We made it a big issue in the campaign. We are moving ahead to make sure the Affordable Care Act works in a way that it was designed to work.

So I would say to my friend that we have pursued, both on the floor and in committee, the substantive legislation that we have talked to the American people about.

I also feel very strongly that we want to avoid what happened to us at the end of the last Congress, when you were in the majority. We shut down the government.

I am going to be working hard, hopefully on both sides of the aisle. I don't think anybody wants to see that as an objective, so I am hopeful that we can work together.

I am working with your ranking member on the Appropriations Com-

mittee, KAY GRANGER, with whom I have served for some period of time, and Mrs. LOWEY to make sure that we get the appropriation bills done in a timely fashion and send them to the Senate.

I am hopeful that that will occur, and I am hopeful that we can fund the government in a rational way and not shut down government, which was so irrational and so harmful to our country and so costly to our taxpayers.

So those are some of the things that we have done, are doing, and will do; and, hopefully, we can, to some degree, work on this in as bipartisan a fashion as possible.

In particular, the President has said he wants to bring the cost of prescription drugs down. We share that view. I am hopeful that we can work together.

The President said he wants a substantial infrastructure piece of legislation. We share that view. We hope we can work together on that.

So we have been pursuing, on a weekly basis; and this was, from our perspective, a pretty good week. I know we disagree on the net neutrality bill, but we do agree that it is a major piece of legislation, and I expect to pass that next week as well.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

It was heavily debated in the Energy and Commerce Committee, as it should be, and I am sure it will be heavily debated on the floor.

A number of these other issues that the gentleman mentioned, you know, we litigated those on the floor. The ones that went over to the Senate, some with only Democratic votes, you know, H.R. 1, for example, the Senate majority leader made it very clear that bill will not get any time on the Senate calendar. There are a lot of others that we would like to see real movement on.

I know there was concern of a lot of people that there were three different committees in the House this week that spent the bulk of their time going after the President personally again.

We have got the Mueller report coming. The summary has already been laid out and made it clear there was no collusion with Russia. There was no obstruction of justice. We will see the report.

What we talked about was that the report be filed in compliance with law, and the law makes it very clear that things like classified information aren't released. That is the law. I think we agreed that that is how it should be, that you don't release classified information. You release the pertinent date.

I look forward to seeing that, and we will see that. But, then, it seemed like a continued assault in three different committees continuing to focus on harassing the President personally, as opposed to focusing on some of those policies.

But one of the policies that should be coming out of the House where there is a real deadline is the budget. April 15 is the deadline.

I know, over and over again, Members of the Democratic leadership, including the Speaker, herself, said: Show me your budget. Show me your values.

There is no budget. And we have been concerned that the agenda doesn't follow—the priorities in the budget are really what you lay out. Those are your values. Those are your priorities.

While they are moving a bill that lays out caps, it is not bipartisan. But, ultimately, when we get a caps agreement, the gentleman knows it is going to have to be a bipartisan agreement.

Last night, the Budget Committee produced only a partisan, one-corner deal—barely a one-corner deal. Typically, they have what are called four-corner deals where the House, Senate—Republicans and Democrats—come together and say: We are going to agree on what those spending levels need to be so that we can then write our appropriation bills, set the priorities of the country, and avoid a government shutdown.

That didn't happen in the Budget Committee. It was a very partisan bill that was moved out; but, more importantly, it was not a budget.

I would hope that with the little bit of time that is remaining to meet that legal deadline that the majority would try to actually produce a budget and follow through on those over-and-over again quotes: "Show me your budget." "Show me your values."

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comment.

Of course, there was no budget last year until very, very late in the year.

What was done was what we will certainly make sure we do very early on, which is to try to establish the numbers, which, of course, a caps deal would do. And our objective will be to show our values in the appropriation bills as they come to the floor—hopefully, in a timely fashion—and our main objective would be not to shut down the government but to do our work on time.

I am confident that, working together, we can reach that objective.

Mr. SCALISE. Hopefully, we can get a bipartisan agreement on what those levels need to be to properly fund our defense, to properly do the other things the government should do and limit the ways it can possibly be carried out, and then, ultimately, to be able to get the bills that follow it passed in time, well before the September 30 deadline.

One of the areas that there is very productive movement on is the new trade deal between the United States, Mexico, and Canada, USMCA. I know there are bipartisan working groups. The White House has been in negotiations with the majority, the Speaker and your team.

Can the leader give any insight into where the conversations are going in the House to get a timetable for when we can start having a plan for that?

You look at Canada's House of Commons, they have their own deadline of when they rise, and, obviously, we want to be aware of our other partners that are included in this negotiation.

Is there talk of a timeline yet, if the leader could share where those conversations are going.

I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, as the gentleman may know, the Speaker invited Mr. Lighthizer to address members of the Democratic Caucus on where we stood.

As you know, that agreement has not been submitted. The Speaker said the other day that, in order to consider that in a positive way, the Mexicans, whom the President has been somewhat critical of through the years, take certain actions which make sure that our workers and their workers are treated fairly so we are competing on an even keel.

But we certainly are in discussions. There are a number of items of concern, which have historically been of concern, regarding the environment, regarding workers' rights, regarding the availability of prescription drugs for people, as well as enforcement, dispute resolution.

So those are being discussed. The conversations are ongoing, and I believe that the administration will make a determination when they believe it is timely to submit that document to us. As the gentleman knows, once they do so, there is a timeframe in which the House and Senate must act. The committees must act within, essentially, a 3-month period of time.

So we are in discussions. We are waiting on the administration's judgment as to when to submit. And I am sure they are discussing with us as to when we think that is timely as well, but there are still substantive matters that are being discussed.

I would presume some of those are on your side as well.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

I am encouraged by the conversations that both I have been in as well as the conversations that I am aware are going on on your side as well, because this is a bipartisan win for the country.

This agreement would help ensure that, as we all support free trade, we also want more fair trade, and this agreement, in many different categories and many different industries, would help create more American jobs and help American workers get treated even more fairly by our neighbors to the north and south.

Finally, if I may inquire of the gentleman, we have talked a number of times about the Born-Alive Act, the bill that we have made multiple unanimous consent requests to bring up the discharge petition moving through the process. There are other means to bring it up even quicker, and one would be if the gentleman would schedule the bill for the floor.

I would just inquire: Is there any plan to schedule the Born-Alive Act on the floor through a direct means versus some of these other tools that are being considered?

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his question.

As the gentleman knows, Madam Speaker, the House voted on this bill during the last two Congresses. The most recent time it was brought to the floor, the gentleman and his party were in control of the House, the Senate, and the Presidency. That bill was not brought up in the Senate.

The gentleman mentioned, earlier, H.R. 1 and that Mr. MCCONNELL has said that wouldn't be brought up. In fact, when it passed this House, it went to the Senate, and it was not brought up by Senator MCCONNELL. So there are no plans at this point in time for us to bring this up.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's candor.

We will continue to pursue other tools that we have available as the growing momentum around the country builds, as people saw what happened in New York with a law ushered in that allows babies to be murdered after they are born alive, the Virginia Governor gruesomely describing what he hopes to be a similar law in his State, other States taking those same kinds of actions. So there is a growing bipartisan interest that feels very strongly that we need a Federal law to protect babies who are born alive outside the womb.

So we will continue to pursue all of those tools that are available and look forward to the workweek ahead next week as we finish our work prior to the Easter recess.

Does the gentleman have anything else?

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I have nothing further to say. I thank the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1300

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019, TO MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MCBATH). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland? There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Honorable KEVIN MCCARTHY, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 3, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to 36 U.S.C. §101, I am pleased to appoint the following Members to the United States Semiquincentennial Commission:

The Honorable George Holding of North Carolina

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt of Alabama

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Republican Leader.

HONORING ABBY CURRAN HORRELL FOR HER SERVICE

(Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate and thank my chief of staff, Abby Curran Horrell.

Abby is an original member of Team Kuster, dating back to the 2012 campaign in the 113th Congress when I was first elected. She has been my tireless coach and confidant throughout my 6-plus years in Congress. Through it all, she has become a very dear friend.

I rise to thank Abby for her dedicated service to our team and for her service to everyone in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District.

Abby embodies our Team Kuster motto, "Radical Hospitality," cultivating a culture of respect and inclusion. Because of her leadership, our staff feel empowered to succeed and grow as they take on new challenges. Through her respect for each member of our staff, Abby has created a collaborative culture, connecting our Washington and New Hampshire offices into a cohesive Team Kuster family.

As Abby grew the Team Kuster family, we all enjoyed watching her grow her own, juggling two maternity leaves as she and Chad welcomed Daniel and Eliza, and all of this while balancing the fast-paced environment of Congress.

Abby, we are all amazed by you. We are proud to know you, and we know you will do amazing things for America. You will be missed.

VOTE ON DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

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

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to demand a vote on disaster supplemental funding.

Next Wednesday will be the 6-month anniversary of Hurricane Michael and 6

months with absolutely no supplemental disaster funding, no serious action on the part of Congress to help the victims of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, the Carolinas, and even the California wildfires.

Every time I am in Florida, I discover new destruction. That debris has become firewood and is leading to massive wildfires. One just took out 700 acres. That debris is also clogging our stormwater system, and flooding will be our next disaster.

One of the strongest hurricanes in the history of the United States ravaged Florida and left a path of destruction across the South, and yet, here we are with only 3 legislative days before Easter and no relief in sight.

The Senate again failed to pass a disaster bill this week, and the House appears to have given up. This is shameful. The lack of action is a disgrace to the American people.

Madam Speaker, American citizens are hurting. We must pass a disaster relief bill and do it now.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHERIFF'S DEPUTY PETER JOHN HERRERA

(Ms. ESCOBAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a father, son, and public servant, Sheriff's Deputy Peter John Herrera, who passed away at the age of 35 on Sunday, March 24, after being fatally shot at a traffic stop.

A lifelong El Pasoan, Sheriff's Deputy Herrera proudly served the El Paso County Sheriff's Office for 11 years. His leadership was exemplary. He was widely commended by his fellow officers for always wearing his badge with pride. He was the epitome of a public servant who loved his community and demonstrated it every day.

He was highly respected, supported, and loved by many as a devoted father, husband, brother, and friend. The community of El Paso mourns his untimely death, but we are endlessly thankful for his unwavering service and contributions to our community. It was a privilege to stand alongside so many El Pasoans last week as he was laid to rest.

Sheriff's Deputy Peter Herrera's memory will live on among us for dedicating his life to protecting and serving with integrity and purpose.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ED WESTCOTT

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an east Tennessee icon, Ed Westcott.

Those who knew Ed would tell you that his ability to capture a story through images was evident at an early

age. At just 20 years old, Ed became the 29th individual hired by the Clinton Engineer Works to begin to capture images at Oak Ridge. Ed was the sole photographer of the Manhattan Project—the Manhattan Project, now well known, then a secret.

His images lifted the veil off the secret city and gave Americans a glimpse into the lives of those who helped our Nation win World War II.

From the alpha racetrack at Y-12 to the images of daily life, we had Ed to thank for over 15,000 photographs. His work is proudly displayed in east Tennessee and in Washington at the National Archives.

To honor his contributions, I joined with my colleagues in the Senate to nominate him for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

On March 29, Ed Westcott passed away, but his legacy will live on through his images.

MOVING FORWARD TO PROTECT WOMEN

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, today, we finished one stop of a journey, and that is the journey to pass the Violence Against Women Act.

I have had the privilege to see and shepherd this bill throughout my congressional tenure, having stood alongside senior Members many years ago in the first reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. This bill was started today in 2016. We began to work and reach across the aisle to do what is right for the victims of so many horrific crimes.

We wanted children to be protected, immigrant women to be protected. We wanted to make sure that Native American women were protected.

We wanted law enforcement and prosecutors to have the tools. We wanted to stop the backlog in rape kits that had not been processed.

We did that today with a collective group of Republican and Democratic Members on a bill that should be non-partisan.

We worked hard, and I was gratified that we wound up giving a bill to the Senate and that they must ask the question: Are they not going to support a bill that was bipartisan?

Madam Speaker, I thank Monalisa Dugue, Milagros Cisneros, Joe Graupensperger, Amy Rutkin, and Chairman NADLER. I thank KAREN BASS and all those women who worked together, including the outstanding work that was done on the MTR with DEBBIE DINGELL.

Madam Speaker, we are thanking them because we are moving forward to protect women in this country, including against sex trafficking, which was in the bill.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA WESTERN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable women's basketball team from the University of Montana Western in Dillon.

The Bulldogs recently captured the NAIA Division I national title to close out a stellar season. The team's convincing 75-59 victory over the nine-time national champion, Oklahoma City Stars, brought the national title to Dillon, Montana.

The school's first national title in women's basketball brought well-deserved recognition to senior Brianna King, a two-time All-American and NAIA National Player of the Year.

Ms. King, however, was not alone on the court. Fellow All-American Britt Cooper won the tournament's Hustle Award and Tori Anderson made All-Tournament First Team.

The Bulldogs' head coach, Lindsay Woolley, led the team to the national title and was named the 2019 NAIA Coach of the Year.

Congratulations to all the players and coaches. Your school and State are proud of you.

All Montana is Bulldog Nation.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

(Mrs. CRAIG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, as mother of four, the wife of an educator, and the daughter of a teacher, I know that we should never underestimate the power of a high-quality education.

In the nearly 40 years since the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act was passed, the Federal Government has not fulfilled its funding promise to our special education students. Not once.

This failure leaves our schools with extreme budget cuts that impact every student and forces them to turn to our communities to bear the burden through local tax levies.

That is why I am so proud to work with Representative JARED HUFFMAN and Minnesota Congressman PETE STAUBER on a bipartisan basis for IDEA full funding, to make sure that every student, including those with special needs, receives a high-quality education in their neighborhood.

Providing a high-quality education to all of our students is something that we can all agree on, and we must work together to get this done on behalf of our communities.

TEXAS TECH HEADS TO FINAL FOUR

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Red Raiders of Texas Tech and a new standard of excellence in west Texas.

Sports teaches us a lot about the game of life. It teaches us that anything worth doing is worth working hard for. It teaches us the virtue of competition, the value of setting ambitious goals, and the necessity of making sacrifices to achieve them.

Through sports, we learn how to work as a team, how to be resilient in the face of adversity, and how to display grace in victory as well as defeat.

No one embodies these traits better than Coach Beard and the Texas Tech men's basketball team who have earned their first trip to the Final Four.

Coach Beard says the tough times pass, but the tough people last. Let me tell you, these Red Raiders are as tough as west Texas.

To the team, listen to the coach: Four to one, four parts mental, one part physical.

To my fellow Americans, get your guns up because Texas Tech is in Minneapolis, and we are coming home with the national championship.

Go Tech.

CELEBRATING REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the bipartisan reauthorization today of the Violence Against Women Act.

In 2013, this legislation was one of the first votes I took as a new Member of Congress. This year, I was proud to be an original cosponsor of the bill to ensure survivors have access to essential services and justice.

It is a sad fact that VAWA remains critically important. Despite some progress, the rate of domestic violence remains far too high.

I recently acquired a painting created by a survivor of domestic violence. It is a beautiful scene of a woman standing in a field of sunflowers with a blue sky. But upon a closer look, you see the broken chains at her feet, chains representing her former prison of domestic abuse.

While the woman in the painting was fortunately able to break free, so many others cannot. Today's legislation helps both groups.

I am particularly glad that this year's bill makes improvements to help the victims of dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and increases resources available to vulnerable populations, including Native American women and the LGBTQ community.

In our communities, there are many local organizations doing amazing work to help women escape situations of domestic violence and rebuild their

lives, including A Safe Place in my district. I commend their work and the work of all groups like this across the Nation, and I hope this legislation will provide additional support and resources for their important mission.

□ 1315

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AT SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, this week, as the humanitarian and security crisis at our southern border worsens, my colleagues across the aisle have failed to act. Instead, House Democrats chose to focus on issuing illegal subpoenas for the Mueller report, including its underlying evidence, investigative sources, and grand jury materials. House Democrats are effectively demanding that Attorney General Barr break the law.

For nearly 2 years, Democrats misled the American people about the special counsel's investigation. Now that it is clear that there was absolutely no collusion with Russia, my colleagues across the aisle are grasping at straws and completely ignoring the crisis at our southern border.

Daily border crossings at our southern border have hit levels that we have not seen in decades. Adding to the complexity and gravity of this crisis is the dramatic increase in the number of unaccompanied children and family units.

Customs and Border Protection apprehended more than 100,000 family unit aliens in 2018. That is up 600 percent since 2013. The overwhelming surge of migrants has stretched our facilities to a breaking point.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues across the aisle end the partisan showmanship and work with us to address this crisis.

HONORING REV. DR. ROBIN WEINSTEIN

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to honor an outstanding member of south Jersey. Rev. Dr. Robin Weinstein is a true believer in human potential and harnesses that power through extensive work and his community involvement.

In addition to being an associate professor at Wilmington University, he started the M25 Initiative to find ways to alleviate suffering, feed the hungry, end poverty, reduce crime, and revitalize the community.

Dr. Weinstein is also a cofounder of the Cumberland County Code Blue Coalition, which provides emergency winter shelter to those who are very much in need.

On top of all of these things, Dr. Weinstein serves as the founding pastor

of Bethany Grace Community Church in Bridgeton, New Jersey. Under his leadership, the church has started a weekly soup kitchen, monthly food pantry and clothing closet, showers for the homeless, and many other programs that provide for the people of south Jersey who so desperately need them.

His tireless efforts make an impact on the community that is felt far and wide.

The people of south Jersey appreciate all you do, Dr. Weinstein.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight some pretty disturbing numbers released by Customs and Border Protection that help put our border crisis into perspective.

In 2018, Customs and Border Patrol agents and officers seized more than 1.7 million pounds of narcotics, including 1 million pounds of marijuana; 280,000 pounds of cocaine; 248,000 pounds of methamphetamine; 6,500 pounds of heroin; 2,400 pounds of fentanyl, which is enough doses to kill everyone in the United States; and 139,000 pounds of other illicit drugs.

It is also a humanitarian crisis. Border Patrol agents rescued from trafficking 4,300 men and women near the border last year. There is no telling how many more have been caught up in human trafficking that slipped through the cracks.

Border Patrol says nearly every sector across the Southwest border has exceeded their capacity. Each day, nearly half the agents on the Southwest border are diverted away from border security missions to instead care for, transport, and process family units and unaccompanied children.

Even former Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson of the Obama administration said that we have a crisis with these huge numbers.

Madam Speaker, we need to do our job and get this border crisis solved.

HONORING STEPHEN "POPS" CULVER

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

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Stephen "Pops" Culver.

Pops, as he was fondly known, lived his life to serve his country during the Vietnam war; his students as an elementary schoolteacher; and his community as an advocate for suicide prevention and awareness, something that was personal to him after the tragic loss of his son.

It was that sense of service that guided Pops on an epic 10,000-mile motorcycle ride across this great country to raise money for the brand-new Central Coast Veterans Cemetery on the former Fort Ord. During this trip, Pops and his fellow American Legion brothers of Post 31, Crash and Phin, the group known as the Black Sheep, carried an American flag, which you see here in this photo, from the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery to Arlington National Cemetery, where that flag was flown over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Now on Memorial Day each year, that flag is flown over the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery to honor those who served and sacrificed.

Based on Pop's service, he was honored as the 2017 Veteran of the Year in Monterey County.

Today, we here in Congress honor Pops Culver not just as a veteran but as an American who not only served but understood and lived up to his obligation to serve those who served us.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, the bill that was entitled the Violence Against Women Act was passed in the House today, and I deeply regret it was not the kind of bipartisan bill that I feel like we should have had.

I don't know anybody in this Chamber who supports violence against women or who does not want to do what we can to stop it. We battled this out verbally in the Judiciary Committee.

It is so clear to me, having prosecuted sexual assaults of women who were battered and beat up badly by their husbands or partners, that it is such an egregious thing. I heard over and over as a felony judge in Texas about how traumatized the women were and potentially would be for the rest of their lives. I heard that, with counseling, they could work to avoid having the triggers that put them right back in the place where they were so badly abused.

More recent literature indicates that women who have been sexually assaulted seem to have a much higher percent—a number of times, apparently—more post-traumatic stress disorder after having been sexually abused than even soldiers have after combat. One suggestion in a study indicates that because soldiers are trained for what they go through, perhaps that reduces the amount of PTSD. There is no adequate training to prepare a woman for the kind of abuse that so many have suffered.

One of the triggers that I have heard about as a judge that could trigger this trauma, reliving the experience all

over again, is a woman being in a confined space and having a biological man come in to that confined space. We have heard of women assaulting men who have done that, some who may have been through sexual assault before.

I understand the idea of my colleagues across the aisle who want to help avoid hurting the feelings of biological men who think they are women, or according to the latest rendition of DSM-5, they are suffering from gender dysphoria, which is kind of the opposite of euphoria, but it basically is a confusion or a discomfort with one's biologically assigned gender.

So I get it. You don't want to make them feel bad. You don't want to hurt their feelings. So to avoid hurting their feelings, we would put so many women at risk.

A lot of folks I have heard say that one in four women will be sexually assaulted. If that is true, then that means that those who voted for this bill today would seek to punish again and again and again women who have suffered the outrageous and egregious assault sexually or being battered with no way out.

When my friend across the aisle, DEBBIE DINGELL, speaks of those fears and terrors as a child and abuse going on in the home, my heart goes out to her and anybody who has suffered like that.

But this is the United States Congress. Can't we have a bill that doesn't have a political aspect and that just tries to do the right thing by women who have suffered from sexual assault or being battered, and let them have a confined space without a biological man being forced into their traumatized world? Couldn't we agree on that? The answer is no.

DEBBIE LESKO, my friend and colleague also on the Judiciary Committee, has been such a victim. She had amendments. She spoke brilliantly about the suffering and what needed to be done to fix the bill. And yet, it was a political matter. It is too important that we not hurt the feelings of men who think they are women. Therefore, we are just going to let those women have to suffer. They just need to get over their trauma, their PTSD, their reliving the nightmare of a sexual assault over and over again. There is more regard for somebody's hurt feelings than someone else's. A woman's terror forces them over and over through such terror time and time again.

I read a story about a woman seeing a man and freaking out and started to assault him. If a woman has been through a sexual assault before, my heart goes to her, not for the guy who walks in and traumatized her so.

Yet if the majority here has their way, that bill would become law. Those traumatized women would be condemned to be traumatized repeatedly at the demand of the Democratic majority in Congress, in the House here.

□ 1330

I really would have hoped we could have had a bill that we could all, of one accord, say: This is right. This is the thing to do by women.

But we can't get a bill to the floor to try to protect unborn women, unborn girls.

In China, the abortion rate of girls is dramatically higher than that of boys, because they think—they haven't been like me and had three girls. They don't know how wonderful it is. So they think: Gee, if I am only going to be allowed to have one child, I prefer it be a boy.

And there is outrageous discrimination—a real, true war on women—going on in China. And China has yet to feel the destructive results of what they have required.

But that is a war, killing an unborn child because she happens to be biologically female. But we haven't heard condemnation about such practice in this Congress, and that is a legitimate war on women, children who were never given the chance to live simply because—not to live outside the womb simply because they are biologically women. It's very tragic.

I hope the Senate will use some common sense and have a heart for the women who have been victims of assault. And I know. I have seen it. I have heard it. As a prosecutor, I was frustrated by it, when a woman would come in, beat to a pulp, black and blue, all bruised up and scarred. You want to put her husband in prison forever, doing that to anybody, and especially a woman who could not defend herself.

And, time and again—too often, the experts will tell you, those who prosecute a lot—the woman will come back and say: You know what, now that everything has healed, it is really my fault.

And they have this idea that somehow they deserved that kind of beating when they didn't at all. As a judge, there were so many times that I told young children—you could tell they blamed themselves for a sexual assault—without the jury around, you need to understand this was not your fault. You didn't deserve this. You never did anything to deserve it. This was a crime committed against you. You were the victim, and don't ever think that you deserved it, or you are the guilty party.

Because it is amazing. Some men have the ability to make their victims think they are the ones at fault.

Yet, for those who suffer the trauma again, having a man confront them in a very confined space, they are going to be condemned to relive it over and over again. It is very unfortunate.

Hopefully, wisdom will win out and the Senate will help us have a bill that really considers the women and the damage done by the full complement, if you want to call it that, of this Violence Against Women Act, as it was labeled.

We have also heard repeatedly: There is no crisis on the border. It is not a national emergency. This is a manufactured emergency.

We have heard that over and over. We have seen the montages of the mainstream media saying: Manufactured crisis. Manufactured crisis.

Apparently Jeh Johnson, former Secretary of Homeland Security, didn't get the memo that he was supposed to come forward and lie, so he actually said: Yes, it is a crisis on the border.

It is a humanitarian crisis. It is a crisis for our Nation's security. And it is so out of hand.

I keep hearing every day from people whose jobs it is to protect America and to protect Americans, protect people who are legally here. But they are so busy having to get names, whether they are fictitious or not. Most of the time there is no proper identification. You have to take the person's word, take the information on where they say they have relatives.

I have pointed it out before, but I have been there when, while they are going through questions with one end of the group, at the other end, they are moving kids: Why don't you take this kid. You take this kid, claim it is yours. Oh, here. You take my address. I'll take your address.

These were addresses, apparently, where the drug cartels needed them to operate or work in either their drug trafficking or sex trafficking. So, under the laws the way they exist now, as the border patrolmen have said, you know, the cartels say: We're the logistics. The drug cartels get paid, and they hire some person to bring them across the border.

And the drug cartels, as I have heard them say out there in the middle of the night, when it is not on their list of questions to ask, but often it gets asked: How much did you pay to be brought into this country?

And when the question is asked: Where did you get that kind of money—\$5,000, \$6,000, \$7,000, \$8,000. You don't have that. Where did you get that money?

Well, we got so much here, so much there, some sent from the U.S.

Well, what about the rest?

They are going to let me work it off when I get where I am going.

So then, our own Homeland Security, our own HHS, they ship the drug cartels' future employees to the place that the cartels want them to work.

So, I would hope that, as people read stories: Oh, no, another meth lab busted, and this guy is part of the Mexican drug cartel, and it is not in Texas, then that is when people should remember: Oh, yeah, that's right. We use tax money to send the cartels' future employees to the cities where they want them to work in sex trafficking or drug trafficking.

I mean, an advanced civilization cannot continue to reach its potential when we are bringing in the people and paying to put them where they can de-

stroy the city, the State, and ultimately our country. This is a crisis.

As I understand, down in the quadrant of Texas, especially down south of McAllen, where I have spent so many nights, one was saying: We process 1,200 a day, process 13,000 in about 10 days—one area.

It is incredible. How can an intelligent civilization keep doing that to itself in the name of helping our country and helping our neighbors, when the fact is that the most compassionate thing Americans could do for our neighbors in Mexico is to secure the border completely. Nothing comes in, like drugs or women being sex trafficked. And, no, the drug cartels are not going to take lightly to it.

But, you shut down the tens of millions of dollars every year that are flowing from the U.S. into Mexico that fund the mass corruption in Mexico, then Mexico, in my opinion, would become a top-ten economy in the world.

They have got some of the best natural resources in the world, a better geographic location than the United States because they are between two continents and two oceans. Their trade ought to be astounding.

And they have got some of the hardest-working people in the world. So why aren't they a top economy? It is because of all the money that flows across from the United States to the drug cartels in Mexico.

And, now, a huge source of revenue for them is the money they get from sending people across by the thousands each week. It is insane.

We can't prolong this little experiment in self-government when we are providing corrupt drug cartels with the method to take us down and to keep Mexico subjugated to their evil intentions.

An article from CNS News by Terence Jeffrey, April 3 of this year, points out that the five Federal district court districts that sit along the U.S.-Mexico border were the top five districts in the country for the number of defendants they convicted and sentenced to imprisonment in fiscal year 2018, according to the data published by the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts.

I have a rather interesting chart here. You see the Western District of Texas has had 7,126 individuals convicted as criminals and sentenced to prison; the Southern District of Texas, 5,939 people convicted as criminals, sentenced to prison; Southern District of California, very close, 5,470 convicted criminals sentenced to prison. So, it isn't just a wrist slap. Sentenced to prison.

You have got the District of Arizona, 4,378; District of New Mexico, 3,923. Of course, Florida is behind them. And there are a lot of people coming in illegally there, but it drops off so dramatically. So, you see a bigger number of these 30 top sentencing courts have 700 or less, and the Western District of Texas has 7,000.

So why is this? It is because they are border courts, and they are dramatically affected by criminals coming across our border.

As I understand it, one of the MS-13ers that was caught—supposedly, for every person we catch coming in illegally, there are many times that many that are coming in that we don't catch. No reason to doubt that that is true about gang members, gangsters, part of MS-13.

But, why are we allowing this to go on for ourselves?

The old saying in Washington is: No matter how cynical you get, it is never enough to catch up. And, the more you hang around this town, the more you see there is something to that.

Could it be that a majority in the House don't want to stop this because the thinking is: These may be our future hope for being in the majority and electing a President?

Heaven help us if that were the case, that power is more important than preserving a union where freedom once abounded.

□ 1345

Of course, it could never adequately abound as there was slavery.

I just finished a book about the miracle of Yorktown, focused largely on George Washington. And we know he ended up, though he was from a State that prohibited the freeing of slaves, he freed the slaves in his will.

But it wasn't until Martin Luther King, Jr., JOHN LEWIS, and others, withstood tremendous oppression in order that a White Christian boy like me could grow up and treat my brothers and sisters like brothers and sisters. So we have made great progress.

And then it seemed like, just as we get to the sixties, and the Constitution finally is meaning what it says, we start moving in a direction that most civilizations, when you read their history, actually were moving them to the dustbin of history.

Here we accomplished so much, and freedom for—we spread it around. The Civil Rights Act helped with that. And now we are going to punish women who have been victims of assault by forcing them to endure men coming into their private spaces.

We are going to take a country where a massive amount of crime is occurring on our border and our border areas—we are overwhelmed with people that don't understand that it is a lot of education and a lot of work involved in order to preserve self-government.

So it is not unusual to see socialism become so popular as an idea. It sounds wonderful. Everybody's going to share and share alike.

But then you dig down, and you find out historically, you can't have socialism; you can't have communism unless you have a big, powerful government, strong enough that it can take from those who earn things and give it to those who didn't, without their permission, and punish them if they try to object. That takes a big, strong government.

And our Founders found actually, if you let people keep what they earn, put a small tax on it so you keep order in the country, that that is far more productive. That is how the United States has been the greatest economy, and still is, in the world.

But those freedoms are going away. We are no longer ranked as the freest country in the world. And as those freedoms diminish, it shouldn't be a big surprise that freedoms are diminishing as people that don't understand what it takes to preserve liberty and self-government come in, unabated, virtually. We are not stopping people from coming in.

I am hopeful, prayerful, I hope that we will be able to have our government do what has not been done, as far as I know, since Woodrow Wilson, and that is, have people on the border, use non-lethal means, and say, you are not coming in to our country illegally.

We ought to have a bipartisan bill passed pretty easily with regard to asylum that says, You can't come into the United States and claim asylum. You have got to go to the nearest embassy or an American embassy, somewhere to claim asylum.

But if you come into the country illegally, and your first act in America involves breaking the law, then we are not going to allow you to apply for asylum. And you would see these massive caravans stop overnight. That is why there is such fluctuation.

Earlier last year, numbers were way down. People in other countries thought Trump was going to stop them; that we had a President that wanted to do all he could to stop illegal immigration, secure the border.

But by the time they found out that his party was not going to be in the majority in the House, and that people said they want to eliminate all barriers and let people in, anybody that wanted to come here, not just the over 1 million that we give visas to, then the numbers picked up.

And when they got word that if you have a child, whether it is yours or somebody else's, it doesn't matter, that gets you into the country, and keeps you in the country, get a child. Bring a child. That is the thing to do.

It is really outrageous what that has done to children. Now they are an important commodity to the drug cartels. Make sure, whoever you are, wherever you are coming from, even if you are an MS-13er, bring a kid with you, bring a child; because the United States made such a big deal about we won't separate children from parents, even though, to American citizens, we separate children from parents every single day of the year because, in America, at least in the past, we didn't believe in putting children in confinement for crimes their parents committed.

As a judge, I don't know how many warrants I signed, but I would never allow a child to be incarcerated because of the alleged crime of their parents. We don't do that. So we separate

children from their parents every day in America, in every county in America, in every State in America. It happens all the time, because we don't punish the children for the sins of their parents.

But once word got out that if you come to America illegally with a child, you have got a good chance of staying in, claim asylum, the courts are backed up, and you have got a good chance of staying for years; and once you are here a number of years, just don't show up for your asylum hearing, and they won't know where you are, and you will be in good shape.

It has got to stop. The American people expect us to protect them, protect the Constitution, and we have not done a good job of that because there seems, so often, right here in this room, more devotion to people that hate America, that still want to come here, than there is to those who are legally here, that are saying, I don't want to be a victim of a crime; would you please protect me from people coming in illegally that may commit a crime against me.

And it shouldn't even have to be said, but because we have so many "lame stream" media folks who either are liars by trade, or simply that ignorant—no, all immigrants are not criminals or people looking to commit crimes such as robbery, rape, destruction, murder; but they do happen.

When you look at the percentages of people in our Federal prison who are in the country illegally, an objective bystander looking on would go: Wow, why is this country doing that?

Why are they letting all these people in illegally, when they may have 20, 25 percent in their prison who are there because they are in the country illegally? Why are they letting that go on?

And the only answer from an accurate cynic would be, Well, it is for politics. They think it is good for one political party, so they keep it up.

That is so dramatic, such a dramatic demonstration of where the real problems are in this country.

And I have heard my friend, now Senator MARSHA BLACKBURN, point out, every city in America is now a border city, because of all of the illegal aliens that they are having to take care of.

But an article in the *Federalist*, by John Daniel Davidson, April 4—it is actually his testimony before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee—but he says: "I visited a migrant respite center in McAllen, Texas, run by Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, the charitable arm of the Diocese of Brownsville. Sister Norman Pimentel helped establish the center in 2014, at the height of the unaccompanied minor crisis, when Immigration and Customs Enforcement was overwhelmed with thousands of children and teenagers turning themselves in to U.S. Border Patrol agents.

"At that time, the center was receiving between 60 and 120 migrants a day,

nearly all of them families from Central America. Here's how it worked: Every afternoon, ICE dropped off the families at the Greyhound bus station downtown, about a mile from the respite center. Greyhound employees would call the center to let them know the migrants were there, and the center would send vans to pick them up.

"Once at the center, the children would be sent to a separate room for a hot meal while the parents took turns working with volunteers to get in touch with friends and family members all over the country."

Or, as we have seen, sometimes those are not friends and family; they are people to which the drug cartels have ordered them.

"The goal was to get them all bus tickets and get them on their way that same day, usually later that evening, because the next day there would be another group of families coming in, and there simply wasn't space for more than a couple dozen people to spend the night there.

"This wasn't some gleaming facility. The center occupied one half of a run-down commercial building, consisting of a large multipurpose room, a bathroom and a shower, a small kitchen, and a separate room for the makeshift cafeteria. There was an area in a corner of the main room cordoned off for young children to play and a large stack of blue plastic mattresses in another corner."

Anyway, "in December, the diocese moved the center to a larger location, a former nursing home, about 16,000 square feet. . . . that's because the number of migrants skyrocketed. Today, the new respite center is receiving about 800 people a day"—800 people a day—"sometimes more. Last Sunday, 1,300 people were dropped off there and at other shelters around town."

I mean, this is what is going on on our border, when we are the most generous country in the world.

Some people even in this room will shout: You know, we are a Nation of immigrants. That is right. And that is why we are so—we are the most generous country in the world when it comes to giving free passes into America. Nobody gives a million or more visas for legal entry into their country. Nobody. Not these countries that are geographically bigger. Not countries that have a number of times the population. No, nobody is that generous as we are with letting immigrants in.

So it is outrageous to say, because we want to limit those coming in to the very—the most generous number in the world, that we say come in legally, what is wrong with that?

As has been said before, a nation with no borders will not be a nation much longer. Not for long.

But, we find out, yeah, it is a moneymaker. It is a moneymaker for the drug cartels. Some people profit off the people coming in here illegally. The people that work here, either from

drugs or legitimate businesses, they send an awful lot of money home, and that is the kind of people we want, people that care about their families, want to help them provide, make their way. That is a very noble thing to send money home to family. Unfortunately, that is not all the people that are coming in these days.

I want to touch on one other matter, and that's with regard to the special counsel. I know there are people, the House and Senate, that say, Oh, you know, Robert Mueller is the gold standard when it comes to prosecutor. I submit that is some pretty tarnished gold with an awful lot of impurities, speaking metaphorically.

□ 1400

So I wasn't surprised when we learned that the Mueller report indicated, really, there is plenty of evidence Russians were trying to get the Trump campaign to conspire with them; no evidence they did conspire with the Russians.

Through the years of questioning Robert Mueller in our committee and doing a lot of research on the man, it would explain why I was so upset when he was appointed as special counsel, because I wanted somebody who would be fair and investigate all parts. But when we look back now, we see all the indictments that came as a result of having a special counsel, not one single one of the indictments involved a conspiracy of any kind between anybody at the Trump campaign, including our President, and Russia.

What we have learned from all the evidence we have gleaned in committee and in public is that there was a conspiracy, and it involved top people at the Department of Justice; it involved top people at the FBI; it involved the Clinton campaign; it involved Fusion GPS; it involved a foreign agent named Steele. He is a foreign agent.

And, by the way, our great Justice Department, such as it is—or was in the last couple years—never bothered to tell the FISA court: This man has no credibility with the FBI. We have stopped using him as an agent of our government, the foreign agent that he is, because he is not trustworthy.

Never bothered to tell the judge that.

And I don't know if it was one FISA judge or more, but the fact is that the FISA judges, nobody has punished any of the applicants, or affiants, that have come in and sworn before them that this is true to the best of their knowledge.

That was a lie. They didn't give the judge the best of their knowledge. It was a lie and they knew it, and they did it four times.

I have lost respect for whoever in the FISA court would not call those lawyers in, or the FBI agents, and say: You lied to me when you didn't tell me the full truth. You committed a fraud on my court, and now I need to decide how long I am putting you in jail.

They haven't done that. That tells me we either need to get rid of the

FISA courts or we need to have such a big overhaul because they have gotten too comfortable in that star chamber.

And I know all of them haven't, because I know there are some good judges who have been nominated, confirmed by the Senate, and sit on Federal benches. I know there are plenty of good ones. I have got too many good friends not to know that. But we at least have some who don't care when they are lied to if it furthers their own political ideas, because that is the bottom line.

Why would the FISA court or courts that have been lied to, had fraud against the court, why would they not have already punished the people who committed the fraud against their court?

It seems to me it has got to be one of two reasons:

They must be dishonest people; therefore, they don't mind being lied to; or

They were so politically aligned with the people who were committing the fraud upon their court that they are fine with the fraud because it helped accomplish their political agenda as well as the ones who committed the fraud.

We need to do something about the FISA courts. It is a real problem.

I know there are a lot of people who think: Well, no, it is not really a problem because it has only been abused against Republicans, and we hate Donald Trump, didn't want him to be President, and so it is okay for them to abuse the FISA court system and the warrant system and the First and Fourth and Fifth and Sixth Amendments. It is okay to abuse those because we don't like the people being abused.

But there is a reason that we have an adversarial system. With all its flaws, it is the best there has ever been anywhere when it comes to justice. We are not supposed to allow the kind of thing that has now happened.

I was not surprised when Mueller couldn't help himself, Weissmann couldn't help himself: Yeah, the evidence is not there to prosecute anybody, but we want you to know we are not exonerating him.

Well, that is not a prosecutor's job. If a prosecutor learns that a crime has most likely—has probably been committed and that a person has probably committed it and they find out a crime has been committed, they look for a person who probably committed the crime. That is the job.

When you find the person, you gather enough evidence that you can have probable cause that they committed the crime. You get them indicted. You pursue them, prosecute them, convict them, sentence them. That is how it is supposed to work.

A prosecutor is not supposed to ever go into something to exonerate somebody. You don't go into it looking for evidence that exonerates somebody. You are looking for evidence that

shows they are guilty. And if you don't find evidence that establishes they are guilty, then you are supposed to move on; although, Mueller has had a problem with that.

We also have seen the history, whether it was Comey admitting that—it sounded like he admitted a crime, because he leaked information that he knew should not have been disclosed to a professor so that he would get it to The New York Times so that they could have a justification for appointing a special prosecutor. Wow.

You have got 18 U.S.C. 1905, disclosure of confidential information. That is a general provision. It is a felony to disclose confidential information. You have got other laws.

Well, this from the DOJ, their own regulations. If you look at 1-7.110, it says: "It is against the law to disclose classified information to someone not authorized to receive it."

But that has gone on during the years Mueller was head of the FBI.

We have had FBI agents make clear: No way we could prosecute a Member of Congress without the knowledge and okay of the Director of the FBI.

That would be Mueller when they were pursuing Ted Stevens, Senator. They fabricated a case against the man. He had evidence he was not just not guilty, but completely innocent.

But you do your investigation. You gather up all the evidence that would show somebody is innocent, completely innocent, 100 percent innocent, and you don't let them have all their stuff back and you manufacture evidence. You threaten a witness to get them to lie so you can convict somebody. That happened to Ted Stevens.

When I first heard, gee, he had added a \$700,000 addition to his home, something like that, I am going, well, he should have known better than that. Surely you are going to try a guy for that.

Well, it turns out he overpaid. He even told the contractor: Just cash my checks. I have to overpay, because they are watching everything I do, and I have got to keep my nose clean.

They still went after him and convicted him immediately before an election that he narrowly lost.

Thank God there was an FBI agent with a conscience who did an affidavit so the judge found out that the prosecutor, the FBI, had framed Ted Stevens for a crime he didn't commit.

Those people should have been disbarred. They should have been thrown out of the FBI. But the only guy forced out was the one who did the affidavit, because Mueller—obviously, it had to be done with his knowledge, that you run the guy off that had a conscience and reported it to the court and you keep on the FBI agent that helped fabricate the case against the longest serving Republican in the Senate at the time.

He wouldn't have been on that plane where he was killed if it hadn't been for Mueller's FBI and the framing of

Ted Stevens. So he lost his seat in the Senate, even though he was later exonerated.

And, of course, you know, we have these repeated examples. I am not even going to go back into the Whitey Bulger situation when Mueller was in Boston.

But, you know, Curt Weldon, serving here in the House, he was giving speeches right here over and over about the FBI could have stopped 9/11.

I didn't know what he was saying, whether it was true or not. He talked about a program Able Danger, but I sure did feel like Mueller needed to respond, because this was a serious allegation against his FBI.

Unbeknownst to me, he was going to respond, but not with a statement that Curt Weldon was wrong. No. What they did, and I put the story—I have got a lot of examples. I was doing an op-ed so people would know some about Mueller that I know and had found out and read about.

Anyway, I started an op-ed. I let my friend Sean Hannity know: I am doing an op-ed on Mueller, and normally papers only want 500, 800 words, max, for an op-ed, and I am already at 2,000.

Sean said: Just do it.

And, you know, it doesn't make me a dime in my case as a Member of Congress, but I felt like the story needed to get out. So Sean said: Well, yeah, we can put it up on the Internet. People can download it.

It ended up being 48 pages, but one of the things I brought out was Curt Weldon's situation.

So I will read from the story that I included. This was from an article by WND: "Each of Weldon's 10 previous re-elections had been by sizeable margins. Polls showed he was up by five to seven points in the fall of 2006. Three weeks prior to the election, however, a national story ran about Weldon based upon anonymous sources—they had to have come from the FBI—that an investigation was underway against him and his daughter, alleging illegal activities involving his congressional work."

A week after the news story broke, alleging a need to act quickly because of the leak—and, see, this is typical for Mueller and his crime team. They leak information and then tell the judge: We have got to do something quick because this information is getting out.

Yeah. You leaked it.

Just like when they used this dossier. I used to have respect for dossiers. Now it is a pejorative. But it was prepared by a foreign agent named Christopher Steele, hired by the Clinton campaign, using Fusion GPS, using others like Nellie Ohr, wife of FBI top official Bruce Ohr, and they used this guy's dossier. Information from Christopher Steele's dossier, as fabricated as it was, was provided to a reporter who did a story about it.

It was one of the other frauds upon the court. They tell the court: See, not only do we have this information from

Christopher Steele, a foreign agent that is untrustworthy—unfortunately, they didn't tell the judge that. They knew it, but they didn't tell it.

And they said: And look here. Here is a story that also has this information that corroborates Christopher Steele—not bothering to tell the judge, actually, that is Christopher Steele corroborating Christopher Steele. And he didn't even—he just talked to people in Russia.

□ 1415

So, you got a foreign agent using foreign agents. Who knows who they worked for. Maybe Putin. So a foreign agent using foreign agents in Russia, as he worked for the Clinton Foundation, Fusion GPS, to prepare opposition research that was not true against the opposing campaign for president.

So they didn't bother to tell the judge then here in Curt Weldon's case. It must have been somebody from the FBI leaked that they were going after Curt Weldon that helped them get the media involved and a judge to sign off on a warrant.

And, gee, when they show up early in the morning at 7 a.m., before business on a Monday morning—local TV and print media had all been alerted about the raid—well, who would have done that, but the FBI agents or maybe Mueller or one of his minions. They leaked to the media: They are all out there and they were in position to cover the story.

Within hours, Democratic protestors were waving "Caught Red-Handed" signs outside Curt Weldon's district office. But it turns out there was no follow-up, there were no questions, no grand jury investigation, nothing.

That is why they later called Curt Weldon's family and said: Hey, all that stuff we got in our raid, you know, you can come get it. Apparently, we didn't use it in a grand jury investigation.

No, they just used it to defeat Curt Weldon.

So, it shouldn't be a surprise when Mueller's report said: We didn't have evidence of a crime by the Trump administration or Trump campaign regarding collusion or any of that, but we didn't exonerate him.

Well, no, that is not your job. Of course, you don't exonerate somebody.

But as special counsel—it sure seemed just like Comey, these guys that were all in tight. You know, Comey, there was a great article some years back about basically he and Mueller are joined at the hip.

What a great gift for Mueller, though. He is begging President Trump to appoint him again back to being director of the FBI after Comey was fired based on Rosenstein's memo. And the President said: No, I am not going to give you a job.

Twenty-four hours later, he grabs a job that will allow him to go after the man who wouldn't hire him as FBI director.

Mueller, if he had any sense of decency, he would have told Rosenstein:

Look, you and I, Rosenstein, Rod, we were involved in the original Russia investigation when we know Russia was trying to get uranium illegally. We really shouldn't be involved in this Russia investigation. It may bleed over. And the President is supposed to investigate. He wouldn't hire me yesterday. That will look bad.

But you would have thought a man of decency would have recused himself, which Mueller did not do. There are so many reasons for both him, Rosenstein, and certainly Weissman—they were all involved in that original Russia investigation on uranium that they put a lid on so that the sale could go through, because, let's face it, the Clinton Foundation wouldn't have gotten that \$145 million from the people profiting from the uranium sale of U.S. uranium, ultimately to Russia. It wouldn't have happened.

But Mueller not only did not recuse himself, he accepted the job and immediately went about hiring people that hated Trump like he did. That is not the mark of a real man of justice, a real person of justice.

And he had a policy, when he was FBI director, the 5-year up-or-out policy, that caused us to lose, as was previously reported, thousands and thousands of years of experience. Why? If you got people experienced, they can tell you when you are screwing up, doing something wrong as FBI director. He just wanted young people who would salute the flag and do whatever he said. Very unfortunate.

So he brought down Ted Stevens. He brought down Curt Weldon. And what about Dr. Steven Hatfill? I mean, the story was that President Bush called him in—There is no evidence that Hatfill had anything to do with this anthrax. Why are you still after it? Are you sure he is the guy? And Mueller said: I am 100 percent certain; is what was reported.

And that is because, as the saying goes, normally Mueller—well, I guess the saying is: Often wrong, but never in doubt.

He tells President Bush: I am 100 percent certain. Yes, Hatfill is the guy.

He wasn't the guy. And that is why it cost the government a \$6 million or such settlement for destroying his life.

If you look at Scooter Libby, Scooter Libby was framed, let's face it. And there is a great story explaining all that, in fact, how Judith Miller was manipulated. That poor person suffered as a result of trying to do the right thing. But she was ultimately persuaded that Scooter Libby said something he didn't. And she later, as it said, when Miller read Plame's own memoir, in there discovered that Plame had worked at a State Department bureau as a cover for a real CIA role. That discovery, in Miller's words, left her cold. The idea that the bureau, in her notebook, meant CIA had been planted in her head by Fitzgerald or the FBI. It was a strange word to use for the CIA. Reading Plame's memoir,

Miller realized that bureau was in brackets because it related to her work at the State Department. In other words, she shouldn't have testified against Scooter Libby. She was set up and manipulated and, as a result, a good man's life was destroyed.

But you will find, Mueller never apologizes when he always gets his man. It is just sometimes it is wrong. It needs more investigation. Not the Trump administration, but Mueller.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 8, 2019, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

609. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's interim final rule — Margin Requirements for Uncleared Swaps for Swap Dealers and Major Swap Participants (RIN: 3038-AE85) received April 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

610. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Swap Dealer and Intermediary Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Department's final rule — De Minimis Exception to the Swap Dealer Definition—Swaps Entered into by Insured Depository Institutions in Connection with Loans to Customers (RIN: 3038-AE68) received April 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

611. A letter from the Chief, Officer Accessions Policy Branch [G1/DMPM], Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schools and Colleges [Docket ID: USA-2018-HQ-0018] (RIN: 0702-AA89) received April 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

612. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Repeal of DFARS Clause "Oral Attestation of Security Responsibilities" (DFARS Case 2019-D006) [Docket: DARS-2019-0014] (RIN: 0750-AK41) received April 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

613. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Repeal of Congressional Notification for Certain Task-and-Delivery-Order Contracts (DFARS Case 2019-0007) [Docket: DARS-2019-0007] (RIN: 0750-AK45) received April 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec.

251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

614. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Consent to Subcontract (DFARS Case 2018-D065) [Docket: DARS-2019-0006] (RIN: 0750-AK24) received April 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

615. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Repeal of Certain Defense Acquisition Laws (DFARS Case 2018-D059) [Docket: DARS-2019-0013] (RIN: 0750-AK20) received April 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

616. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause "Utilization of Indian Organizations, Indian-Owned Economic Enterprises, and Native Hawaiian Small Business Concerns" (DFARS Case 2018-D051) [Docket: DARS-2019-0012] (RIN: 0750-AK06) received April 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

617. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Alabama: Adamsville, City of, Jefferson County, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2019-0003; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8571] received April 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

618. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Major final rule — Delay of Effective Date; Regulatory Capital Rule: Implementation and Transition of the Current Expected Credit Losses Methodology for Allowances and Related Adjustments to the Regulatory Capital Rule and Conforming Amendments to Other Regulations (RIN: 3064-AE74) received April 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

619. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's interim final rule — Margin and Capital Requirements for Covered Swap Entities (RIN: 3064-AF00) received April 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

620. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Opportunities and Responsibilities for State and Local Report Cards Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, As Amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act received April 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

621. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulfonic acid monosodium salt polymer with 2-propenoic acid, 2-

methyl-, C12-16 alkyl esters; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0058; FRL-9988-62] received April 2, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

622. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period January 1, 2019, to March 31, 2019, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a (H. Doc. No. 116-26); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

623. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalty Amounts for 2019 [Docket No.: FR-6139-F-01] (RIN: 2501-AD90) received April 3, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

624. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Offering a Lump-Sum Payment Option to Retirees Currently Receiving Annuity Payments under a Defined Benefit Plan [Notice 2019-18] received April 2, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

625. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Permitted disparity in employer-provided contributions or benefits (Revenue Ruling 2019-06) received April 2, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

626. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Announcement and Report Concerning Advance Pricing Agreements [Announcement 2019-03] received April 2, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

627. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Chapter 4 Regulations Relating to Verification and Certification Requirements for Certain Entities and Reporting by Foreign Financial Institutions [TD 9852] (RIN: 1545-BL96) received April 2, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

628. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Reportable Transactions Penalties under Section 6707A [TD 9853] (RIN: 1545-BK62) received April 2, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. House Resolution 243. Resolution of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Attorney General to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of

Representatives relating to the actions of former Federal Bureau of Investigation Acting Director Andrew McCabe; with an amendment (Rept. 116-33). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 2079. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit certain member banks from using discount window lending programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. BERA, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Miss RICE of New York):

H.R. 2080. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for a Federal, cost-of-living based minimum wage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. VELA, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 2081. A bill to amend the Animal Health Protection Act to establish a grant program for research on chronic wasting disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself and Mr. WRIGHT):

H.R. 2082. A bill to provide for parental notification and intervention in the case of an unemancipated minor seeking an abortion; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORREA (for himself, Mr. MAST, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 2083. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 regarding the procurement of certain items related to national security interests for Department of Homeland Security frontline operational components, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. ADERHOLT (for himself and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 2084. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to raise the minimum age restriction with respect to the sale of tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 2085. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a public health insurance option, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 2086. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 2087. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require certain manufacturers to report drug pricing information

with respect to drugs under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STANTON (for himself and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 2088. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to reauthorize the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. FINKENAUER (for herself, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. KIND, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. LAHOOD, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. PASCARELL, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 2089. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for 2 years tax credits with respect to biodiesel and renewable diesel; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 2090. A bill to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. MOORE, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GALLEGRO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BERA, Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. HIMES, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. WELCH, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. KILMER, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RYAN, Mr. AGUILAR, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 2091. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 2092. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to set a health-protective numerical emission limitation for hydrogen cyanide under section 112 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GAETZ, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CORREA, Mr. BUCK, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. CRIST, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 2093. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule re-

garding the application of the Act to marijuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 2094. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 2095. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, for the purpose of addressing public health crises, to require the manufacturers of covered products to develop, maintain, and update a plan to mitigate the effects of such products on public health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. SANCHEZ):

H.R. 2096. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax credits for energy storage technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 2097. A bill to recognize the Hmong, Khmer, Laotian, and other ethnic groups commonly referred to as Montagnards, who supported and defended the Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia, authorize assistance to support activities relating to clearance of unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2098. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a veterans visa program to permit veterans who have been removed from the United States to return as immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. VELA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. SERRANO):

H.R. 2099. A bill to expand the workforce of veterinarians specialized in the care and conservation of wild animals and their ecosystems, and to develop educational programs focused on wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIMES (for himself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio):

H.R. 2100. A bill to promote the creation of State anonymous school threat reporting programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2101. A bill to provide for restrictions on recently appointed Federal employees and recently separated Federal employees with

respect to lobbying activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. DELGADO, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. DEAN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. KIM):

H.R. 2102. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish hospital care and medical services to veterans and dependents who were stationed at military installations at which the veterans and dependents were exposed to perfluorooctanoic acid or other per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, to provide for a presumption of service connection for certain veterans who were stationed at military installations at which the veterans were exposed to such substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LAMB (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RYAN, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. POCAN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. MENG, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 2103. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow workers an above-the-line deduction for union dues and expenses and to allow a miscellaneous itemized deduction for workers for all unreimbursed expenses incurred in the trade or business of being an employee; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 2104. A bill to clarify that no express or implied warranty is provided by reason of a disclosure relating to voluntary participation in the Energy Star program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. COLE, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 2105. A bill to establish the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Advisory Committee to advise the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture on wildlife and habitat conservation, hunting, recreational shooting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. COLE, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 2106. A bill to amend section 100905 of title 54, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to require annual permits and assess annual fees for commercial filming activities on Federal land for film crews of 5 persons or fewer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H.R. 2107. A bill to expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students and improve textbook price informa-

tion; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PALMER (for himself and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 2108. A bill to allow individuals to choose to opt out of the Medicare part A benefit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself and Mr. COOK):

H.R. 2109. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in awarding a contract for the procurement of goods or services, to give a preference to offerors that employ veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. VAN DREW, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GALLEG0, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

H.R. 2110. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to eliminate the section 251A sequestrations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DEUTCH, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2111. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Reducing Youth Use of E-Cigarettes Initiative; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself and Mr. HILL of Arkansas):

H.R. 2112. A bill to establish the Refund to Rainy Day Savings Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. GUTHRIE):

H. Res. 290. A resolution supporting increased awareness of sepsis and the importance of early diagnosis and appropriate intervention; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. FRANKEL (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. KEATING, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. BERA, Mr. GALLEG0, Ms. SHALALA, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. RUSH, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CROW, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. VELA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. MALINOWSKI):

H. Res. 291. A resolution recognizing that contributions of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization are vital to United States national security; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself and Mr. WATKINS):

H. Res. 292. A resolution celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

16. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of North Dakota, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 3029, urging Congress to pass a federal prohibition on abortions performed 20 weeks postfertilization; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

17. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Iowa, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 10, recognizing the importance of multilateral trade agreements to Iowa's economy and urging Congress to enact legislation to implement a multilateral trade agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

18. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Arizona, relative to Senate Concurrent Memorial 1002, urging the United States Congress to provide full, timely and sustainable long-term funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 2079.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama:

H.R. 2080.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 2081.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution which gives Congress the power "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and within the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 2082.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

"The Congress shall have Power . . . to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

Congress shall have Power . . . "To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. CORREA:

H.R. 2083.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

(1) The U.S. Constitution including Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.R. 2084.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:
H.R. 2085.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:
H.R. 2086.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I

By Mr. DOGGETT:
H.R. 2087.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STANTON:
H.R. 2088.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8

By Ms. FINKENAUER:
H.R. 2089.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1:
The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:
H.R. 2090.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department thereof.

By Ms. SPEIER:
H.R. 2091.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DEGETTE:
H.R. 2092.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:
H.R. 2093.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:
H.R. 2094.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. DESAULNIER:
H.R. 2095.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 2096.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Sections 7 & 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DUFFY:
H.R. 2097.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GRIJALVA:
H.R. 2098.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mr. HASTINGS:
H.R. 2099.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. HIMES:
H.R. 2100.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, as this legislation provides for the general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:
H.R. 2101.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or office thereof.

By Mr. KILDEE:
H.R. 2102.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LAMB:
H.R. 2103.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. LATTA:
H.R. 2104.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LATTA:
H.R. 2105.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2
The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States

Amendment II
A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

By Mr. LATTA:
H.R. 2106.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States

By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 2107.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. PALMER:
H.R. 2108.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1. Section 8. Clause 18
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Miss RICE of New York:
H.R. 2109.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:
H.R. 2110.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 7

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, 2, 18
By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:
H.R. 2111.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:
H.R. 2112.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 6: Ms. KAPTUR.
- H.R. 9: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CLAY, and Ms. SPEIER.
- H.R. 20: Mr. MITCHELL.
- H.R. 35: Mr. GARAMENDI.
- H.R. 40: Mr. COOPER.
- H.R. 95: Ms. WEXTON and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
- H.R. 101: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HICE of Georgia, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
- H.R. 218: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. KATKO, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. EMMER, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. ARRINGTON.
- H.R. 303: Mr. RASKIN.
- H.R. 307: Ms. MENG.
- H.R. 336: Mr. MARSHALL.
- H.R. 446: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
- H.R. 497: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. BANKS.
- H.R. 530: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. CROW.
- H.R. 534: Mr. RUSH.
- H.R. 535: Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 555: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. EVANS.
- H.R. 586: Mr. BYRNE.
- H.R. 594: Mr. RUSH and Mr. HOLDING.
- H.R. 598: Mr. KEATING.
- H.R. 641: Ms. SCANLON and Mr. NEGUSE.
- H.R. 647: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. VAN DREW.
- H.R. 737: Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. UPTON.
- H.R. 759: Mr. ALLRED.
- H.R. 838: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 858: Mrs. LURIA.
 H.R. 874: Ms. SCANLON, Ms. FRANKEL, and Mr. NADLER.
 H.R. 965: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. ALLRED.
 H.R. 976: Ms. WATERS.
 H.R. 996: Mr. RUSH.
 H.R. 1006: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. WITTMAN.
 H.R. 1025: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
 H.R. 1042: Mr. LIPINSKI.
 H.R. 1043: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mrs. AXNE.
 H.R. 1044: Mr. JEFFRIES.
 H.R. 1049: Ms. MENG.
 H.R. 1066: Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 1080: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Ms. SANCHEZ.
 H.R. 1133: Mr. LAMB.
 H.R. 1154: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 1197: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 1224: Mr. POSEY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. DELBENE, and Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 1225: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. RIGGLEMAN.
 H.R. 1228: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
 H.R. 1243: Mr. RYAN.
 H.R. 1287: Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 1327: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
 H.R. 1400: Mr. HIMES.
 H.R. 1410: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota and Mr. VAN DREW.
 H.R. 1471: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 1489: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 1499: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. PAPPAS.
 H.R. 1503: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. WALDEN.
 H.R. 1520: Mr. WALDEN.
 H.R. 1568: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. NEGUSE.
 H.R. 1579: Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 1595: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
 H.R. 1610: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
 H.R. 1628: Mr. CASE.
 H.R. 1629: Mr. WITTMAN.
 H.R. 1641: Mr. BYRNE, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. LAMB, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. ESPALLAT.
 H.R. 1644: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BERA, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. BASS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. HECK, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 1675: Mr. KHANNA.
 H.R. 1680: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. GIBBS, and Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 1706: Mr. PERRY.
 H.R. 1709: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. MENG, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 1730: Mr. BUCSHON and Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 1741: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
 H.R. 1753: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
 H.R. 1759: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 1791: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 1830: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. YOUNG.
 H.R. 1837: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. OLSON, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. COLE, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. DEAN, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 1857: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
 H.R. 1863: Mr. COLE, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1865: Mr. TONKO, Mr. COX of California, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 1869: Mr. WALKER, Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. CLAY.
 H.R. 1873: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 1895: Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 1896: Mr. CISNEROS.
 H.R. 1903: Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 1911: Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, and Mr. SPANO.
 H.R. 1933: Mr. GALLAGHER.
 H.R. 1938: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 1957: Mr. WATKINS and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 1987: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 1992: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 1995: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 2000: Mr. CROW.
 H.R. 2009: Mr. RUSH.
 H.R. 2010: Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. GAETZ.
 H.R. 2048: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 2062: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. BURCHETT.
 H. Con. Res. 29: Mr. RUSH.
 H. Con. Res. 30: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H. Res. 23: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H. Res. 49: Mr. ALLRED and Ms. OMAR.
 H. Res. 54: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H. Res. 60: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. HILL of California.
 H. Res. 127: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
 H. Res. 222: Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. BEYER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BALDERSON, and Ms. BARRAGAN.
 H. Res. 246: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. STANTON, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. BRADY, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. MAST, Mr. CROW, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. HORSFORD, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.
 H. Res. 273: Mr. PENCE, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
 H. Res. 277: Mr. COOPER.
 H. Res. 279: Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Mr. HARDER of California.
 H. Res. 287: Mr. COSTA, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. MENG, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1904: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. BUCK, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, and Mrs. LEE of Nevada.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

5. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Council of the District of Columbia, relative to Resolution 23-47, declaring the sense of

the Council that the District of Columbia is committed to promoting the human rights and well-being of all its residents, workers, and visitors; and to call on the federal government to prevent nuclear war; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

6. Also, a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, TX, relative to urging Congress to enact legislation that would prohibit Members of Congress and State Legislators from serving as delegates to a convention the purpose of which would be to ratify an already-drafted and already-proposed amendment to the United States Constitution, pursuant to the Constitution's Article V, if Congress specifies the convention mode of ratification, as occurred in the year 1933; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 1, April 2, 2019, by Mr. SCALISE on House Resolution 102, was signed by the following Members: Mr. Scalise, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Hartzler, Ms. Foxx of North Carolina, Ms. Cheney, Mrs. Walorski, Mrs. Roby, Mrs. Brooks of Indiana, Mr. Collins of New York, Ms. Granger, Mr. Brady, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Bost, Mr. McKinley, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Ratcliffe, Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Newhouse, Mr. Balderson, Mr. Baird, Mr. David P. Roe of Tennessee, Mr. Timmons, Mr. Johnson of Louisiana, Mr. LaMalfa, Mr. Johnson of Ohio, Mr. Olson, Mr. Sensenbrenner, Mr. Calvert, Ms. Herrera Beutler, Mr. Long, Mr. Babin, Mr. Chabot, Mr. Womack, Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania, Mr. Johnson of South Dakota, Mr. Weber of Texas, Mr. Cloud, Mr. Fulcher, Mr. Crenshaw, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Davidson of Ohio, Mr. Estes, Mr. Smith of New Jersey, Mr. Hice of Georgia, Mr. Green of Tennessee, Mrs. Rodgers of Washington, Mr. Bucshon, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Stauber, Mr. McClintock, Mr. Marshall, Mrs. Lesko, Mr. Higgins of Louisiana, Mr. Norman, Mr. Hagedorn, Mr. Carter of Georgia, Mr. Aderholt, Mr. Flores, Mr. Meuser, Mr. Wenstrup, Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Latta, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Walberg, Mr. Kustoff of Tennessee, Ms. Stefanik, Mr. Watkins, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Gianforte, Mr. LaHood, Mr. Smith of Nebraska, Mr. Allen, Mr. Westerman, Mr. Williams, Mr. Pence, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Gonzalez of Ohio, Mr. Diaz-Balart, Mr. Bishop of Utah, Mr. Wittman, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania, Mr. Amash, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Bacon, Mr. Arrington, Mr. Moolenaar, Mr. Budd, Mr. Reschenthaler, Mr. John W. Rose of Tennessee, Mr. Kevin Hern of Oklahoma, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Joyce of Ohio, Mr. Burchett, Mr. Spano, Mr. Hill of Arkansas, Mr. Rogers of Alabama, Mr. Gaetz, Mr. Biggs, Mr. Wright, Mr. Gosar, Mr. Cook, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Riggleman, Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, Mr. Bergman, Mr. Emmer, Mr. Comer, Mr. Webster of Florida, Mr. Meadows, Mr. Guest, Mr. Holding, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Hurd of Texas, Mr. Gooden, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Conaway, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Massie, Mr. Brooks of Alabama, Mr. Smith of Missouri, Mr. Rice of South Carolina, Mr. Graves of Georgia, Mr. DesJarlais, Mr. Fortenberry, Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia, Mr. Walker, Mr. Banks, Mr. Cole, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Yoho, Mr. Mooney of West Virginia, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Thornberry, Mr. Woodall, Mr. Cline, Mr. Walden, Mr. Steil, Mr. Huizenga, Mr. Waltz, Mr. Stivers, Mr. Turner, Mr. Tipton, Mr. Smucker, Mr. Zeldin, Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Grothman, Mr. Luetkemeyer, Mr. Steube, Mr. Fleischmann, Mr. Lamborn, Mr. Posey, Mr. Reed, Mr. Nunes, Mr. Buck, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Kinzinger, Mr. Marchant, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Rogers of Kentucky, Mr. Perry, Mr. Barr, Mr. Collins of

April 4, 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H3103

Georgia, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Kelly of Mississippi, Mr. Katko, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Harris, Mr. Young, Mr. Rodney Davis of Illinois, Mr. Bilirakis, Mr. Palazzo, Mr. Gohmert, Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. King of Iowa, Mr. Carter of Texas, Mr. McCaul, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Mast, Mr. Schweikert, Mr. Amodei, Mr. Shimkus, Mr. Graves of Louisiana, Mr. Lipinski, Mr. McAdams, Mr. Roy, Mr. McHenry, Mr. Graves of Missouri, Mr. Duffy, Mr. Rouzer, Mr. Upton, Mr. Abraham, Mr. King of New York, Mr. Peterson.



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Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

No. 59

Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord and Ruler, Your Name is great, and we see Your glory in the Heavens. We are grateful for this Nation and for the deliberative process of lawmaking, with its challenges and opportunities. As our Senators debate the issues that are vital to our freedom, give them wisdom, integrity, and courage. Lord, let them be fully persuaded in their minds about the course that will best bless America. Deliver them from a reluctance to respect honest differences as they remember their ultimate accountability to You. Bless and keep them now and always.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senate majority leader is recognized.

S. RES. 50

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate took an important step to restore sense and order to the way we approach the Executive Calendar. It is one of this body's most important responsibilities. Yet it has been hampered recently by a campaign of systematic and comprehensive ob-

struction that stands literally without precedent in American history.

I won't restate each part of our debate from the floor yesterday, but the objective facts of this situation are unambiguous. For the past 2 years, we have witnessed the accelerated erosion of the norms by which this body has historically considered Presidential nominations. We have seen a disappointing series of records broken in the process, such as 128 cloture votes on nominations in this President's first 2 years—more than 5 times as many as in the same period of every administration since Jimmy Carter, combined. Forty-two executive branch positions took cloture votes for the first time ever.

This has been a new level of paralysis, surrounding even the most qualified and least controversial nominees. In a way, it has been the natural outgrowth of the erosion on nominations that began back in 2003 when our current Democratic leader helped spur his side of the aisle to walk away from longstanding institutional norms and declare the Executive Calendar open season for regular, chronic filibuster tactics and forced cloture votes. That is when this relatively new mess began in earnest.

In 2013, in a truly bipartisan vote, a number of Republicans, including me, joined with Democrats to implement new expedited procedures for lower tier nominees. We put them in place right at the beginning of President Obama's second term, even as we on this side were still licking our wounds from the previous November's election result.

This week, our Democratic colleagues had the chance to reciprocate. They had the opportunity to do the parallel thing, exactly the same thing, and vote to limit undue Senate delays for this Republican administration the same way we Republicans did for President Obama's administration. Oh, but they weren't interested.

These days, I am sorry to say, the other side of the aisle seems to be

dominated by pure partisanship over absolutely everything else. Remember, it wasn't long ago that this current behavior would have appeared unimaginable. Just a few decades ago, the idea of routinely forcing 60-vote thresholds and extra delays on nominations was firmly in third-rail territory. Well, a lot has happened since then, but I hope my colleagues share my belief that the Senate's traditions and norms are its greatest assets. In that respect, yesterday was a very good day for this body as an institution.

The Senate has historically been defined by two traditions. One has preserved the power of the minority in considering legislation—to pump the brakes or force a second look. That includes the legislative filibuster, which I know many of us on both sides are 100 percent committed to preserving. In my view and in the view of many, it is inseparable from the way this body was designed. It is what keeps the Senate from swinging wildly back and forth between each party's entire agenda.

I don't think my Democratic colleagues who are running for President and publicly toying with undermining the legislative filibuster would be too keen to see Republicans enact our entire, full-tilt conservative agenda with just 51 votes, because some day the shoe will be on the other foot. The shoe, in fact, always at some point ends up on the other foot.

That is one tradition.

The second tradition, concerning nominations, has always been different. For decades and decades, it allowed for a reasonable process for the vast majority of Presidents' nominees. Yesterday, even though Democrats walked away and Republicans had to act alone, we took a big step toward restoring that second part of Senate tradition.

I am sure yesterday's progress has not resolved every sore spot. I feel certain that we have not seen the last of our Democratic colleagues' addiction

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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to endlessly relitigating the 2016 elections instead of moving forward. But with yesterday's action, the Senate has begun to move past this particularly shameful new chapter. We have turned the page on the kind of systematic obstruction and purely partisan delays that were completely foreign to this Chamber a few years ago but have since become a daily routine. Now more progress can take place.

Yesterday, after two unopposed committee votes and more than a year and a half after Jeffrey Kessler was named as President Trump's choice for Assistant Secretary of Commerce, his nomination was subjected to a cloture vote, 95 to 3. Because of our new procedures, he was confirmed by voice vote just 2 hours later. Then we voted to end debate on the nomination of Roy Altman to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida—another uncontroversial, bipartisan nominee. Today we will confirm him as well. Then we will vote to end debate on the nomination of Mark Calabria to direct the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and then we will vote to confirm him too.

Nominees will now be moving at a more reasonable pace, and important jobs are finally being filled. Already there is real progress thanks to yesterday's pivot back to the Senate's historic tradition. We will keep working to clear the backlog of talented individuals who are still waiting patiently behind them.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Mark Anthony Calabria, of Virginia, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho is recognized.

Mr. CRAPO. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to speak in support of the nomination of Mark Calabria to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, FHFA, for a 5-year term.

For over a decade, the FHFA has served as the regulator and watchdog

of the government-sponsored enterprises Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Bank System. Since 2008, when Fannie and Freddie were placed in conservatorship during the financial crisis, the FHFA has also served as conservator of these mortgage giants, charged with preserving and conserving their assets and helping to return them to stable financial footing.

As long as Fannie and Freddie remain in conservatorship, the FHFA Director will play an integral role in setting the strategic direction, the guardrails, and the day-to-day management of these companies, which have a combined \$5 trillion in assets.

It is critically important for the Senate to quickly confirm a qualified, experienced individual to this important post. Fortunately, Mark Calabria meets these requirements.

Dr. Calabria is a leading expert on housing and mortgage finance and a respected Ph.D. economist. He has almost 30 years of experience interacting with the housing market from nearly every perspective—academia, industry, trade associations, think tanks, as a congressional staffer, and as a regulator.

He has dedicated the majority of his career to public service, including as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, nearly a decade as a senior professional staff member on the Senate Banking Committee, and now as Chief Economist to Vice President MIKE PENCE. He has also worked for the National Association of Realtors, the National Association of Home Builders, the Farm Credit Council, the Harvard University Joint Center for Housing Studies, and recently at the CATO Institute as director of financial regulation studies.

Over the course of his public service career, Dr. Calabria has worked to champion market reforms that benefit consumers and enhance the safety and soundness of our housing finance system. He also has a long history of working across the aisle to deliver meaningful and lasting reforms.

As an official at HUD, Dr. Calabria oversaw HUD's regulation of the mortgage market, primarily under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, or RESPA.

During his time as a Senate staffer, he worked on over 20 pieces of legislation that became law, mostly in the areas of housing and mortgage finance.

In 2009, he worked on the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act, or the HEARTH Act, which strengthened our Nation's homelessness assistance programs.

Perhaps most notably, he played a key role in drafting the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, or HERA, which established the FHFA and created the position to which he is now nominated. From his work on HERA, Dr. Calabria has a keen understanding of the congressional intent

behind the law and therefore also a respect for FHFA's responsibilities and boundaries as a regulator.

During his hearing a few weeks ago, Dr. Calabria made a commitment to carrying out the clear intent of Congress in protecting taxpayers while also underscoring the importance of maintaining access to affordable housing. Before considering any action, Dr. Calabria has said he will first ask: What does the statute say?

He is also committed to working with me and other Members of this body to reach a comprehensive solution on ending the conservatorship of Fannie and Freddie once and for all. He agrees with me and many others that the action on housing finance reform that is needed today is the prerogative of Congress and that after over a decade of conservatorship, it is long overdue.

As Fannie and Freddie continue to dwell in government control, it appears that the old, failed status quo is slowly beginning to take hold again, with the government in some ways expanding its reach even further, entering new markets where it has never been before.

This status quo is not a viable option, and finding a comprehensive solution remains a top priority for me and the Banking Committee. The FHFA can also play an important role in helping us to move toward a more sustainable housing finance system, facilitated by an engaged and strongly capitalized private sector.

If confirmed, I look forward to working with Dr. Calabria on these and other efforts. Dr. Calabria's nomination has been met with substantial support from the housing industry. Many key stakeholders have written to the Banking Committee to emphasize the experience and trusted perspective that Dr. Calabria will bring to the Agency.

The National Association of Home Builders wrote:

Throughout his long career, Mark has proven himself to be a keen expert in housing finance policy, adding significant value to key policy discussions both on and off Capitol Hill. NAHB has full confidence that Mark is an excellent choice to be Director of the FHFA. We believe he will bring his usual high-level policy experience, outstanding communication skills, and consummate professionalism to this important regulatory Agency at a critical time for the housing finance industry.

The National Association of Realtors added:

Dr. Calabria's decades of experience in housing and finance policy have prepared him to implement the FHFA's mission. It has also helped him to understand the need for enhanced transparency at the FHFA and a methodical approach in the development and enforcement of its policies.

The Mortgage Bankers Association noted:

Dr. Calabria will utilize his significant experience in government and knowledge of both the single and multifamily business lines within the secondary mortgage market to protect taxpayers through an appropriate mix of risk-sharing and private capital, work

to maintain deep, stable, and liquid mortgage markets, and ensure sustainable access to affordable housing for all Americans.

The Manufactured Housing Institute added:

Without question, Dr. Calabria is well-qualified to lead the effort to strengthen the Nation's housing finance system and ensure access to safe, affordable homeownership alternatives.

It is important to have a Senate-confirmed leader at the FHFA, overseeing our mortgage markets and making sure taxpayers are well protected from another financial crisis.

Dr. Calabria is highly qualified, highly experienced, and well prepared for this new role. I support Dr. Calabria and urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes on his nomination.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

TAX REFORM

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, under President Obama, our economy languished. Recovery from the recession was historically slow and economic growth for his last year in office was an anemic 1.6 percent. Of course, all of that meant reduced economic prospects for American families. Wages were stagnant, and jobs and opportunities were often few and far between. Republicans knew that if we wanted to improve life for American families, we needed to get our economy going again.

As soon as we took office in 2017, we got right to work. We knew the biggest thing we had to do was overhaul our outdated Tax Code, which was acting as a major drag on economic growth. The Tax Code has a huge effect on economic growth and the kinds of jobs, wages, and opportunities available to American workers.

A small business owner struggling to afford a heavy tax bill is unlikely to have the money to hire a new worker or expand her business. A larger business is going to find it hard to create jobs or improve benefits for employees if it is struggling to stay competitive against foreign businesses paying much less in taxes.

Prior to the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, our Tax Code was not helping American workers. It was taking too much money from Americans' paychecks. It was making it difficult for businesses to grow and create jobs. So we passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to put more money in Americans' pockets, to spur economic growth, and expand opportunities for American workers. We cut tax rates for American families, doubled the child tax credit, and nearly doubled the standard deduction.

We lowered tax rates across the board for owners of small- and medium-sized businesses, farms, and ranches. We lowered our Nation's massive corporate tax rate, which up until January 1 of last year was the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world.

We expanded business owners' ability to recover the cost of investments that

they make in their businesses, which frees up cash that they can reinvest in their operations and in their workers, and we brought the U.S. international tax system into the 21st century so American businesses are not operating at a competitive disadvantage next to their foreign counterparts.

I am proud to report that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is doing exactly what it was supposed to do. It is growing our economy. It is creating jobs, and it is expanding benefits and opportunities for American workers. Economic growth from the fourth quarter of 2017 to the fourth quarter of 2018 was a strong 3 percent. The unemployment rate dropped to 3.8 percent in February, the 12th straight month that unemployment has been at or below 4 percent. That is the longest streak in nearly 50 years.

The Department of Labor reports that the number of job openings has exceeded the number of job seekers for 11 straight months. The economy has added more than 5.3 million jobs since President Trump was elected. Job growth has averaged 209,000 jobs a month over the past 12 months, exceeding the 2017 average by 30,000 jobs a month.

Wage growth has accelerated. Wages are growing at a rate of 3.4 percent, the seventh straight month in which wages have grown at a rate of 3 percent or greater. Median household income is at an all-time high. Business investment is up, which means more jobs and opportunities for American workers. U.S. manufacturing is booming; small business hiring recently hit a record high; and the list goes on.

So what is the Democrats' response to tax reform success—continue or expand the policies that have made life better for American families? Well, the answer is no. Instead, Democrats are proposing policies that would result in massive tax hikes on just about every American.

Consider Democrats' Medicare for All proposal, which would strip Americans of their private health insurance. The pricetag for this program is estimated at \$32 trillion over 10 years. To put that number in perspective, the entire Federal budget for 2019 is less than \$5 trillion. Democrats are talking about increasing Federal spending by more than 70 percent. One Medicare expert estimates that doubling the amount of individual and corporate income tax collected in this country would not be enough to cover the cost of Medicare for All. I don't know about my Democratic colleagues, but I don't know too many working families who would be able to afford to have their tax bill double.

While \$32 trillion is an insane pricetag, it is dwarfed by the pricetag for Democrat's comprehensive, socialist fantasy, the Green New Deal. An initial estimate suggests that the Green New Deal would cost \$93 trillion over 10 years—\$93 trillion. That is more money than the 2017 gross domestic

product for the entire world. It is more money than the U.S. government has spent in its entire history.

Democrats like to talk about taxing the rich to pay for various initiatives, but the fact is, there aren't enough rich people in America to even come close to paying for the Green New Deal, even if you taxed every one of these people at a rate of 100 percent.

Democrats' socialist fantasies would be paid for on the backs of working families. Families would face huge tax hikes that would permanently lower their standard of living, but that is not all. Families would also see a steep decline in the jobs and opportunities available to them. Tax reform has enabled and encouraged businesses to invest in and grow, which is resulting in better wages and benefits and increased opportunities for American workers. None of the growth we are seeing from businesses would last under the tax hikes businesses would face to pay for Democrats' socialist fantasies. Instead of thinking about expanding, companies would be thinking about how they could shrink their workforces or move jobs and investments overseas. Instead of raising wages or improving benefits, companies would be avoiding wage hikes and looking to trim their benefit packages.

Under Democrats' socialist fantasies, American families would face a double economic blow: huge tax hikes, fewer jobs, lower wages, and reduced economic opportunity.

There is no one in Congress who doesn't want to make life better for American families. Socialism and the massive tax hikes it would bring is not the answer. Socialism would reduce opportunities for Americans, not expand them; it would decrease Americans' standard of living, not improve it; and it would rob Americans of their choices and many of their freedoms.

Republicans will continue to fight to expand economic opportunity for American families, and we will do everything we can to ensure that hard-working Americans never have to live under the miserable reality of Democrats' socialist fantasies.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 268

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, rather than spend time yesterday on a terribly destructive rules change, Leader MCCONNELL could have focused the Senate on an urgent matter that this Chamber has failed to act on: disaster relief.

In a few moments, Senator LEAHY and I will ask unanimous consent to have a vote on a new version of the emergency disaster relief that couldn't get through the Senate earlier this week. Our new amendment offers this Chamber a path forward from this week's impasse. It is a plan that meets everyone's needs. It doesn't say only aid this or only aid that; it recognizes

all American citizens deserve to be helped when disaster strikes.

The amendment Senator LEAHY and I will offer provides \$16.7 billion in relief for Americans struck by natural disasters last year and in the last 2 years. It includes \$2.5 billion in new funding—funding that the bill from the Republican side that failed, offered by Senators Shelby and Perdue, did not have—\$2.5 billion in new funding for the recent flooding in Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri. We all agree these communities need assistance now. This amendment also crucially includes aid for our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico and other territories. It doesn't say to pick one or to pick the other. It says to do both.

All of us in this Chamber should agree that we must do something now to help all Americans in need. This amendment offers our Republican friends—those who have said we need aid in the Middle West—the opportunity to do just that. So, if this Chamber wants to help families in Nebraska, in Iowa, in Missouri and if we want to help the families of Texas and of Florida, this amendment is the path forward. It is the key to moving forward. This is the solution that has the ability to pass the House. This is the option that has enough support to reach the President's desk. The Speaker of the House has said the original Republican bill wouldn't even have been put on the floor. This bill will.

Now, some will say and, I know, my dear friend from Alabama—and he is my good friend—will say that the President will not sign this. Well, I have something else to say. If my colleagues on the other side pass this measure, the President will dare not veto it. That is my prediction. We all know the President has huffed and puffed about vetoing bills in the past. He has said he would veto "this," and he has said he would veto "that." Yet, in most instances, when the Republicans in the Senate have stood up, he has caved. In this case in particular, he will not want to veto legislation that helps Nebraska and Iowa and Missouri and Texas and Florida. So let's not play this game.

We all know what happened. There was a bipartisan agreement. President Trump went to the Republican lunch and said: No aid for Puerto Rico. That is why we are in this mess, but we can change that. It is time to call the President's bluff. Elections have consequences. There is a Democratic House. The time has come for the Republicans of this Chamber and for the Republicans in the House to have a frank conversation with the President about what can and cannot pass the Congress.

If the President cares about farmers in Iowa and Texas and Missouri and all American citizens who have been affected by natural disasters, he will not veto this bill. We know that. The measure we are presenting today isn't some solution that has been cooked up out of

left field; it is a simple proposal. We need disaster relief for all Americans, plain and simple.

Senators LEAHY and SHELBY worked in good faith earlier this year, as they always do, and I appreciate the great relationship our Appropriations Committee chair and ranking member—vice chair—have. It would have worked had the President not gone to that lunch. Who knows why, where, or when he pounded the table and said: No aid to Puerto Rico. He said that, OK? The only problem is when we are at the brink of a compromise, all too often, President Trump torpedoes things, and then the Republicans act powerless. They don't act.

If Leader MCCONNELL and the Senate Republicans will not support this measure—a measure that notes the needs of all affected Americans—then what is their plan that can pass the House and pass the Senate and go to the President's desk?

If this measure just had aid to Puerto Rico and not to the Middle West, the President might veto it, but he is not going to veto a bill that gives aid to the Middle West nor should he.

So, if an "all of the above" solution will not work, what on Earth will?

So far, the answer from this Chamber on the other side seems to be nothing—none of the above. That doesn't make sense. This is an emergency. People are suffering. People can't get back into their homes. Small businesses need help starting up again. This is not the time to duck, to look for cover, to know when the President has done something sort of wrongly and seemingly on a whim to just bow to what he says. We should agree on the need to do something now to help communities that are recovering from natural disasters. Our amendment offers the Republicans the opportunity to do just that.

Nobody—no Member of this body—should pick and choose which American citizens get help in times of crises. It is a profound shame that my colleagues on the other side, thus far, have allowed the President to derail this process and have gone along with appeasing him. I say the power of this Chamber is greater than they realize. If we vote on this package and if it passes the Senate and if it passes the House and reaches the President's desk, the President will sign it. He will not follow through on a veto threat even if he knows that doing so will be a profound betrayal of his promise to look after the well-being of all Americans.

I urge the Senators to support our amendment today that gives aid to the Middle West, to the South—those from Florida to Texas—and to the people of Puerto Rico.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that as in legislative session, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 268; that all pending amendments be withdrawn; that Leahy amendment No. 246 be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motions to recon-

sider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, these unanimous consent requests are political and, I believe, are not productive at the moment. We know that for two reasons.

First, earlier this week, my Democratic colleagues rejected a disaster assistance package that contained assistance for the Midwest. Instead, they supported a different version that did nothing for folks in Iowa, in Nebraska, and in other States who have been the victims of catastrophic flooding. In fact, if the Democrats had gotten their way the other night, their bill would have gone straight to the President's desk.

That brings me to the second reason these procedural requests are empty gestures. My Democratic colleagues know that the measure they raise today does not have the President's support, not unlike the bill they supported earlier this week. Those measures cannot secure the President's signature.

My Democratic colleagues have regrouped today and have decided to provide assistance to the folks in the Midwest—the same folks they left stranded earlier in the week. Yet they are willing to help the Midwest only if Puerto Rico gets billions more in Federal assistance—billions more they cannot justify right now.

Look, we all want to help the people of Puerto Rico, and I know the Presiding Officer has been deeply involved in this. Congress, in its recognition of those needs, has already committed significant resources to the island. In fact, Puerto Rico is eligible for more than \$90 billion in funding from the previous supplemental.

For example, FEMA estimates that Puerto Rico will be eligible to receive more than \$60 billion from the Disaster Relief Fund as a result of the 2017 storms; yet Puerto Rico has only spent approximately \$10 billion of this amount thus far.

Another example is Congress has approved \$20 billion in Community Development Block Grant—or CDBG—funding for Puerto Rico—\$20 billion.

In February 2018, the Department of Housing and Urban Development allocated \$1.5 billion of this amount to the island; yet more than a year later, it has spent only \$42,000 out of the \$1.5 billion allocation. Still, HUD allocated another \$8.2 billion just over a month ago. In addition, Puerto Rico has been granted an enormous amount of flexibility to expend these resources.

FEMA used its administrative authority to extend the 100-percent Federal cost share for emergency work in Puerto Rico longer than it has for any

other disaster in more than 10 years, and not once has FEMA denied Puerto Rico access to funding on the basis of its ability to provide its own share of the costs when required. More importantly, even if cost share were an issue, which I don't believe it is, Puerto Rico could use its ample CDBG funding to meet any cost share requirement.

However, it does not appear that access to resources for cost share is actually an issue in Puerto Rico. According to the Treasury Department, Puerto Rico has billions of dollars in unrestricted cash on hand. In fact, the Treasury Department reports it has \$5.6 billion in unrestricted cash, to be precise. What is more, the land of Puerto Rico continues to collect tens—if not hundreds—of millions of dollars a month because revenues are exceeding costs on the island, which only adds to that \$5.6 billion balance.

Despite all of these resources, we have agreed that the Government of Puerto Rico needs additional funding for nutrition assistance. My Democratic colleagues have been in the forefront. The question is, Why? It is that this money is actually being spent. In fact, it is running out. So not only did my Democratic colleagues leave folks in the Midwest behind when they rejected the Shelby amendment earlier this week, but they also passed up an opportunity to help the people of Puerto Rico immediately.

Where do we go from here?

I think we need to find areas of agreement, which we have before in my working with Senator LEAHY, Senator SCHUMER, and Senator MCCONNELL. I am pleased that my Democratic colleagues have discovered a newfound concern for the people in the Midwest. We want to stay on that too. It is promising that we not only agree on that but also that we should provide funding for nutrition assistance for the people of Puerto Rico now. Yet, when it comes to additional funding beyond nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico, I believe that our constituents—the American taxpayers—deserve a detailed explanation of exactly why existing funding is insufficient and why the resources that we have provided have not been spent.

How do we know Puerto Rico needs more when it hasn't come close to spending what we have already provided it? Communities, meanwhile, that experienced disasters in 2018 are truly suffering because Congress has provided them with nothing.

Unless my Democratic colleagues can demonstrate this urgency, I believe they should stop holding hostage those who are suffering in the Midwest and those who have been impacted by disasters all over the United States. These people are in urgent need of funding so they can begin the rebuilding process, and many of them have been waiting for months and months for relief.

I hope we can come together and work this out in a deliberate and fact-based manner. Until then, I will con-

tinue to object to these haphazard unanimous consent requests that will get us nowhere.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 6 minutes regarding the Schumer-Leahy amendment. I realize this will put off the time slightly for the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am sorry that the Republicans objected to the earlier legislation we brought up, which would have helped the Midwest. It had money in it. Of course, we are not, by any means, asking for billions more for Puerto Rico in this amendment. In total, this amendment would add \$3.2 billion, of which only \$462 million is for Puerto Rico. The rest is for the Midwest floods, Alabama tornado, Florida, California, Georgia and other states.

I think it is unfortunate we have reached an impasse on the emergency disaster supplemental appropriations bill.

For months, I urged Senate Republican leadership to take up and pass H.R. 268. For nearly 3 months, it wouldn't. During those 3 months, American communities suffered, and new disasters struck the Midwest and the Southeast. The new criticism from the Republican leadership was, with the Democrats' pushing for more comprehensive aid to Puerto Rico in H.R. 268, that they must not care about the American communities that have been affected by more recent disasters.

But I would remind the Chamber that it was the Republican leadership that rejected my amendment to H.R. 268 that would have accommodated all of these other communities.

I would also remind the Chamber that the Trump administration has not asked for one dime for Hurricanes Michael and Florence, the Alabama tornadoes, or the Midwest flooding. To the Trump administration, it is as though they never happened.

I have always stood with victims of disaster around this country. When my own State of Vermont was devastated by Tropical Storm Irene, Members of this body came to me, not as Republicans or Democrats but as concerned American citizens looking to help, just as I always have, whatever State it might be. Red State, blue State, or purple State, I have always voted to support them, and today this Vermonter is here to stand with all the American communities affected by recent natural disasters.

I have not given up on finding a path forward. Today Leader SCHUMER and I offered a substitute that would provide \$2.5 billion in new funding to address the needs of communities affected by the 2019 disasters, such as flooding in the Midwest and tornadoes in Alabama. It would also accommodate the needs

of the American citizens—remember that they are Americans—in Puerto Rico and other Territories by including increased funding for the community development block grant and grants to help rebuild damaged water systems. It also includes Medicaid funding for the Northern Mariana Islands and cost match waivers for the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

Finally, it mandates that HUD speed up the release of billions in previously appropriated CDBG funding which the Trump administration has unnecessarily withheld from disaster-stricken communities in Puerto Rico, in Texas, in Louisiana, in the U.S. Virgin Islands, in Florida, in South Carolina, in North Carolina, in West Virginia, in California, in Missouri, and in Georgia. We want to get help to all of those States.

I am disappointed that once again Senate Republicans have objected to this critical assistance. We are the United States of America. We are all Americans. We cannot pick and choose which American citizens to help in times of crisis.

Frankly, I was offended when the White House referred to Puerto Rico as “that country” that “only takes from the U.S.A.” I would remind the White House to look at a history book. Puerto Rico is part of the U.S.A. These are our fellow American citizens. We in the Senate must be better than that. We must stand with all American citizens in times of crisis.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Roy Kalman Altman, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Altman nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 62 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Alexander	Blunt	Burr
Barrasso	Boozman	Capito
Blackburn	Braun	Cardin

Cassidy	Hoeven	Roberts
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Cornyn	Inhofe	Rosen
Cortez Masto	Isakson	Rounds
Cotton	Johnson	Rubio
Cramer	Jones	Sasse
Crapo	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Daines	Lankford	Shaheen
Duckworth	Lee	Shelby
Enzi	Manchin	Sinema
Ernst	McConnell	Sullivan
Feinstein	McSally	Tester
Fischer	Moran	Thune
Gardner	Murkowski	Tillis
Graham	Murphy	Toomey
Grassley	Perdue	Warner
Hassan	Portman	Wicker
Hawley	Risch	Young

NAYS—33

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	King	Schatz
Booker	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown	Leahy	Smith
Cantwell	Markey	Stabenow
Carper	Menendez	Udall
Casey	Merkley	Van Hollen
Coons	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Paul	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Harris

The nomination was confirmed.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. TILLIS. Thank you, Madam President.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Mark Anthony Calabria, of Virginia, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.

Mitch McConnell, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Crapo, Johnny Isakson, John Cornyn, Mike Rounds, Marco Rubio, John Barrasso, Pat Roberts, John Thune, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Richard C. Shelby, Roger F. Wicker, Richard Burr, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Mark Anthony Calabria, of Virginia, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 63 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Warner
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Paul	Young

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Jones	Schumer
Booker	Kaine	Shaheen
Brown	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—1

Harris

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 53, and the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Tennessee.

CHINA

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you, Madam President.

Today I received a letter from the U.S. Ambassador to China, Terry Branstad. Governor Branstad's letter said the following:

I am delighted to inform you that China's Ministry of Public Security announced China will make all forms of fentanyl a controlled substance effective May 1, 2019. If implemented effectively, this will fulfill the commitment President Xi made to the President at the G-20 last December in Buenos Aires. That commitment and this key development are direct results of your visit to Beijing during which you highlighted China's role in the global opioid crisis. Separately, I have asked my staff to share diplomatic reporting with you that addresses China's action in greater detail.

That is from Ambassador Terry Branstad, our Ambassador to China.

This is important news. It will save thousands of American lives. President Trump deserves great credit for persuading President Xi at their meeting in Argentina in December to do this, the one thing that our drug enforcement agents have said will reduce the flow of fentanyl into the United States more than any other single thing.

President Xi, the President of China, deserves the thanks of the American people for making this decision because our Drug Enforcement Agency is

convinced that this decision by China and its senior officials will save thousands of American lives.

The reason for this, we were told by our Drug Enforcement Agency personnel in China, is that, one way or the other, almost every bit of fentanyl that makes its way into the United States starts in China. These chemicals are made and mixed there. Then they come through the mail. They come through Mexico, through China, many different ways, but the chemicals start in China.

Every time China has made some form of fentanyl illegal, the availability of that form of fentanyl in the United States has begun to go straight down.

What President Trump and President Xi agreed to do on May 1 is to make all forms of fentanyl illegal. This means that if some clever scientist in China says: Well, this form of fentanyl is illegal, so I will make a different form that isn't, that clever scientist will now be out of business.

One thing the Chinese know very well how to do is to police their country. I would not want to be the Chinese person, after May 1, who is in violation of Chinese law that says all forms of fentanyl are controlled substances and illegal in China.

In October, I led a delegation of senior Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to meet with the Chinese senior delegation. One would have thought that all we talked about was trade because trade was important to all of our States, but at Governor Branstad's insistence, in every meeting we had with senior Chinese officials, we said: Fentanyl is our biggest problem, and you can solve our biggest problem more than anybody else in the world. Instead of being our problem, why don't you be our solution? Why don't you let the United States point to China and say that you helped us solve a problem that is killing thousands of Americans on a regular basis?

China agreed to do that in December with President Trump. It has now been announced that on May 1, all forms of fentanyl will be controlled and therefore illegal.

We should watch and make sure it is effectively done, but what we should say today is: President Trump, we thank you for putting fentanyl on top of a busy agenda in December, and, President Xi, we are grateful to you for a decision we believe will save thousands of American lives. I might add, it is very helpful to have such an effective Ambassador as Terry Branstad in China because he knew how to focus the attention of many visiting delegations.

Our delegation wasn't the only one who carried this message; Senator PORTMAN and others have been there. But this is an example of China responding to an urgent American problem, and we ought to give both Presidents much more than a pat on the back for this important step.

HEALTHCARE

Madam President, I often suggest to Tennesseans that we should look at Washington as if it were a split-screen television. For example, last October, on one screen, you would have seen Senators throwing food at each other all month long over the Kavanaugh debate, but in another part of the Capitol, you had 72 Senators working together—Democrats, Republicans, three different committees from the Senate, five from the House—working together to enact what the President called the single most important law to deal with a public health epidemic ever passed, and that was the opioids bill.

While we are arguing—which we know how to do—on such issues as the border or the special counsel's report, on the other screen, you will see a lot of work getting done if you take time to look. That means there are bipartisan efforts. That means Republicans and Democrats are working together. It takes 60 votes to get most things done here. We are 53 to 47. So, as I learned to count in the public schools of Tennessee, I know I need to work with some Democrats to get up to 60. Usually, we find that when we do that, we get up to 70 or 80 or 85 because we can take even the most difficult issues and find our way through them.

Today, I want to talk about one of those efforts—a bipartisan effort to try to reduce healthcare costs. Healthcare and health insurance are often conflated. We often mix them up, both in Congress and in media stories. The President sometimes does that too. I want to be very clear that what I am talking about is a bipartisan working effort, that healthcare itself, not just health insurance, is too expensive.

Health insurance has gotten a lot of attention lately. The President tweeted earlier this week that “deductibles, in many cases [are] way over \$7,000, mak[ing] it almost worthless or unusable.” I agree. High deductibles tied to high premiums make healthcare inaccessible for too many Americans. I know the President is looking at ways to give Americans more affordable health insurance and to protect patients with preexisting conditions, and I look forward to hearing his plan. But the truth is, the cost of health insurance will not come down or even grow more slowly unless we lower the cost of healthcare. You can't have low-cost health insurance when you have high-cost healthcare.

My top healthcare priority this Congress is to enact legislation that will give all Americans an opportunity for better health outcomes and better health experiences at a lower cost. Democrats and Republicans are working together on that to get a result.

That is why Senator MURRAY, the lead Democrat on the Senate's Health Committee, and I are working with Senator GRASSLEY and Senator WYDEN, the senior leaders on the Senate Finance Committee, which shares jurisdiction over healthcare. We are work-

ing together on developing specific, bipartisan steps to help deal with the startling fact—which has come by way of experts who come before our Health Committee—that up to half of what Americans spend on healthcare is unnecessary. That is according to Dr. Brent James of the National Academies in testimony before our committee.

Last December, in order to help focus on reducing healthcare costs, after the Senate Health Committee held five hearings on reducing the cost of healthcare, I wrote a letter to the American Enterprise Institute, the Brookings Institution, governors, State insurance commissioners, doctors, patient groups, academic experts, and the public asking them to submit specific recommendations to Congress to lower healthcare costs. As of the March 1 deadline for response, we have received over 400 recommendations, some as many as 50 pages long.

I want to talk about some of those today. Before I do, it is important to know that the cost of healthcare, in effect, has become a tax on the budgets of families, employers, the Federal Government, and State governments. Warren Buffett has called the ballooning cost of healthcare “a hungry tapeworm on the American economy.”

Almost every day, I hear from Tennesseans who are concerned that healthcare is too expensive. For example, Sherry from Hermitage, TN, wrote me about her daughter's family and said:

They are new parents now and spend almost as much on healthcare premiums as they do on their mortgage payment. That doesn't include the out-of-pocket expenses, such as copays and deductibles.

Many people worry about a surprise billing, which is when a patient receives care at an in-network hospital, but an out-of-network specialist—like an anesthesiologist, for instance—also treats the patient.

Todd is a father from Knoxville, TN, who recently took his son to an emergency room after a bicycle accident. The son was treated. Todd paid a \$150 copay because the emergency room was in-network for his health insurance, and they headed home. Todd was pretty surprised when he received a bill later for \$1,800 because even though the emergency room was in-network, the doctor who treated his son was not.

I hear a lot about the high cost of prescription drugs. Shirley recently wrote me from Franklin saying:

As a 71-year-old senior with arthritis, I rely on Enbrel to keep my systems in check. My copay has just been increased from \$95 to \$170 every 90 days. At this rate, I will have to begin limiting my usage in order to balance the monthly budget.

I hear from doctors about administrative burden. Dr. Lee Gross, a Florida direct primary care doctor, testified at one of our hearings that insurance and government regulations were making primary care too expensive. Dr. Gross founded one of the first di-

rect primary care practices. This is where a patient might pay \$60 a month for an adult, \$25 for the first child, \$10 for each child after, and receive all their primary care—strep tests, vaccines, minor surgical procedures, and more. He calls it “NetFlix for healthcare. After you pay your membership, you don't have to pay for each episode of care.”

Dr. Atul Gawande, who is leading the Amazon-Berkshire Hathaway-JPMorgan healthcare venture, told me recently in a conversation that direct primary care doctors are a powerful group for driving improved outcomes in healthcare because the doctors take responsibility for the outcomes, the risks, and the cost to the patient.

I also hear that the place where medical procedures are performed can make healthcare more expensive. For example, Michael from Johnson City shared that he recently had an endoscopy of his esophagus—a fairly common, routine procedure. He had the procedure at an outpatient facility, which typically is less expensive than a hospital; however, the procedure was billed as being done at a hospital. Michael is on Medicare, and he wrote to me saying: “Not only am I charged a higher “hospital” rate, but taxpayers are charged a higher rate, as well.”

I imagine that every Senator has heard similar stories from people in their States and wants to do something about reducing the cost of healthcare.

In addition to the more than 400 comments we received, the American Enterprise Institute and Brookings sent us a detailed list of 18 specific policy recommendations. The Senate Health Committee can work on some of these. Some of these fall into the jurisdiction of other committees, and some are steps the administration itself can take without congressional action.

My staff and I are still reviewing all of these recommendations, but I want to mention some of them today.

One reason healthcare is so expensive is that the cost is in a black box. Patients just don't know how much a particular test and procedure will cost. That makes it nearly impossible to adequately plan for future healthcare expenses, and because of that, the healthcare system does not operate with the discipline and the cost-saving benefits of a real market.

Congress has already taken some steps to increase transparency. For example, last Congress, we passed and the President signed legislation by Senator COLLINS of Maine to ban the so-called gag clauses in pharmacy contracts that prevented pharmacists from telling a patient that a drug was cheaper if they paid with cash instead of their insurance.

Now we have received recommendations on how to build on that first step. For example, patients shouldn't be prohibited from knowing the cost of a surgery or a doctor's visit in advance of scheduling the procedure or appointment. Insurers and employers should

not be prohibited from providing patients with information recommending lower cost options or higher quality providers.

Another recommendation—this one from AEI and Brookings—is that employers contribute claims data—which is information on how much a test or service costs and how much insurance paid for it—to what is known as an all payer claims database. Eighteen States currently have these databases so employers and insurers can see trends in healthcare spending. This would help break open the black box around the claims data for the 181 million Americans who get their healthcare on the job.

One of our new Health Committee Members, Senator BRAUN of Indiana, owns a manufacturing and distribution company. He employed over 1,000 people before he became a Senator. He was aggressive about helping his employees reduce healthcare costs.

Healthcare Bluebook, a Tennessee company that testified at one of our five hearings on how to reduce healthcare costs, recommended that we look at the clauses in contracts employers sign with insurers that block the employer from accessing de-identified claims data that they could use “for purpose of price and quality transparency.”

The Trump administration is also focused on transparency. For example, Secretary Azar has proposed a regulation to start requiring that advertisements for prescription drugs include the list price, and he has asked for feedback on the idea of requiring that the prices patients pay for medical services also be disclosed.

Another strategy for achieving better outcomes and better experiences at lower costs is to focus on the 300,000 primary care doctors in our country. Dr. Sapna Kripalani of Vanderbilt testified at one of our healthcare cost hearings that primary care providers are the “quarterbacks” of healthcare. By coordinating patients’ care, managing their chronic diseases, and providing other preventive care, primary care doctors are able to help patients stay healthy and out of the emergency room.

Adam Boehler, who leads the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, told me that while primary care accounts for only 3 to 7 percent of healthcare spending, it can affect as much as half of all healthcare spending.

One recommendation we received came from Dr. Gilliam, a primary care doctor in West Tennessee who runs a direct primary care practice—the same type of practice I mentioned earlier that Dr. Gross runs. Dr. Gilliam said: “[Direct primary care] is the only model that is able to offer affordable healthcare with complete price transparency.”

One suggestion we have heard is to change Internal Revenue Service rules that block Americans from using their

health savings accounts to pay for the monthly direct primary care fee.

Then there is drug pricing. Many recommendations are focused on reducing what we spend on prescription drugs, which is about 17 percent of all healthcare spending.

One way is reforming prescription drug rebates, the discounts that pharmacy benefit managers negotiate with pharmaceutical companies. The Trump administration has proposed a new rule for the \$29 billion rebates on prescription drugs that the government pays for through Medicare Part D. One recommendation is to expand that to the estimated \$40 billion of rebates negotiated in the private market.

Another way to lower drug prices is to increase competition through generic drugs, which can be up to 85 percent less expensive than brand drugs when there are multiple approved generics. I have heard concerns about brand drug companies not providing generic companies the samples needed to make generic drugs and other ways that brands delay drug competition.

It was recommended that we increase competition for the generic versions of biologic drugs, which are called biosimilars. One way to do that may be with a bill Senator COLLINS introduced to ensure that biosimilar manufacturers have access to the information they need to develop and bring to market more biosimilars.

Then there is surprise billing.

AEI and Brookings also recommended we focus on helping to eliminate surprise medical billing, which is what happened when Todd, of Knoxville, took his son to the emergency room. AEI and Brookings said the issue is not that insurance companies have limited doctors and hospitals in their networks but that emergency departments and ancillary physicians, as well as hospitalists and ambulance companies, have a lucrative out-of-network billing arrangement that is unavailable to other providers, which encourages doctors to go out of network and send patients high bills. Senator CASSIDY and Senator HASSAN are leading the way to help eliminate surprise billing.

We received comments about the importance of the seamless exchange of information between electronic health records, which includes stopping information blocking.

A goal of the 21st Century Cures Act, which is a bipartisan bill that Senator MCCONNELL said was the most important bill that Congress, was to make it easier for patients to access their health records and for doctors and hospitals to get the information they need to treat patients. Last month, the Department of Health and Human Services released two proposed rules required by the Cures Act to lead to better coordinated care and to less unnecessary health care. We held a hearing on those last week. We heard a story of the better experiences and outcomes that can happen when health records

are interoperable. Finally, there is the consolidation of healthcare.

We received comments on the decreasing choices and competition in the healthcare system, which is when hospitals merge with doctors’ offices or other hospitals, when insurers merge with other insurers, or when hospitals and insurers merge so that these hospitals or insurers have even more control over the market.

Some argue that the consolidation in healthcare can benefit patients and lower costs. Others say that it gives patients fewer options and that healthcare prices increase.

AEI and Brookings suggested that one way to address the potential negative consequences of consolidation would be to improve oversight of the 340B drug discount program, which has been found to incentivize hospitals to purchase physician practices or to employ physicians directly in order to bring in additional revenue from the 340B discounts. This echoes what we heard at our committee’s three hearings.

I am also asking for other Senators to continue to come forward to Senator MURRAY, to Senator WYDEN, to Senator GRASSLEY, and to me with their specific proposals as to how we can reduce healthcare costs. What I hope to do is to compile the proposals that fall under the jurisdiction of our Senate HELP Committee into a package of legislation that the committee will vote on early in the summer. We could then combine that with whatever the Senate Finance Committee passes and ask the leader to put it on the Senate floor and work with the House to send legislation to the President’s desk.

This morning, in a hearing before the Appropriations Committee, Secretary Azar reiterated his support and the President’s support for this bipartisan process to reduce health care costs.

My staff and I will continue to review recommendations and work with other Members to incorporate ways so that Americans like Sherry, Todd, Shirley, and Michael will have better outcomes and better experiences at lower costs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MUELLER REPORT

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago, after almost 2 years, Special Counsel Mueller filed his report with the Attorney General. The Attorney General sent us a short letter that summarized the major findings of the report.

A summary is not going to cut it. The Attorney General’s own letter discusses the vast extent of the special counsel’s investigation. It mentions over 500 witness interviews, 2,800 subpoenas, 500 search warrants, 230 orders for communications records, almost 50 orders for pen registers, and actually 13

requests to foreign governments. This was an extraordinarily extensive investigation that yielded a rich collection of facts about Russia's attack on our democracy. The American people deserve to see the results so that they can judge the facts for themselves.

We know from court filings, news reports, and the Senate Intelligence Committee's own investigations that the Russians attempted to influence the Trump campaign in many ways. At least 17 individuals in the Trump orbit had over 100 publicly released contacts with Russian officials or intermediaries. Yet, with all of those 100 contacts during the midst of a campaign, somehow not one of those individuals—even those contacted with explicit offers of assistance from a hostile government—called the FBI to report those offers.

The Attorney General's four-page summary of this sprawling investigation—a summary that according to press reports may not even accurately reflect the Mueller report—focuses almost exclusively on the criminal portion of the Mueller probe and barely mentions the special counsel's counter-intelligence investigation into these contacts.

The Senate Intelligence Committee—with the only bipartisan counterintelligence investigation still standing—has documented extensive efforts by the Russians to reach out to those around then-Candidate Trump. Here are a few examples:

We have documented in the public domain Candidate Trump's efforts to negotiate a business deal to build what was going to be called the largest building in all of Russia. He negotiated that deal throughout the whole primary process. According to his attorney Mr. Giuliani, it may have been negotiated all the way through the election. The deal itself may not have violated any laws. Yet, frankly, I think, if I were a Republican primary voter, I would have liked to have known that my potential Presidential candidate was still trying to do a deal with Vladimir Putin's government.

In our investigation, we also had exposed ongoing communications between the President's campaign chairman, Mr. Manafort, and Konstantin Kilimnik, who has ties with both Russian intelligence and oligarch Oleg Deripaska.

Our committee has made multiple criminal referrals to the special prosecutor based on what we have learned and witnesses' efforts to lie to us and to obstruct our investigation.

This is what a counterintelligence investigation is all about. We need to fully understand what the Russians were trying to do, and we need to be able to warn future campaigns and candidates about the lengths to which hostile governments will go and the new tools they will use to undermine our democracy. I believe we cannot make that full guidance to future campaigns without there being a full release of this report.

Some observers have said that the report cannot be released without its jeopardizing sources and methods. Let me be clear. As vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, no one is more sensitive to those concerns than am I, but the resolution that we have specifically states that the report should be released to the public in accordance with the law. Clearly, sources and methods would not be released under this standard, nor would grand jury information.

What we are talking about here is basic transparency. Let's make sure the full Mueller report is released to Congress, including the underlying documents and intelligence. Then let's make sure the American people see as much of this report as possible and as soon as possible. Let's do it in a bipartisan way to protect sources and methods.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H. CON. RES. 24

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that as in legislative session, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 24, expressing the sense of Congress that the report of Special Counsel Mueller should be made available to the public and to Congress, and which is at the desk; further, that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I am all for transparency. I think we should know as much about this investigation into the President as we possibly can. We do know that we only know part of the story and that the Mueller report is only part of the story. What we also need to know is how this originated because I think it is very important that we not turn our country into this back-and-forth where each successive party tries to use the apparatus of government to investigate the previous President.

We do know now that the investigation of the Trump campaign reached to the highest levels of the White House, all the way up to President Obama. What we don't know is, was President Obama told that the evidence to get this investigation started was paid for by the Hillary Clinton campaign? We need to know that. That is not part of the Mueller report, but that is something that I am asking that we should attach to this resolution. We need to know, was President Obama told that this information came from the Hillary Clinton campaign?

We do not yet know whether John Brennan was involved and to what degree. We do not know whether John Brennan colluded with British spy agencies to spy on Americans. It is illegal for our CIA to spy on Americans. We don't yet know whether John Brennan was colluding with British spy

agencies and other spy agencies to get them to do his dirty work.

We do know now that John Brennan, who had the power to listen to every American's phone call and who had the power to listen to every person's phone call in the entire world, is a rank partisan. We now know that John Brennan has called the President a traitor, essentially saying the President should be put to death. This is the guy who was in charge of this investigation. This isn't an objective person. We need to know about all of the communications.

So I ask unanimous consent that we modify this resolution and that we find out about and gain access to all of the communications between Comey, Brennan, Clapper, the White House, and President Obama, because I don't want to ruin this great country with politically motivated investigations year in and year out.

This had to do with placing spies and infiltrating the Trump campaign. Do you really think that our intelligence Agencies should be infiltrating each other's campaigns?

I don't want this to happen to a Democrat. When President Trump came to the Hill a week ago, he said that this shouldn't happen to the next Democratic President. We should not misuse the power of our intelligence Agencies to have one party go after another. How can we get on with the people's business if we are allowing the government to be consumed with this kind of stuff?

I ask unanimous consent that we amend the resolution and look at the entire story—not just at the investigation but at how we got here. The media wouldn't even print this fake dossier because it was so scandalous and so unverified and has turned out to be untrue. Yet this was the basis for beginning the investigation. This was the basis for doing something extraordinary—implanting spies and informants into the Trump campaign.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST MODIFICATION—
H. CON. RES. 24

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we amend the resolution and that as the Mueller report comes forward, we also come forward with all of the communications between the people who got this started and we discover once and for all whether or not these people have misused their offices in starting this investigation.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Virginia wish to modify his request?

Mr. WARNER. In reserving the right to object, I would simply point out to my colleague from Kentucky that the intelligence community, in its January 2017 report, reached a unanimous conclusion. That conclusion was that Russia massively interfered in our elections. Russia did it in the form of hacking into personal information and releasing it subjectively, and Russia did it in terms of at least touching the electoral systems in 21 of our States in

ways that, frankly, found a great deal of vulnerabilities. Russia also did it in ways that manipulated social media that, quite honestly, caught our Intelligence Committee and the social media companies off guard.

Our Intelligence Committee spent a year in its review of the conclusions of the intelligence community, and in January of 2018, it unanimously agreed that the intelligence community's findings were correct—that the Russians interfered and that they did it on behalf of one candidate, Mr. Trump, against another candidate, Mrs. Clinton.

For those reasons, I respectfully object to the request of my colleague from Kentucky.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the original request?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, in closing, I hope we can move past this. The President himself has called for the release of the report. In a rare stroke of unanimity, the House voted 420 to 0. I think many in this body would like to move beyond this issue. The only way we are going to be able to move beyond this is to get this report released, to get it out to the American public, and to let those of us who are charged with the intelligence community's responsibilities see all of the report, including the underlying documents. I hope we can get to that point.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

NATO
Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, yesterday NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg addressed a joint session of Congress—the first Secretary General ever to do so.

The Secretary General is in Washington this week marking NATO's 70th anniversary. Created after World War II, NATO is a political and military alliance of European and North American democracies.

Since its founding in 1949, NATO has been a bulwark for freedom, for peace, and for security around the world. For 70 years—70 years—NATO has been a bedrock of U.S. security.

The United States stands firmly behind NATO's collective defense outlined in article 5 of its founding treaty.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Senate NATO Observer Group, I recently traveled to Brussels, Belgium, for meetings at NATO headquarters.

I met with Ambassador Hutchison and NATO officials to discuss ways to strengthen the alliance.

These briefings reaffirmed for me that now, more than ever, America needs a strong NATO alliance. For our safety, for the safety of our allies, we must support and we must strengthen NATO.

The alliance has expanded from an original 12 to now 29 member nations.

These allies are our friends in times of peace, they are our partners in times of turmoil, and they are our defenders in times of war.

In armed conflicts around the world, NATO serves as a force multiplier for all of its members. After the September 11, 2001, attacks, NATO allies sent tens of thousands of troops to fight alongside our U.S. forces in Afghanistan. NATO is helping the United States defeat ISIS in Iraq and in Syria, and its role in the global war on terrorism continues to expand.

At the same time, NATO members are working together in Eastern Europe to deter Russian aggression. NATO isn't just protecting Europe from Russian interference; it is serving U.S. security interests in the region.

Given the emerging threats around the globe, NATO must have the tools and the resources it needs to deter our enemies. This means that all members need to recommit themselves to NATO's mission and fully meet their pledges.

Secretary Stoltenberg has focused on meeting alliance targets through "cash, capabilities, and contributions." That is what we discussed in Belgium, it is what he discussed yesterday, and that has been his focus—cash, capabilities and contributions.

At the Wales summit in 2014, every NATO country agreed to spend a minimum of 2 percent of their GDP on defense. The United States continues to pay more than its fair share—about 22 percent of NATO's entire budget and more than 3 percent of our Nation's GDP.

President Trump, to his credit, has pressed NATO and our allies to bear the full share of their burden, both financially and militarily. NATO's Secretary General projects that the alliance will spend \$100 billion more on defense by the year 2020.

Now, 22 NATO nations have already increased their defense spending since the 2014 summit in Wales. In 2014, only three allies met the Wales summit spending target; seven met that target in 2018. Still, 22 allies are falling short of the 2 percent target. They must contribute more if the alliance is to meet its financial goals and provide a capable and credible deterrent.

This is especially important as NATO faces more formidable foes. It is critical for their contributions to fund military readiness, to develop new capabilities, and to improve alliance cohesion.

NATO allies and partners are increasingly involved in terms of doing more with their troop contributions as well. Allies and partners now contribute more than half the troops in NATO missions.

We have made real progress on burden sharing, and today we celebrate 70 years of NATO achievements. NATO has helped bring about the democratic and economic transformation of Central and Eastern Europe. NATO has enabled European and Canadian soldiers

to fight alongside U.S. forces on the frontlines of the war on terror. NATO supported U.S. sanctions against Russia and insisted on Russia's compliance with international law. Without a doubt, NATO is the most successful security alliance in our Nation's history.

The United States remains as committed to NATO's mission today as when it was founded 70 years ago. We want a strong NATO serving as a cornerstone of international freedom, peace, and security for another 70 years.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

NOMINATION OF MARK ANTHONY CALABRIA

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, earlier today, the Senate invoked cloture on the nomination for the next Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. The nominee is named Mark Calabria, and I just want to say he is an extraordinarily qualified and capable man. I hope this body will overwhelmingly confirm him.

He is a Ph.D. economist. He has tremendous work experience in the field of housing finance, which of course is the domain of the Federal Housing Agency. He has worked at HUD, the Banking Committee, and now he is the chief economist to Vice President PENCE.

I am certainly looking forward to working with Dr. Calabria on housing finance reform, the great unfinished work of the financial crisis, and I urge my colleagues to vote to confirm him later today.

UNREALIZED GAIN PROPOSAL

Mr. President, I also wanted to say a few words about an idea that has been floated by one of our colleagues. The idea has been floated by my friend—he is my friend, and he is a good man—Senator WYDEN from Oregon. He is the ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, and he is a very good man with a very bad idea, and I want to explain why I believe the idea that he has floated is so mistaken.

Fundamentally, his proposal is that we change our Tax Code so that we would impose taxes on unrealized investment gains every year.

Currently, we impose taxes on investments only when the asset is sold. If an asset is purchased, it is later sold at a higher price. The difference is the gain, and we impose what we call a capital gains tax on that gain—but only when the gain is actually realized.

Under Senator WYDEN's proposal, if an asset goes up in value, even though it hasn't been sold, the fact that it has gone up in value would require that increase in value to be taxed. The investor would have to pay a tax.

There is another element of his proposal, which is that these taxes that he wants to impose on these phantom gains would not be at the capital gains tax rate that is currently enforced but rather at personal income tax rates instead.

The current capital gains rate is 23.8 percent. That is the top. That is the

highest capital gains rate that is paid. The highest personal income tax rate in our Tax Code is 37 percent. So in some circumstances, this would be a huge tax increase.

Let me explain why I think both of these are very bad ideas—taxing unrealized gains and taxing all gains at ordinary income rates.

First of all, let's take the idea of taxes on unrealized gains. These are the paper gains. This is a market-to-market appreciation that is unrealized if the investor doesn't actually sell the asset. Well, there is a good reason that our system has never imposed taxes on unrealized gains; there are several, but one is the value of the asset could go back down.

One very widely held asset in America is stocks—stocks that you can buy on an exchange, a share of a company—and stocks famously go up and down. So I think it strikes most people as unreasonable to force people to pay a tax on this notional gain on a stock without having sold it when that stock could go back down. The gain could be completely lost, but you would still pay the tax.

There is another problem with this; that is, the tax would be imposed without a liquidity event for the investor. In other words, the investor hasn't sold the asset, doesn't have the cash. What if the investor doesn't have enough cash to pay the tax bill on it? This risk alone would have a chilling effect on investment. It would discourage people from making the investment in the first place because they would have to wonder and worry about what kind of tax bill they will incur even if they don't sell the asset.

Yet another problem with this is the complexity and difficulty of actually implementing this. It is pretty easy to determine the value of a stock, but there are other categories of investment that are much more difficult to value, like real estate or a small business.

So imagine an entrepreneur buys a small building and builds it out and creates a restaurant, and that is his business. He is operating a restaurant. It may be profitable; it may not be. But what if real estate values in that neighborhood happen to go up? Well, here you might have a struggling entrepreneur trying to make ends meet in his restaurant, and the IRS is going to come along and say: Oh, you owe us a whole lot of money because we think the land on which you are operating has gone up in value.

What good does that do for the restaurant operator or the people working for him, the jobs being created? It is not a good idea at all.

There is another aspect to Senator WYDEN's proposal, and that is that he would use a higher rate. He would like the top rate of 37 percent to be imposed, at least in some cases, on these capital gains, whether or not realized.

So the question is, Why do we have a lower tax rate on capital gains than we

have on ordinary income, other sources of incomes? Well, there are several reasons for that, as well—good reasons. One is we don't exclude from our calculation of an investor's gain the component of that gain that is attributable only to inflation. Think about it. If you make an investment in something and the inflation rate is just 2 percent a year, well, 10 years later, that is going to nominally be worth like 25 percent more than it was when you bought it, but you don't have any real gain; that is just a reflection of the fact that dollars are worth less.

So as a sort of rough justice for the fact that you nevertheless get taxed on the full gain, even the nominal gain, the gain that is not real, the gain that is just inflation, at least it is taxed at a lower rate to make up for that.

There is another factor, and that is most investments are in an asset that itself generates income, and that income is taxed. So, for instance, a stock—a stock is a share of a company; a company has to pay tax. So imagine an investor who invests in a company and that company makes \$100 of income. That is the profit for the business. Well, the first thing that business has to do is pay 21 percent of that to Uncle Sam. That is the tax on corporate income. Well, that leaves \$79 left over for the investors, and the investor has to pay 23.8 percent on that. That works out to about \$19. So at the end of the day, on a \$100 hundred gain, the investor is able to go home with only \$60. That is a 40-percent effective tax rate to the investor, despite the fact that the nominal rate applied on the investor's gain is only 23.8 percent. The combination—and that is what you really have to look at—is more like 40 percent. That is higher than any individual income tax rate that we have in our entire code.

Of course, a gain on such an asset occurs only when investors generally believe that the after-tax value has gone up.

So I think it would be a big mistake to go down this road. I think it would be a big mistake to tax unrealized gains. As it is now, gains are taxed. They are taxed at the time in which they are actually earned—they are actually realized—and it would be a mistake to raise the tax on this. Both of these ideas, and certainly in combination, would absolutely, certainly have a chilling effect on investment. They would diminish the willingness of people to invest in new businesses, in growing business, in startup business, and a chilling effect on investment means a chilling effect on economic growth.

So this proposal, I think, is misguided. It comes at a time when the tax reform that we have recently passed, which actually encourages investment, is clearly working. Our tax reform has generated a tremendous surge in investment in equipment, in technology, in new business. We have seen tremendous growth in our overall economy as a result.

In 2018, our economy grew at 3 percent—the best since 2005. With a strong, growing economy, we have seen terrific results for the people we all represent. Unemployment is at its lowest rate in 50 years. African-American unemployment is the lowest that has ever been recorded; Hispanic unemployment, the lowest ever recorded; youth unemployment, the lowest rate in many decades. Wages are now growing more rapidly than they have in over 10 years, and they are accelerating, and the wage growth is strongest among lower income workers.

Clearly, the reforms we implemented have been an incentive for more investment, and that has led to more growth. I sure wouldn't want to see us do anything that would disrupt the fact that we have created an environment where there is now so much opportunity and where work is paying so much more than it has before.

As I said, Senator WYDEN is a good man, but this is a bad idea. I certainly hope we don't move in this direction.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

NATO

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I want to speak briefly about a historic day, April 4. It was the day the agreement in Washington was signed to create the NATO alliance after the Second World War.

I want to start by repeating what President Truman said on that day. He said:

We hope to create a shield against aggression and the fear of aggression—all bulwark which will permit us to get on with the real business of government and society, the business of achieving a fuller and happier life for all of our citizens.

That agreement was signed on April 4, 1949. Since the 70 years that have followed, the alliance has gotten stronger. The alliance has grown. In fact, there are a number of countries that hope someday to also be a member of the NATO alliance. It has been important and what I believe is the most important alliance in the history of mankind.

This week is NATO Week. Yesterday we had the Secretary General speak to us before a joint session of Congress. The Secretary General was actually very optimistic about the future of NATO, and I am as well.

I was with a group a couple of weeks ago who were wondering about NATO and some of the discussions or disagreements we have among our NATO allies. I liken it to the kind of disagreements I have with family. I grew up in a family of six kids. It is a big family. All of us have very different views, are of very different ages and life experiences. I really believe the disagreements we have among our allies are like the disagreements you have among your family members, but at the end of the day, make no mistake about it, an attack on any one of us is viewed as an attack on every one of us, and every country takes that seriously.

In fact, in the 70 years since NATO was created—there is an obligation within article 5 of the agreement that if there is an attack on any one of us, then we consider it an attack on every one of us. It happened on 9/11. The only time in the history of the alliance that the article 5 obligation under the treaty has been exercised is when NATO countries joined with the United States in the War on Terror.

Many people may not realize it, but there was a huge human toll for living up to their commitment. Many nations sent their men and women into harm's way, and over 1,000 of them have died since 9/11. Many others have been gravely wounded, but they lived up to their commitment. It was the first test of the treaty. That happened only less than 20 years ago.

Senator SHAHEEN and I are now co-chairs of the Senate NATO Observer Group. I want to compliment Senator SHAHEEN for actually coming up with the idea to reconstitute the group because we need to make sure our partners, our allies, understand that Congress believes NATO is a very important alliance to ensure our mutual safety and security.

There was another interesting point that the Secretary General made in his speech yesterday before Congress. Some people have criticized President Trump for telling our partners that they need to pay their agreed-to fair share. The Secretary General said the President's call has actually been answered and that it was a positive step that he took to make these other nations recognize we must invest in our mutual defense and our mutual security. That can only come through innovating technologies that will defend the regions within the NATO alliance, making sure our troops are working together and working very well on a military-to-military basis, and we are doing that, but without that sustained commitment from our NATO allies, we could lose ground, and it is in their best interest to do it.

As I said earlier, NATO is growing. We have a long list of countries that hope they can meet the requirements to someday come into NATO. Many of them were within the sphere of influence for the Soviet Union before the end of the Cold War.

We all know Russia is the greatest threat to Europe. We all know Russia has done things that are illegal, according to international law. They have annexed the Crimean region of the Ukraine. Every week, Ukrainians are dying in a war that very few people know about. We have to make sure that we actually confront Russian aggression, and the best way to do that is to have a strong NATO alliance.

On this historic day, April 4, 70 years later, I believe the alliance is strong. I believe that is what the Secretary General talked about yesterday, and I believe every Member of Congress shares the view that the NATO treaty, the NATO alliance, is the most important

bulwark against aggression and threats to freedom.

I look forward to continuing to serve with Co-Chair SHAHEEN to make sure our partners know this Congress is prepared to support them and to make sure the alliance grows and remains strong.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

NOMINATION OF MARK ANTHONY CALABRIA

Mr. BROWN. Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise in opposition to the nomination of Mark Calabria. He is the wrong man for this job.

Sometimes I kind of can't believe this place. I see these people. I see the President of the United States, who never really experienced any of these challenges that homeowners in Cleveland, OH, or in Muncie, IN, face. He can't even get a loan from a local bank; he has to go to Germany to go to Deutsche Bank. That is really beside the point.

I just don't understand, when we have these academicians or people who work in government for a while, and then they go out and they do these writings, and over time—I look at someone like Mark Calabria. He seems like a genuinely nice fellow and an honorable guy, but some of the things he said and has written in his career—let me start with this. He questions the need for the 30-year mortgage. A lot of Members of Congress, a lot of people voting on this nomination, and a lot of people in the White House—the White House looks like a retreat for Wall Street executives. The majority leader's office down the hall has a stream of lobbyists going in and out from the banks and the oil companies and the gun lobbyists and all that.

Mr. Calabria has said he questions the need for a 30-year mortgage. Many of my colleagues here and in the White House don't really have to worry about paying their mortgage. They don't have to think about saving for retirement and planning for retirement and thinking: I have 7 years until I want to retire; I have 14 years to save money for my children to go on to college, to go to Lorain Community College, or to go to Dennis Center, or to Ohio State, or to go to Bloomington, or to go the University of Indiana.

Mr. Calabria's questioning of 30-year mortgages—most people can't afford to buy a house if they don't have a long-term 25- or 30-year mortgage. They can't put 50 percent down, like it was before Franklin Roosevelt, and then pay it off in 5 years. That is how we did homeownership in this country 70, 80, or 90 years ago. That is why there wasn't much homeownership then, and then we figured out how to do it.

Mark Calabria just wants to blow all that up and say: I don't really like the idea of a 30-year mortgage.

He is not being nominated for the Secretary of the Interior. He is not being nominated for the EPA. He is

being nominated for the Federal Housing Finance Agency. It is a critical job.

We know we have a housing affordability crisis in this country. Think about this. One-fourth of all renters pay at least half of their income in housing costs. That is one-fourth of people who rent. I assume it may be higher in Indiana, as it is in Appalachia, OH, or it may be higher in East Cleveland or in Gary than it is in some other places, but whatever the number, overall, one-quarter of renters in this country pay 50 percent of their income in housing. Do you know what that means? It means that if your car breaks down, you have to borrow money from a payday lender so you can go to work so you can keep making \$12 or \$14 an hour. It eventually means you may get evicted because you can't meet your monthly rent.

The homeownership rate among African Americans is at the same dismal level it was before Congress put those open housing, anti-discrimination laws in place, and now this administration is not even enforcing those laws.

Mr. Calabria doesn't think we need the current affordable housing goals. He thinks we should eliminate the GSEs, and—my favorite—he called homeowners who are underwater in their mortgages deadbeats.

I don't know if he has ever actually been to Ohio. He might have. He might have ties there, for all I know. I don't know that he does, but 8 years ago in Ohio, one out of five homeowners was underwater. You know what that means. It means they owed more for their house than their home was worth. It wasn't their fault. It is not their fault that in their community the worth of their home was dropping. It is not because they didn't keep it up, but it is because people were foreclosed on or homes were abandoned or they were evicted from those homes, and the value kept dropping so they actually owed more than their home was worth. He calls those people deadbeats.

Somebody who loses their job and can't pay their mortgage, does that make them a deadbeat? Somebody who gets hurt on a construction project, he or she is a carpenter or a boilermaker, and they can't work—he calls them deadbeats? This is the person we want in charge of housing?

He questioned the need for the Hardest Hit Fund. I know, in the Presiding Officer's State and in my State, that the Hardest Hit Fund really has mattered in helping clean up some neighborhoods and trying to get a floor under prices so they start going up again.

He said: Just let prices fall. It is easy for him to say to just let prices fall. How about the people who are affected by this?

My colleagues who support his nomination today shouldn't act surprised when he raises costs for borrowers, when he makes it more difficult to develop affordable housing, and when he cuts off access to homeownership for

American families, especially people of color.

That is what he has advocated his entire career. We should reject Dr. Calabria's nomination. We should tell the President of the United States to send us a new nominee who will take this job seriously and a nominee who will make it easier, not harder, for Americans to afford housing.

I ask for a "no" vote for the nomination of Mark Calabria to head the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

"MOVE OVER" LAW

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday in Warren, IL, a small town on the Illinois-Wisconsin border, mourners from near and far lined the streets and packed the town's high school to say good-bye to a local hero. They came to honor and bid farewell to an Illinois State trooper, Brooke Jones-Story, who was killed in the line of duty last Thursday.

Trooper Jones-Story had pulled over a truck a little after noon and was inspecting it on the shoulder of U.S. Highway 20 in Freeport, just west of Rockford, IL, when a semitrailer crashed into her squad car and the truck she had stopped. The squad car and truck she had pulled over burst into flames. Trooper Jones-Story, a devoted public servant, 11-year veteran of the Illinois State police, wife, stepmother, daughter, sister, lifelong fan of the Chicago Cubs, fan of Disney movies, animal rescuer, and a CrossFit workout enthusiast, died instantly. She was 34 years old. No one else was injured.

Sadly and unbelievably, Trooper Jones-Story was the second of three Illinois State troopers who have died this year after being struck by vehicles on the sides of roads and highways.

Three State troopers in Illinois were killed in less than 3 months. All told, 16 Illinois State Troopers have been struck by vehicles so far this year, several suffering serious injuries.

Let me tell you about the other two heroes we lost.

Just 2 days after Trooper Jones-Story died, Trooper Jerry Ellis was killed by a wrong-way driver near Libertyville, IL.

It happened at 3:25 in the morning. The driver was headed in the wrong direction on Interstate 94 in Green Oaks when he hit Trooper Ellis's squad car head-on. The driver who caused the crash was also killed.

Jerry Ellis was 36 years old. He had been an Illinois State Trooper for 11 years. Before that he had served his country in the U.S. Army in Iraq.

He and his wife Stacy are the parents of two little girls, Kaylee, age 7, and Zoe, age 5.

Chris Lambert, in fact, was the first Illinois State trooper killed this year. It was January 12. He had just finished his shift and was on his way home when he stopped during a snowstorm to help at the scene of a three-car accident on Interstate 294 in Northbrook.

Another driver, apparently trying to avoid the pileup, swerved onto the left shoulder of the highway, where Trooper Lambert was standing, and hit him and killed him.

Trooper Lambert was 34 years old. He, too, was an Army veteran. He served in Iraq and Haiti. He had been with the Illinois State Police since 2013.

He and his wife Halley were parents of a 14-month-old daughter, Delaney. The driver who hit him has been charged with felony reckless homicide.

What makes the deaths of these three public servants—these three heroes—even harder to bear is that our State of Illinois passed a law nearly 20 years ago that was supposed to make roads safer for police and other emergency responders.

It is called the "Move Over" Law or Scott's Law. It was named after the Chicago Fire Department lieutenant, Scott Gillen, who was killed in 2000 by a drunken driver while working on a crash scene on the Chicago freeway.

Scott's Law requires motorists to slow down, and, if possible, move over when they see a parked squad car, fire engine, or ambulance with flashing lights. If you can't change lanes, slow down and proceed cautiously. That is what Scott's Law says.

It was expanded in 2017 to include all vehicles stopped with hazard lights on, including tow trucks. Violators can lose their license and face stiff fines—up to \$10,000.

Every State has some form of Scott's Law. Police and other first responders in many States are working to draw attention to these laws and to enforce them.

I believe the Federal Government needs to do more. In the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization bill, I will be working not only to increase funding for highway safety grants to provide States with the resources they need to better enforce these laws but also to encourage people all across America to be sensitive to the men and women who are serving us in public capacities in law enforcement and other responsibilities. They deserve our respect and our caution.

Despite these measures, Illinois State Police have seen a troubling increase in incidents in which a squad car with its lights flashing has been hit by a passing car. In 2016, there were 5 such incidents; in 2017, 12; and last year, 8. Just a little over 3 months into this year, already there have been 16 such incidents, with 3 young troopers dead.

Two days ago, April 1, was Illinois State Trooper Day—a day set aside

each year to honor the dedicated men and women of the Illinois State Police.

As Brendan Kelly, now the acting director of the Illinois State Police said: "In 97 years, 69 men and women of the Illinois State Police bravely put on their uniforms to serve the citizens of this State and never returned home."

But this is the first time in 66 years that the Illinois State Police have lost three state troopers in 1 year, and the year is only a few months over.

State police are uncertain what is driving this deadly trend, but Lucy Kuelper—and I would like to show you her photograph here.

Mr. SCHUMER. I will hold it up.

Mr. DURBIN. Lucy Kuelper, a sixth grader from rural Rio, IL, hopes that she may have a way to stop the terrible losses.

I thank the Senator from New York.

Lucy is just 12 years old, but she knows the fear of watching someone you love go to work and the worry that you might never see them again. Lucy's dad, her hero, John Kuelper, is also a State trooper.

When Lucy learned about the number of State troopers who had been hit and killed recently, she asked her dad: What can I do?

Together, they came up with an idea. With help from her mom, Jessica, Lucy created a Facebook page to raise awareness about Scott's Law. She calls her page the Move Over Project.

She posted the photo, shown here, of herself standing next to her dad, holding up a sign that says hashtag "move over . . . for my DAD."

She asked other loved ones in the police force and other emergency services to post similar photos with hashtag "move over for . . ." and fill in the blank.

In 5 days, Lucy's Facebook page received more than 14,000 "likes." People have sent in photos from all over the country. They want people to move over for their dads, moms, sisters, brothers, uncles, and friends. There are photos of firefighters, police officers, EMTs, and tow truck drivers standing next to spouses, children, infants, parents, friends, and pets.

This week, the State of Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service honored Lucy with its Volunteer of the Week Award. She deserved it, but Lucy says the only reward she wants is for people to follow the law and move over, so her dad and others like him who do dangerous jobs will be able to come home to their families at the end of the day.

I want to thank Lucy for her efforts in starting the Move Over Project. Look at the faces and the families involved. Remember them the next time you see an emergency vehicle on a highway with its lights flashing parked along a roadway. Move over and save lives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, let me thank my good friend the Senator from Illinois for those great

words. We have had police officers in New York hit the same way. There is a bridge in New York on Southern State Parkway that we named after an officer who died a few years ago in the same situation, and I thank Lucy for caring and pushing hard.

NOMINATION OF MARK ANTHONY CALABRIA

Mr. President, I rise in strong opposition to the nomination of Mark Calabria to become the Director of FHFA. I hope every Senator who has homeowners in their districts will pay attention here.

For decades we have had Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac providing mortgages at lower rates for people because there is a Federal guarantee. Because housing is such an important part of our economy, it stimulates jobs and the growth in the economy.

It is utterly amazing that, once again, we are in a sort of "Alice in Wonderland." The nominations from this administration go directly in the face of what I bet almost every Member on the other side believes—that interest rates should be low for mortgages and that there should be some kind of Federal guarantee.

Well, here is what Dr. Calabria believes. First, he believes that the 30-year mortgage is not necessarily part of our Federal housing finance system. He believes that Fannie and Freddie guarantees should be no higher than \$200,000.

I would ask Dr. Calabria to visit some of the middle-class neighborhoods of New York—policemen, firemen, teachers, construction workers. Their homes would be put in jeopardy by this, and a home is the middle class's piece of the rock.

What the heck are we doing around here?

President Trump doesn't pay attention to who the nominees are. They are put forward by Mick Mulvaney, who believes in no government involvement in anything, and people get hurt.

What about the young couple with a new job, a new baby? They want to buy their first home. What about the person of color? Finally, when zoning laws and other things have changed, they can get a home. What about parents who are about to retire and want to sell their home so that they can move to smaller quarters and have a little bit of extra money? What about grandparents? To put in somebody who wants to undo the FHFA and undo our rock solid housing system would be ridiculous.

I hope my colleagues will listen. If you believe in homeownership, if you believe the middle class ought to have homeownership, you can't support somebody who wants to eliminate Federal guarantees, who wants to lower the amount, and who wants to say that the 30-year mortgage, which has had such a success in America, should no longer be the bedrock of our system.

I hope people will look at who this nominee is and vote no. I certainly will.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that all time expires.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Calabria nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 64 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Gardner	Risch
Blackburn	Graham	Roberts
Blunt	Grassley	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	McCconnell	Tillis
Crapo	McSally	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young
Enzi	Paul	
Ernst	Perdue	

NAYS—44

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Jones	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Booker	Lee
Harris	Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, before I speak, I ask unanimous consent

that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action on the Calabria and Altman nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Since I made that unanimous consent motion, and I am going to be speaking for longer than 10 minutes, I ask unanimous consent to speak for whatever time I may consume, which will probably be in the neighborhood of 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESIDENTIAL TAX RETURNS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, yesterday the Ways and Means Committee sent a letter to the IRS requesting the President's tax returns. Last night, I had a chance to read that letter, and I have to say that if you take it at its face value, it doesn't make a whole lot of sense. Consider the reasons that are stated in that letter from the Ways and Means Committee for requesting the President's tax returns. It states that the committee is conducting oversight of the audit process that the IRS uses to evaluate Presidential tax returns.

Currently, the IRS examines the President's tax returns as a matter of policy—simple policy—but a review isn't required by law. Democrats of the Ways and Means Committee have said they are now looking into whether the current IRS policies of auditing the President is enough or if congressional action may be needed. Democrats have even been talking about making IRS audits of the President's returns mandatory every year, even though—now, I understand that—even though the IRS does that every year, and they have been doing it for a long period of time.

In a press release, a Democratic member of the Ways and Means Committee said he has a duty to examine whether congressional action is needed to require Presidential audits and to oversee that they are done correctly. Ask yourself why that member would be saying that.

I, for one, haven't seen any evidence that the IRS has suddenly changed its policy under this President, meaning President Trump, or that it is conducting a less thorough review of President Trump's taxes than it did of previous Presidents or that it hasn't

conducted a review at all. So why are the Democrats considering these changes to the Tax Code now? Why didn't they raise the issue under President Obama or President Bush or President Clinton? The answer of course is that nothing has changed.

There is no reason to believe the IRS is doing any less due diligence in its review of President Trump's taxes than it has for any other President in our memory. The letter also states the committee needs to know the scope of the audit that the IRS conducts when it looks at a President's tax returns; that it needs to know whether there is a review of underlying business activities reported by the President. If Democrats are truly interested in finding out the level of scrutiny given to a President's tax returns, why not simply just ask the IRS to describe its audit procedure? That is a very straightforward question, and I am sure Commissioner Rettig would be happy to oblige with a straightforward answer. Why is there a need to seek President Trump's tax returns in order to get an answer to those questions? I want to give you a hint: There isn't one.

The letter also states that the committee is looking into how the IRS is doing its job of enforcing tax laws in a fair and impartial manner. In a statement yesterday, the Ways and Means Committee said it especially wants to know whether or not audits of Presidential tax returns are fully and appropriately being conducted.

Along those lines, in addition to asking for President Trump's tax returns and those of his businesses for the last 6 years, the Democrats have asked for information on the status of all audits of those tax returns that have been conducted. It sounds like they are planning to conduct their own review of the President's tax returns to see whether the IRS has been doing its job. Now, there is a problem with that.

The IRS audits more than 1 million tax returns every year. While audits of the President and Vice President might happen automatically, the audit process that is followed for them ought to be the same as it is for everyone else. Every member of the Ways and Means Committee knows that as well.

In members' remarks yesterday, they said the committee has a responsibility to conduct oversight of the tax system to determine how Americans, including those in elected office, are complying with the law. In other words, the President and the Vice President ought to be held to the same high standards as every other American—not a different standard but the same standard. There is no reason to believe this isn't already happening. Democrats haven't offered a shred of evidence to suggest the IRS hasn't done its job auditing President Trump, his taxes, or anybody else's for that matter.

By the way, if Democrats are really so concerned about enforcement, then why not ask the Treasury inspector

general to conduct a review of the IRS audit process? Well, I want to tell you why they might not do that. It is because they are not concerned about oversight of the IRS enforcement process at all. What they are interested in is using their oversight responsibilities to collect as much information about this President's finances as they can get their hands on, and that is really the bottom line, isn't it?

This letter from the House Democrats doesn't make sense when taken at face value because you can't take it at face value. Democrats say they are interested in the tax returns of all Presidents when they are really just interested in one—President Trump's.

If the effort to get the President's tax returns isn't part of a grand reform effort, as they would have us believe, then what is it motivated by? I want to tell you what it is motivated by. It is motivated by the Democrats' intense dislike of this President. It is motivated by their frustration over losing an election they thought they would easily win. It is motivated by their desire to use all of the resources at their disposal to find something—anything—to bring this President down.

Just take a look at how this whole effort to request the President's tax return has unfolded. That will tell you a real story. Democrats started making calls for President Trump to release his tax returns while he was still a candidate during the 2016 election. At the time, Democratic calls for the release of his tax returns were clearly just a political attack, not a policy issue as they now want us to believe.

Secretary Clinton said: "There must be something really terrible in those tax returns."

Her communications director used the issue to chide then-candidate Trump for "hiding behind fake excuses and backtracking on . . . previous promises."

In his speech before the Democratic National Convention, Mrs. Clinton's running mate questioned then whether then-Candidate Trump had been paying his fair share, at once calling for him to release his tax returns and asking: "Donald, what are you hiding?"

Since the election, these calls have continued, as you see yesterday. Democrats have just come up with more inventive excuses for making these calls, although I suspect the underlying political reasons are the same today as they were in 2016. Consider how those reasons have changed over time.

Not long after the election, at the beginning of the last Congress, 93 House Democrats signed a resolution of inquiry directing the Secretary of Treasury to turn over the President's tax returns. That request to turn over his tax returns was to be provided to the full House of Representatives and not to the Committee on Ways and Means.

The House Democrats' portion of that resolution committee report, signed by the ranking member and current chairman, is filled with com-

plaints about the President's refusal to release his tax returns, none of which ever mentioned reviewing IRS audits or even inquiring about IRS audit procedures.

In that report, Democrats say that the President has "rebuked over 40 years of tradition" by refusing to release his tax returns. They say that the President's tax returns should be released because he has a vast domestic and international business empire. They say they should be released because he is "not the average American." They say they should be released because he is President of the United States and has the power to sign bills into law, and that is supposed to serve as some kind of justification for demanding and releasing his tax returns. I can tell you that the law does not support that argument.

Under section 6103 of the Federal Tax Code, the tax returns of all Americans, including even the President of the United States, are considered to be private information.

Without an individual's permission, tax information can't be released except under the most limited circumstances. Let's not forget that our Tax Code reads that way for a very good reason.

Congress reformed the modern IRS privacy law in 1976, not long after President Nixon left office. Nixon had used his power over the IRS to target his political enemies. By passing that law in 1976, Congress wanted to make sure that never happened again. Congress was determined to put protections in place that would prevent any kind of abuse of that IRS power in the future. Congress wanted to ensure private tax information was never used for political purposes again. But if you strip away all of the pretense and trace this current effort back to its roots, that sounds an awful like what is happening right now with the efforts of the members of the Ways and Means Committee.

I stopped listing them, but Democrats have had plenty of other reasons in the past for claiming to need President Trump's tax returns.

In 2017, Democrats also said the President's taxes should be released because he stood to benefit from the tax reform that Congress passed and the President then signed into law. Apparently, because the President is wealthy and successful, they figured he must have had a self-interest in supporting that reform.

A more recent effort to get the President's returns is contained in a bill the House Democrats recently sent to the Senate, known as H.R. 1. That bill contains a provision requiring that candidates for President and Vice President, as well as the sitting President and Vice President, release their last 10 years of individual tax returns. Assuming the proposal lives on, even if the bill doesn't, I wonder if that is one of the items they were hoping to evaluate through their current oversight efforts.

Maybe they want to see the President's tax returns in order to evaluate their proposal to see the President's tax returns. That sounds like a lot of circular logic to me.

Democrats have also made a big deal out of the fact that under section 6103, the Secretary of the Treasury "shall" turn over relevant tax records to the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee if he requests it. That is exactly right, as long as the committee has a legitimate legislative purpose in asking for them, as opposed to this perceived political reason for why they want to do it.

For decades, the courts have been clear that congressional requests for information, like those tax returns or anything else we are trying to do, must have a legitimate legislative purpose. That is where the Democrats come up very, very short.

See, they don't have a purpose. All they have are a lot of excuses. Let me tell you something. Introducing legislation that would essentially require the President to release his tax returns and then using that to somehow justify requesting the President's tax returns is one of the worst excuses I have ever heard of.

You would think, considering the amount of time and practice they have had trying to rationalize all of this and make it sound so very good, they would be able to come up with something a little bit better than that. Apparently not, and that really speaks volumes, doesn't it?

The fact is, the reasons the Democrats have offered for wanting President Trump's tax returns back in 2016 and 2017 don't pass muster any better than the ones they are trying to peddle right now. That is because they are not requesting the tax returns in order to investigate a problem in need of oversight at all. All they really care about is finding a pretext to bring this President down.

As a Member of Congress who knows firsthand the importance of good oversight, that is what concerns me the most about this whole campaign that is going on in the other body.

I happen to know a thing or two about oversight. Over my career, I have conducted oversight of the last seven Presidential administrations—Democrat and Republican. I have called out both parties for doing things they shouldn't be doing. In that spirit, I have always said that every single Member of Congress is dutybound to conduct oversight of the Federal Government. In fact, I remind every new Member that I run into in this body—and the Presiding Officer has heard me tell him this—that if you want to get a bill passed, you have to have 51 votes to get it passed, but if you want to do oversight, you have to have one vote—your own decision to do that oversight.

The responsibility to conduct oversight is and ought to be regarded by each and every one of us as sacrosanct. The power to conduct oversight flows directly from the Constitution.

As Members of Congress, we owe it to the people we represent to preserve and protect its use as a tool for carrying out our legitimate constitutional responsibilities. I don't believe for a minute that when the Framers created article I—the power of Congress to legislate—what they had in mind was Members using these powers to collect personal information on their political opponents in an effort to destroy those political opponents.

In all my years of conducting oversight, I have never started with an end result and then worked backward in search of a reason for making it happen. That is not how oversight is done.

Oversight is about advocating for transparency, and with transparency comes accountability in order to fix problems and to improve government. It is not about searching for ways to sow division and tear down your political opponents. What Democrats are doing now looks a lot more like the latter than the former. If that is what they are up to, it is not oversight at all.

When you strip away all of their pretexts and when you strip out their circular logic, all you have are Democrats who want to go after the President in any way they can. They dislike him with a passion, and they want his tax returns to destroy him. That is all this whole process is about, and it is Nixonian to the core.

I yield.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

H.R. 268

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, earlier this week, the Senate debated a disaster relief funding bill that would have provided \$13½ billion in assistance to States and territories that have been touched by recent hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters. I share my colleagues' commitment to provide necessary assistance to get affected Americans back on their feet.

As chairman of the Budget Committee, I believe we should always consider the budgetary effects of any legislation pending before this body. Supplemental appropriations bills highlight a real challenge in controlling Federal spending. How should we budget for inevitable natural disasters and emergencies?

Answering this question is important because the Federal Government continues to spend more money than it takes in and will soon confront annual deficits exceeding \$1 trillion a year. These surging deficits add to our rising

debt, which stands today at \$22 trillion, or more than \$65,000 per person. That is regardless of age—the baby who was born this morning owes \$65,000. By 2029, if nothing is done, the national debt will grow to more than \$33 trillion, or more than \$94,000 per person.

Adding urgency to this situation is the surge in autopilot spending, which now represents more than two-thirds of what the Federal Government spends each year. Two-thirds of what we spend is not actually voted on; it happens automatically.

As our population ages, rising healthcare and interest costs will compound our fiscal problems. In 10 years, nearly 80 cents of every dollar the government spends will be on mandatory programs and interest on the debt. We need to do everything we can to improve our fiscal situation, and that includes improving the way we provide disaster relief.

Some of my colleagues may not realize that since the passage of the Budget Control Act in 2011, Congress has spent \$250 billion outside of the discretionary caps responding to natural disasters and other emergencies.

This spending has received special designations under the law that exempt it from discretionary spending limits, but such spending still has the very real effect of further increasing the Federal budget deficit—and the Federal debt. One designation that is often used is the "emergency" designation, which implies it is for something Congress did not anticipate. But as we all know, natural disasters happen on an annual basis, and in recent years we have had multiple natural disasters in a fiscal year.

I want to applaud my friend from Utah, Senator ROMNEY, for offering an amendment that recognizes the challenge of budgeting for disasters and emergencies. Disaster relief funding must be built into our base budgets, which is why I have incorporated these costs in recent budget resolutions, including the one that passed through our Budget Committee last week.

While there is no silver bullet to this problem, I am willing and eager to work with any of my colleagues who believe there is a better way to anticipate these costs.

The Senate Budget Committee recently held a hearing that partially touched on ideas to better budget for disaster funding. One option is to offset emergency spending increases with spending reductions in other areas. Another option could require a dedicated fund for emergencies, similar to how some States budget for these events. I have also considered whether a new actuarially sound insurance program could appropriately assess the risk for such disasters while maintaining affordable premiums. Budgeting for emergencies and disasters is not a precise science, but I believe Congress can do a lot better than just calling an emergency and adding to the debt.

While we work to more honestly budget for these annual costs, there are

other ways we can lower the costs of natural disasters. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has found that every \$1 spent mitigating against natural disasters saves an average of \$6. Last year, Congress passed the Disaster Recovery Reform Act, which I was proud to support. This bill included programs that encouraged mitigation activities. Congress should be open to any idea that could help our country better plan for annual costs of these natural disasters. This would allow us to respond to natural disasters more efficiently, while also reducing the burden on American taxpayers.

With our country more than \$22 trillion in debt and quickly approaching \$1 trillion annual deficits, we must do everything in our power to put our country on a more fiscally sustainable path. Better budgeting for natural disasters will not fix all of our financial problems, but it is a good place to start.

Before I conclude, I want to touch on another area of concern, and that is the growing prevalence of directed scorekeeping. That is a way of saying: We are not going to count that, even though we are going to spend it, and we can spend it more than once.

Congressional budget statutes have established scoring rules that are intended to provide standardized accounting to ensure that lawmakers have the best possible information upon which to base fiscal decisions. In recent years, however, we have seen more and more attempts to undermine that process and instead direct the scoring outcomes.

Last week, the Senate Budget Committee, which I chair, approved a fiscal year 2020 budget resolution that aims to crack down on this process by allowing a surgical point of order to be raised against any such provision. What that means is that the offending provision can be stricken from the underlying measure unless 60 Senators vote to retain it.

Unfortunately, the disaster bill which was brought to the floor this week included a provision that would essentially direct the appropriations from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, up to a limit, to be scored as costing zero dollars. The effect of this change would allow Congress to spend an additional \$2 billion above the statutory spending caps each year, while obscuring the real budgetary impacts from the American people. I filed an amendment that would solve that.

It is long past time for an honest conversation about the fiscal challenges facing our country. In the Budget Committee, we tried to advance that conversation with the budget that was approved last week. Unfortunately, the directed scorekeeping provision in the disaster bill considered earlier this week would set that effort back. I hope that when Congress returns to consideration of disaster legislation, it abandons that multiple-spending effort.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATO

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today following our colleague Senator TILLIS to join him in talking about the importance of NATO and expressing our deep appreciation for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Senator TILLIS and I are the cochairs of the newly established Senate NATO Observer Group, which builds on the effort that was started back in the 1990s, by Tom Daschle and Trent Lott, to address the expansion of NATO, following the fall of the Berlin Wall. Our task is not just to shepherd through the Senate any changes in NATO that require Senate approval, but it is also to remind all of us and to remind the American public just how important NATO is.

Over the last seven decades, the NATO alliance has stood by its members in the darkest hours, including in Afghanistan, after the United States was attacked on September 11.

As Secretary General Stoltenberg reminded us yesterday, the only time article 5, the mutual aid clause of the NATO charter, has been invoked was after September 11, after the United States was attacked by terrorists.

Our Transatlantic bond has been critical to the United States and NATO, and, in particular, it has sustained a period of unprecedented global security and stability. While people may not recognize it, every day the United States sees the benefit of NATO. Whether we need to use NATO bases to evacuate American troops from conflict or to ensure that American goods and people travel safely across the Atlantic Ocean, NATO plays a critical role.

As NATO marks its 70th anniversary—today, in fact—the fact is that the alliance makes us stronger around the world and safer at home. So it is no wonder that Americans are very supportive of this organization. Any implication that Americans don't like or understand NATO is just simply wrong.

This week the Pew Research Center unveiled research to show that nearly 8 in 10 Americans, or 77 percent of Americans, including large majorities in both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, agree that being a member of NATO is good for the United States.

We have also seen that the Chicago Council on Global Affairs has recorded a steady increase in NATO favorability across generations of Americans. Even the millennials, the generation born between 1981 and 1996, which are now

the largest voting bloc in the United States, value our alliances, and 72 percent back the United States' contribution to NATO.

Boosted by these numbers, Congress has been more active than at any time in my memory in expressing its support for NATO. In 2017 and 2018, Congress took more votes in support of the United States' enduring commitment to article 5 and NATO than at any time since the fall of the Soviet Union. That is why Senators TILLIS and I reestablished the Senate NATO Observer Group last year. Since then, we have enjoyed a diverse and active membership across the Republican and Democratic Parties, as well as the enduring support of the Senate's leadership—both Senator MCCONNELL, the majority leader, and Senator SCHUMER, the Democratic leader.

Further, Congress continues to put its word into action by allocating significant levels of funding to help Europe deter threats that emanate from NATO's eastern and southern borders, already having provided \$6.5 billion in the last year alone for the European Deterrence Initiative.

I have no doubt that as the Senate prepares to provide its advice and consent to NATO's 30th member, North Macedonia, Members of Congress will, once again, rally to NATO's side and push forward on initiatives to further strengthen NATO.

I should just call out the Republic of North Macedonia, as well as the country of Greece, for reaching an agreement around the name change for North Macedonia that both countries have agreed to and that the Parliaments of both countries have supported.

So as China and Russia struggle to maintain allies and resort to coercion and force to keep countries in their sphere, NATO has proven to be an enduring American advantage in an uncertain world.

Our NATO allies continue to magnify the strength of our military, and they stand ready to protect us and protect our shared interests and values worldwide. For this reason, I thank our allies for what they have done for the United States and for the people of Europe who are part of our partner nations.

While we may have our differences, we will always remain stronger with allies. As the Secretary General said yesterday, "it is good to have friends."

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 21.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Daniel Desmond Domenico, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Daniel Desmond Domenico, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Mitch McConnell, Johnny Isakson, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Roy Blunt, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, Todd Young, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 27.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Patrick R. Wyrick, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Patrick R. Wyrick, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

Mitch McConnell, Johnny Isakson, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Roy Blunt, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, Todd Young, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 105.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Cheryl Marie Stanton, of South Carolina, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Cheryl Marie Stanton, of South Carolina, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

John Thune, Thom Tillis, Steve Daines, James Lankford, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Richard Burr, David Perdue, Roger F. Wicker, Lindsey Graham, James E. Risch, Mitch McConnell.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 173.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of John P. Abizaid, of Nevada, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John P. Abizaid, of Nevada, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, John Thune, John Barrasso, Johnny Isakson, Pat Roberts, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Shelley Moore Capito.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 31.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Holly A. Brady, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Holly A. Brady, of Indiana, to be

United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

Mitch McConnell, Johnny Isakson, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Roy Blunt, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, Todd Young, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of David Steven Morales, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David Steven Morales, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, Johnny Isakson, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Steve Daines, Roy Blunt, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, Todd Young, John Thune, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis, Lindsey Graham.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN STURGEON

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday afternoon on the Senate floor, and it is one of my favorite times of the week because I get to come down and talk about an Alaskan who has

made a difference in my State and in the country sometimes. This one, by the way, is a big one. I think I am being a little bit presumptuous, but the pages, I think, view this as kind of one of their favorite speeches of the week because you learn about Alaska, and I get to brag about my wonderful State.

Now, I have been hearing a little bit back home that people like to watch this sometimes, but the gentleman I am going to talk about is John Sturgeon. That is him right there in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, and that is him with his hovercraft in Alaska when he is out moose hunting. This is an epic tale—epic, and it just happened. So I am going to be a little bit more long-winded on this “Alaskan of the Week” speech because it is actually really important for Alaskans; it is really important for my colleagues; and it is really, really important for Federal judges who rule on things that relate to Alaska.

We had an epic, huge U.S. Supreme Court case that just came down last week relating to this heroic figure, John Sturgeon, related to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, ANILCA—that is a mouthful; that is a huge statute that was passed by this body in 1980—and how that has been interpreted over the years, over the decades. The Supreme Court just last week interpreted this case in a way that we Alaskans think it should have been interpreted, but unfortunately Federal Agencies for 40 years have been interpreting it another way. So I am going to talk a little bit about that.

I will begin by talking about John Sturgeon and this battle he waged. Literally, they are going to make a movie out of this someday. Trust me. This is an epic—an American classic—12-year legal battle that he waged so he could go hunt a moose off the Nation River, a river in Alaska, and the Feds were saying he couldn't. So he fought and he fought, and he went to the Supreme Court not once but twice. So are we ready? This is one epic story that, again, I guarantee you they are going to make a movie out of someday.

So let me begin by talking about John Sturgeon, the 74-year-old man right there and what brought him to Alaska. Well, he is from Minnesota, originally and, like so many Alaskans, soon-to-be Alaskans—people watching, we want you to come up and visit, by the way. We want you to come up and live there. He felt the pull of Alaska very early in life.

John says he remembers dreaming about Alaska as a child. When he was graduating from high school, he applied for a few jobs as a hunting and fishing guide, but like many patriotic Americans—actually, many of my fellow Alaskans—he joined the military instead. My State has more veterans per capita than any State in the country. After he finished two tours in Vietnam in the Navy—so we are talking a real heroic guy here—he formed a

plan. He was going to go to college, get a degree in forestry, and then head north to Alaska. That is what he did. He stuck with the plan.

As soon as he finished his last exam in college, he put it on the professor's desk, and without even getting his diploma, he jumped into his car and drove all the way out to Alaska. He didn't even wait for graduation.

So, initially, he moved to Wrangell in Southeast Alaska, and then he became director of the division of forestry for the State of Alaska—a great job, a really important job. It was a position he held until 1986, and then he formed his own timber company, which he runs today with his son.

Now, throughout all this time, John Sturgeon, like many Alaskans, loved to get out to see our great outdoors, to hunt, to fish. There was a particular area in the interior part of Alaska that he discovered that was particularly good for moose hunting. For those of you who have been up to Alaska or haven't, we have very large moose, and we have a lot of them, a lot of moose.

To get to this area, however, he had to cross a river—the Nation River, within the Yukon-Charley National Preserve, which is a preserve that was actually created by Congress. I am going to get to that. The Nation River, in a lot of areas, is very shallow. It is very shallow, so the best way to traverse the Nation River is via hovercraft. You are looking at John Sturgeon's hovercraft right there.

It was 2007, and John was in his hovercraft when the steering cable broke, and he and two friends lugged the hovercraft to a sandbar to fix the cable—just like this. This is the sandbar right here at the Nation River.

Three park rangers then showed up. We love our park rangers up in Alaska, but we also have a little more skepticism than most States about Federal agencies saying they can control what we can and can't do. John says that they were very cordial, asking all sorts of questions about hunting in the area.

He said: I just thought they were interested in the hunting. Then one of them pulled out a thick rule book.

Uh-oh. They found and pointed to a section in the rule book in which hovercrafts aren't allowed in Federal parks or preserves. They told him they were going to cite him for violating this Federal regulation if he didn't move his hovercraft.

I talked earlier about this big law, a giant law that passed in 1980. Most Alaskans didn't want it passed.

Think about this. Unfortunately, this happens a fair amount to my State. There are laws that come from the Federal Government that we don't want; yet Senators and Congressmen pass them anyway and tell Alaskans how to live their lives. That is what ANILCA did. It is a huge law.

Of course, back then, our Senators fought for provisions that protected Alaskans' interests, even though they didn't really like the law. I will talk a little later about what that law did.

John Sturgeon knew ANILCA specifically said that in Alaska—ANILCA is only about Alaska—navigable waters and submerged lands within a park or reserve were governed by State laws and regulations, not Federal laws and Federal regulations. It gets a little complicated, but Senators like Ted Stevens and Congressman YOUNG fought this bill. They said: Look, if you are going to pass it, you have to make sure things are in there to protect our citizens.

So John Sturgeon looked at these park rangers and said: Look, I am on State land and State water. You can't cite me. You shouldn't even be on these lands.

They said that it didn't matter, that they still had the authority, just as they had the authority to ban hovercrafts on all parks and preserves across the country, and they showed him this regulation book.

John Sturgeon thought they were wrong, but he moved his hovercraft anyway without getting cited. But this issue still really gnawed him. If you are being told by a Federal official to do something and you think it is wrong—well, he thought it was time to fight it.

John had personally seen when ANILCA passed—and a lot of people predicted it—this huge bill that gave so much of Alaska away to the Federal Government. Little by little, Federal agencies and Federal officials started telling Alaskans: Hey, you can't do this. You can't do that. We have authority over you on this.

It was this creeping maneuver, which we thought was ignoring provisions of ANILCA and treating the public lands in Alaska as if they were in the lower 48, but they are different. Most people who have been impacted over the years by this overreach of the Federal Government, quietly but aggressively telling Alaskans what they can and can't do according to the law, couldn't do anything about it. Going against the Federal Government—a lawsuit, for example—is time-consuming. It is expensive. As John said, "You just can't fight the beast." So most went away, and the Federal power kept creeping, creeping, and creeping.

After consulting with some lawyers about 12 years ago, John Sturgeon decided, you know what, I am going to fight this. I am going to fight it.

So guess what. He did it. He filed a suit. He lost in district court. He lost in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Trust me, I am going to talk about that court of appeals, which, unfortunately, has jurisdiction over 40 percent of the entire country and one in five Americans. They very frequently get the cases wrong. This is another great example of their completely blowing it.

It went to the U.S. Supreme Court not once but, as I said, twice. We just got the second case last week, and, boy, was it a big decision for Alaska.

That was 12 years ago. He has been fighting this for 12 years. Guess how

much it cost John Sturgeon to do this; guess why people don't do this. It took \$1.2 million in legal fees to vindicate the rights of the State of Alaska and his fellow Alaskans. Just for that reason, he should be Alaskan of the Week.

The final, unanimous decision by the Supreme Court that came down is a historic—historic—decision for the State of Alaska in favor of John Sturgeon and completely against the Park Service and the Federal Government's abuse of power.

This decision is celebrated across the great State of Alaska, and it also upheld a very important subsistence provision for Alaska Natives as well.

Every argument that the Park Service made in holding up its aggressive use of its authority over John Sturgeon "ran aground," in Justice Kagan's words. She was the author of this very important decision last week.

Let's talk a little bit about ANILCA and Justice Kagan's decision. By the way, it was a 9-to-0 decision. We always hear about the Supreme Court being divided. It was 9-zip. This is the second time this went in front of the Ninth Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court said: This is not hard, Ninth Circuit and Federal agents.

It was 9 to 0 in favor of John Sturgeon and the great State of Alaska.

As I mentioned, ANILCA passed here in 1980. It is a huge bill, several hundred pages. Few—even the experts—have actually read the text of ANILCA to understand why the provisions in it are so important. But to their credit, the members of the U.S. Supreme Court clearly read this statute.

As I mentioned, the decision written by Justice Kagan will serve as a guide on how lands are to be regulated by the Federal Government in Alaska according to Federal law.

In the decision, Justice Kagan begins with some history. By the way, I highly recommend that all of my fellow Alaskans read the decision. Pages, you guys should read it too. Anyone watching who cares about Alaska should read this decision. It is quite a big one.

Justice Kagan goes through great pains to try to explain a very complicated topic and writes in very plain language. It is quite a good opinion. She begins by talking about some Alaskan history.

The Federal Government, as most know, bought Alaska from Russia in 1867—365 million acres of land. That is well over the size of Texas.

Sorry, Senator CRUZ and Senator CORNYN. I know you guys like to talk about the size of Texas, but we are way, way bigger.

For the first 90 years, all of the land was owned and controlled by the Federal Government, which completely neglected the land and the people in it, who were mostly Alaska Natives.

Justice Kagan wrote in her opinion: "By the 1950s, Alaskans hankered for both statehood and land—and Congress decided to give them both."

Along with statehood came 103 million acres for the State of Alaska to

manage in order to create a tax base. The Statehood Act also gave Alaska "title to an ownership of the lands beneath the navigable waters," such as the Nation River, which is where John Sturgeon was hunting. But statehood didn't resolve all of the land disputes at all.

The Alaska Native people rightfully demanded jurisdiction over the lands that had been their ancestral lands and that they had lived on for thousands of years. So in 1971, Congress, this body, passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, which resulted in the formation of Alaska Native corporations that were able to choose up to 40 million acres of land for the Alaska Native people. That is roughly the size of Pennsylvania.

More land claims and disputes came about, given the large size of Alaska and given the different land holdings. All of this takes us to the very large statute, ANILCA, which passed here in 1980, which was at the heart of the lawsuit that we just heard about and that the Supreme Court ruled on last week.

In 1980, after a very long and contentious battle—one that resulted in protests all across Alaska, which, as Justice Kagan noted in her opinion, involved a modern-day Paul Revere galloping through crowds in Alaska, shouting "The Feds are coming! The Feds are coming!"—104 million acres of land were set aside by Congress for preservation in Alaska. Think about that.

I say to the Presiding Officer, you are from the great State of Indiana. If the Federal Government, over your objection, came and said, "We are going to take a huge chunk of Indiana, and we are going to keep it and preserve it," you probably wouldn't have voted for that.

Our Senators didn't like this, but the Congress overruled them. That happens sometimes when your State is so big. It is something we still have to focus on—when people focus on my State and want to lock it up.

So here is what they did: 104 million acres were set aside for preservation. Ten new national parks, monuments, and preserves were created, and three existing ones were expanded. These areas were called conservation units. It is essentially a national park. All of this did not come without challenges because, unlike in the lower 48, these new areas—103 million acres—that is bigger than California. It is huge. These new preservation units, conservation units, had within them private land, Native land, and State land. So it was very complicated.

These are what are called inholdings in Alaska—a patchwork of inholdings. Our Senators did a great job of saying that the inholdings can't be regulated by the Federal agencies. They are private lands; they are Alaska Native corporation lands; they are State lands, so the Feds can't regulate them. We believe that was in ANILCA. That was part of the deal, part of the settlement.

Part of the reason is that, as one writer put it, while many Americans come to Alaska to view our parks—and we are glad they do; they are beautiful—“many Alaskans think of those same parks as some combination of home, office, grocery store, and source of renewal. They have known these lands intimately, from one year to perhaps ten thousand years.”

As Justice Kagan also noted in her opinion:

[R]ivers function as the roads of Alaska. . . . Over three-quarters of Alaska's 300 communities live in regions unconnected to the State's road system.

Let me repeat that. We have over 200 communities, villages, that are not connected by roads. We need a lot more infrastructure in Alaska. So you either have to get there by taking an airplane or, in the winter, a snow machine or a boat on a river, if the village is on a river.

I am still quoting Justice Kagan. She says: “Residents of these areas include many of Alaska's poorest citizens, who rely on rivers for access to necessities like food and fuel.”

You are starting to get the picture. Our Senators fought to make sure the Federal Government couldn't regulate these areas because we need them for economic development, to get food, to hunt, and to get fuel. Slowly but surely, the Federal Government, whether Democrats or Republicans, started to say: No, no, no. We control this.

We are going to tell you Alaskans how to live your life, despite the fact that we thought ANILCA said they can't.

Congress, as I mentioned, particularly Alaska's delegation, understood that this was something they had to balance. Yes, we need to protect the lands, but at the same time—and again I am quoting Justice Kagan here—the law had to “provide adequate opportunity for satisfaction of the economic and social needs of the State of Alaska and its people.”

You can't just go to a State, over the objections of their own representatives in Congress, and say: We are going to nationalize all of this, and all of you citizens who live there, we are going to tell you what to do with your lives.

Now, this body needs to understand this because sometimes, even today, we still have issues where some of my colleagues want to lock up and shut down the great State of Alaska, and they don't take into account the people I actually represent. It is a frustration, but it is something we will continue to guard against.

Well, our Senators did a good job of guarding us in the ANILCA Act, but the Federal Government kind of ignored a lot of what was in there, and certainly the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals did.

So, as Justice Kagan put it, if you continue to read her opinion, she says: “So if . . . you see some tension within the [ANILCA] statute, you are not mistaken [when you see that tension]: It

arises from Congress's twofold ambitions [when they passed ANILCA in 1980].”

She described it as “a grand bargain,” the “Janus-faced nature in its statement of purpose, reflecting the century-long struggle over federal regulation of Alaska's resources.”

That is her quote. Here is how it was supposed to work, the twofold ambitions. It was supposed to balance the ideas of preservation of Alaska's lands with also allowing the State, not the Federal Government, to regulate those inholdings I am talking about—private land, State of Alaska land, and Native corporation land. That is what this law was reflected to do when it was written.

It can be confusing. It is a very big law, particularly for Federal employees who see it as their job to preserve and keep people out of these parks and not to—remember, you have Alaskans who have lived there for thousands of years or who had private property in there prior to this law being passed.

As Justice Kagan wrote—and here is a quote from her, which is a really important one for Alaska. She said:

If [John] Sturgeon lived in any other State, his [law]suit would not have a prayer of success. . . . Except that Sturgeon lives in Alaska. And as we—

The Supreme Court—have said before, “Alaska is often the exception, not the rule” [when it comes to these kind of Federal laws in Federal parks].

Alaska, as the Justices say over and over in this monumental decision brought down from the Supreme Court last week, is different. John Sturgeon understood this. The Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, which unfortunately handles all of the Federal appeals from Alaska district courts, does not understand this. They haven't for decades, unfortunately.

The first time John Sturgeon took this case up through the courts, he went to the Ninth Circuit, and they, of course, said: No. Sorry. Federal agents win. John Sturgeon, you lose. You now have the right to move your hovercraft on the Nation River because the Federal officials have all the power over that river.

The U.S. Supreme Court—this is about 3 years ago—actually said: No, we don't think that is the case. We are going to reverse this and send it back to the Ninth Circuit.

So what did the Ninth Circuit do? They held again that Sturgeon is going to lose. The Federal Government wins. They just came up with a different reason. I read that Ninth Circuit opinion. It was one of the most remarkable opinions I have ever read of a court of appeals—Federal court of appeals ignoring the U.S. Supreme Court. It is breathtaking how they just ignored the U.S. Supreme Court in their second opinion.

Now, sometimes the U.S. Supreme Court doesn't like to be ignored. I was a law clerk on the Ninth Circuit. I have seen them do that a lot. What did the

Supreme Court do? They essentially said: You can't ignore us. So they took it again. They took it again, and they came out with a 9-to-0 opinion. If you are a Ninth Circuit judge, you have to be embarrassed—embarrassed—because the U.S. Supreme Court took you to task. They essentially said you cannot have Federal agents in Alaska who can do whatever they believe is in their power with ignoring ANILCA. ANILCA says: “Alaskans have to be able to regulate, to use, and to control areas within these Federal preserves if they are inholdings, private land, State land, or Alaska Native corporation land.” This is something the Federal agencies have ignored and certainly the Ninth Circuit has ignored.

One of our jobs here, as you know, is to confirm judges who have been nominated. Any Ninth Circuit judge who is now coming before this body for confirmation, the first thing I am going to do is hand them this Sturgeon opinion from the U.S. Supreme Court last week and say: Read this. Read it and understand it because the Ninth Circuit has been getting the issues of Federal power over Alaska wrong for decades, and this U.S. Supreme Court decision finally sets them right—finally sets them right. This is a monumentally important decision for my State, and I believe other States, but certainly for my State.

So after a 12-year battle and after spending \$1.2 million on legal fees, our Alaskan of the Week for today, John Sturgeon, right there in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, made history—made history. A moose hunter said: I am not going to be pushed around by the Federal Government. I think I have the right to do this, and I think my State, not the Feds, controls this area of Alaska.

He was right. Despite the Federal district court telling him he was wrong and despite the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit telling him he was wrong twice, he was right. He simply wouldn't give up. Because of John Sturgeon, Alaskans will have firm ground to fight on the legal subject that comes before the courts in my State all the time in the Ninth Circuit, which is how much power the Federal Government has to control Alaskans, our economy, and our future.

As Justice Kagan wrote, in those areas, like the Nation River, [ANILCA] “makes clear, Park Service administration does not replace local [and State] control.” This body said that. Unfortunately, Federal agencies have ignored it and so has the Ninth Circuit, but now the Supreme Court has spoken and has spoken very, very definitively.

“It makes you feel patriotic,” John Sturgeon said recently when we contacted him. “One little guy from Alaska—a moose hunter—can be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court [two times]. That just blew me away.”

It does make you feel patriotic. It does make you feel that if one man thinks he is right, he can fight and win

in the courts of the United States, although it took 12 years and over a million dollars—and again, he didn't just win. He won 9 to 0—9 to 0. That is as good as it gets in the U.S. Supreme Court.

In Alaska, this man is a hero. He doesn't accept the label. He is too modest. He does acknowledge he wouldn't have gotten as far as he did without the help of some excellent attorneys, all of whom I know and have had the opportunity in my life to work with and become friends with: Matt Findley, Ruth Botstein, and Jon Katchen, who wrote an amicus brief in both hearings, including one for the congressional delegation that the U.S. Supreme Court used a lot. He also had an amazing outpouring of support from the community all over the State. People across the State of Alaska, Democrats and Republicans—it didn't matter—they knew what he was fighting for. He also had an amazing of support from the community, groups and individuals who stood with him throughout the years and who, all told, raised all but \$100,000 to pay for the legal bills.

Justice Kagan said this decision means “Sturgeon can again rev up his hovercraft in search of moose.” That is Justice Kagan in her opinion, and he is planning to do just that. He is ready. He has been working on the hovercraft. Again, there it is in the picture. It was in his garage over the past few months. It has a new engine, and he recently fired it up just like Justice Kagan told him to do, and he says it is running fine. He can't wait to get out and moose hunt.

But this story, as you probably have gathered, is bigger than one man and his moose. “Alaska is different,” John said, and, by the way, that is what the Supreme Court was saying throughout the entire opinion. “It's special. And it's meant to be that way and should be treated differently by the law. The people of Alaska truly won” in this very important case.

Thank you, John Sturgeon, for never giving up. Thank you for your hard work and your determination, and thank you for being our Alaskan of the Week. I also want to give a big thanks to our nine Justices on the Supreme Court. Justice Kagan, who wrote an exceptional decision, shows that she and the other eight Justices on the Court understand that Alaska is different, as they say probably five times in their opinion. We can love our lands, we can protect them fiercely, and we can live and play and earn a living on them as well. So for her very well-reasoned decision, maybe she should be an honorary Alaskan of the Week as well. I don't think Justice Kagan is from Alaska, though, but for today, all our thanks and praise and gratitude goes to John Sturgeon for really an incredible legal battle that is going to go down in the history books as a super-duper important day for Alaska.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING FRANK TREADWAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I would like to remember the life of Frank Treadway, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 96.

Born in Bell County in southeast Kentucky, Frank was one of 12 children, and much of his childhood was spent helping on the family farm in Noetown. During his teenage years, Frank worked at the Middlesboro Country Club as a golf caddy, developing a lifelong love for the game. Like so many members of the Greatest Generation, Frank proudly answered his Nation's call to service, and he enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Aboard the U.S.S. *Kyne*, Frank served throughout the Pacific. For their meritorious participation in combat, the crew received multiple commendations.

After Frank returned home from the war, Frank married the love of his life, Inez. They spent 70 years together and raised seven children. Farming remained an enduring passion, and one of Frank's proudest accomplishments was the founding and continued success of his local farm market, Treadway Gardens. Throughout his life, Frank remained loyal to his childhood home and always held the people of southeast Kentucky in high regard. Elaine and I commend this hero for his service, and we send our condolences to Inez, their children, family, and friends.

LIFESPAN RESPITE CARE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to reaffirm my partnership on the Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act of 2019 with my good friend, Senator TAMMY BALDWIN, who I would like the record to reflect is an original lead cosponsor of S. 995. As the long-standing coauthors of this legislation, Senator BALDWIN and I have been working together to provide the necessary resources to State respite agencies to ensure that caregivers have access to the respite services they need. Following the introduction of the legislation earlier this week, we heard testimony in the Senate Special Committee on Aging that reaffirmed the importance of respite care for the millions of caregivers who are caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's and other dementias. I look forward to continuing to work with Senator BALDWIN to advance S. 995.

RECOGNIZING THE MASSACRE RIM WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I come forward today to recognize the Massacre Rim Wilderness Study Area's designation as an International Dark Sky Sanctuary. Located 150 miles north of Reno in Washoe County, NV, Massacre Rim Wilderness Study Area is a region with rolling hills, buttes, plateaus, and narrow canyons, covered in sagebrush and junipers. Massacre Rim is a natural, undisturbed, and isolated environment that offers visitors rare opportunities to enjoy scenic vistas of up to 60 miles, as well as solitude away from development and distraction. Thanks to the location's remoteness, Massacre Rim's night views are completely uninhibited by light pollution. These unique qualities allow for nearly unparalleled stargazing, which has attracted visitors from around the world.

On March 30, 2019, the International Dark-Sky Association designated the Massacre Rim Wilderness Study Area as an International Dark Sky Sanctuary, only the fourth location to achieve this distinction in the United States and the seventh in the entire world. The International Dark-Sky Association deemed Massacre Rim worthy of this honor due to its qualifications as “land that has an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is protected for its scientific, natural, or educational value, its cultural heritage and/or public enjoyment.”

For most of human history, a night sky teeming with stars and shooting comets was a regular occurrence for our ancestors. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, one could look to the sky and find awe-inspiring wonder, intrigue, and entertainment. For most of us, that is no longer the case. According to a 2016 National Geographic article, 80 percent of Americans cannot see the Milky Way due to light pollution. While light pollution is a necessary and small consequence to our growth and development as a society, it is imperative that we recognize the significant value in our increasingly rare dark sky places, such as Massacre Rim. Fortunately, for visitors and residents of the great State of Nevada, views of both the Milky Way and our neighboring galaxy, Andromeda, are available at Massacre Rim.

Our State's booming outdoor recreation economy is a testament to the success of our public lands and highlights the importance of keeping our invaluable natural resources available for all to utilize and enjoy. I commend the nonprofit organization, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, for spearheading the Massacre Rim Wilderness Study Area's Dark Sky Sanctuary designation, and for continuing to educate others about the natural wonders available in the Silver State.

From Massacre Rim, to the Lake Tahoe Basin, to the Ruby Mountains, residents and visitors can attest that

our public lands allow us to connect with our collective past and preserve our shared treasures for future generations.

REMEMBERING HARRIS LLEWELLYN WOFFORD, JR.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to remember and pay tribute to former Senator Harris Llewellyn Wofford, Jr. and his life of dedicated service to our country and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Harris lived a life of service, committed to advancing civil rights and ending injustice. Early in his career, Harris went to India to study non-violence and the teachings of Gandhi. The lessons he learned during that time would become indispensable as Harris got to know Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and became involved in the civil rights movement, helping to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the first civil rights legislation since reconstruction.

When John F. Kennedy was running for President in 1960, Harris was an adviser on his campaign. Days before the election, Dr. King was unjustly imprisoned, and Wofford urged Kennedy and his team to call Coretta Scott King to comfort her and demonstrate his commitments to civil rights. Once Kennedy was elected, Harris Wofford served as Special Assistant to the President for Civil Rights and chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Rights. He urged the President and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to pursue civil rights legislation. Wofford would join Martin Luther King and others in the Selma to Montgomery Civil Rights marches in 1965 in support of voting rights for African-Americans.

While serving in the Kennedy administration, Wofford worked with R. Sargent Shriver on the creation of the Peace Corps, eventually leaving the White House to serve as the Peace Corps' special representative to Africa and director of operations in Ethiopia, as well as associate director. He would also play a role in the creation of Volunteers in Service to America, a domestic version of the Peace Corps.

In 1991, when former Pennsylvania Senator H. John Heinz was killed in a plane crash, my father, Governor Robert P. Casey, turned to Harris Wofford to fill the vacancy. Harris went on to win a special election and served until 1994 when he narrowly lost reelection. While in office, he worked to pass the National and Community Service Act, creating AmeriCorps, the Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America. Harris would go on to serve as the head of AmeriCorps.

If one tried to sum up Harris Wofford's life in one word, it would be service. He truly believed that through service every individual could contribute to the betterment of his or her community, State, country, and the world. Harris Wofford's friend, Martin Luther King, Jr., said "everyone can be

great, because everyone can serve." Today we honor Harris Wofford's life of service which will continue to inspire Americans to serve one another and our Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA WESTERN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing the University of Montana Western women's basketball team for their first ever NAIA Division I national championship.

The University of Montana Western women's basketball team won the NAIA Division I national championship game 75-59 over Oklahoma City University and finished their season with 30 wins and only 4 losses. These ladies have done an incredible job exemplifying the hard work that all Montanans are known for.

The team also received several individual awards for coaches and players. Their head coach, Lindsay Woolley, was awarded the NAIA Coach of the Year. The Montana Western Bulldogs also had the NAIA Player of the Year, Brianna King. Ms. King set a University of Montana Western single-season scoring record with 771 points.

Congratulations to the University of Montana Western women's basketball team on an incredible season and a memorable outcome as the NAIA Division I National Champions.●

TRIBUTE TO FIRST LIEUTENANT KATIE KIENZT

• Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and pay tribute to United States Army 1LT Kate M. Kientz, a proud Oklahoman who is currently serving her country in Kosovo. I had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with Lieutenant Kientz back in February during a congressional delegation trip to the region, and I was proud to see a strong Oklahoman such as herself representing our State and our country so well. I would like to express my sincere thanks for the excellent work of Lieutenant Kientz in advancing the mission in Europe. Her dedication to duty is instrumental to prepare ready forces, ensure strategic access, deter conflict, enable the NATO alliance, strengthen partnerships, and counter transnational threats in order to protect and defend the United States.

Lieutenant Kientz was raised in my home city of Tulsa, OK, and attended Bishop Kelley High School. She continued her education at the University of Oklahoma and graduated in 2017 with a degree in political science and letters. Following graduation, she interned at the Oklahoma House of Representatives and participated in Reserve Officers' Training Corps exchanges in Bei-

jing and Slovakia. These experiences were the foundation of a strong background that prepared her for a successful career in military intelligence.

As of January 2018, Lieutenant Kientz has been the chemical officer and S4 in charge of logistics in the 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment. She arrived in Kosovo in October of 2018 and plans to then finish her time as a lieutenant at Fort Drum before transitioning into military intelligence.

Meeting Lieutenant Kientz in Kosovo had an impact on me and reassured me that the next generation is in great hands with leaders such as herself. On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank 1LT Kate M. Kientz and her family for their commitment, sacrifice, and contribution to our great Nation. I join my colleagues in wishing her future success in all aspects of life as she continues to serve as a role model for service, sacrifice, and leadership.●

REMEMBERING LILLA WEINBERGER

• Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize the life of Lilla Weinberger, a beloved daughter, friend, and activist who devoted her life to the causes of democracy and the literary arts.

Lilla Weinberger was born in 1941 in Pasadena, CA. She became involved in the women's movement while at CalArts. After college, she worked at the Library of Congress and carried out research and worked on speeches for President Lyndon Johnson's landmark education legislation. She moved to Lenox, MA, and there, she was integral to the building of the first-ever domestic violence shelter in the Commonwealth.

In 1991, Lilla moved to Sonoma, CA, and founded Readers' Books, which became a cherished institution. She became deeply involved in the independent bookstore community and served on the board of the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association from 1997-2003.

Lilla was a strong believer in political participation and grassroots democracy. She was an active member of the Barack Obama Presidential campaigns in 2008 and 2012. She became the northern California regional head of the Obama campaign in 2012 and later became Obama's field director in Maryland. In 2013, Lilla returned to Massachusetts and became the regional field director for my first U.S. Senate campaign. She was our warrior in western Massachusetts and became an indispensable member of our campaign operation.

I am honored to commemorate the remarkable achievements of Lilla Weinberger, a distinguished leader, our dear friend, and a truly great American.●

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JOHN
"JACK" FREDERICK WILSON

• Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, it is my honor to pay tribute to Captain John "Jack" Frederick Wilson, who celebrated his 100th birthday this past Tuesday, April 2.

Born on April 2, 1919, and raised in Park City, UT, Jack is one of only a small handful of pilots trained at Brigham Young University. He joined the Army Air Corps on December 11, 1941, just 4 days after the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

After training in the B-24 Liberator bomber, he was made a pilot in the 90th Bombing Group in the Fifth Air Force of the Army Air Corps and was deployed to New Guinea. He and his crew were eventually assigned to reconnaissance missions in the North China Sea tracking the Japanese fleet, and his B-24 was stripped of all bombs, machine-guns, and defensive measures to be replaced with extra fuel tanks. Jack said of that time, "My career as a B-24 pilot basically consisted of long periods of boredom punctuated with moments of terror."

He was a member of the Jolly Rogers and has carried his membership card his entire life, which says, "Having been assigned to the best damned heavy bomb group, and having paid his dues, Captain Jack F. Wilson is hereby considered a member in good standing of the Jolly Rogers."

As a typhoon threatened the island airstrip where he was stationed, locals from Okinawa showed him a cave that he and his B-24 crew sheltered in, saving their lives. Despite popular opinion at the time, Jack never demonized the Japanese people. He believed "there are good people everywhere" and taught his children and grandchildren the same.

After the war, Jack used his flying skills to help locate wildfires and pioneered the "interagency" concept, establishing the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, ID. The main headquarters building bears his name.

In honor of a native Utahn and one of the last remaining B-24 pilots from World War II, the U.S. Congress extends warm greetings to Mr. Wilson on April 2, 2019, his 100th birthday. We commend him for his life of service and his valor in defense of his country. •

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL S. LIONEL

• Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, it is my distinct honor to recognize Samuel S. Lionel, who is celebrating his 100th birthday. Considered the "Dean" of the Nevada Bar, Sam's defense of Nevada values stands as a strong reminder of the tremendous work he has done for our State.

For decades, Sam has represented one of the largest law firms in Nevada, fighting for critically important issues such as our thriving tourism industry and defending Nevada's unique western heritage. The dedication he has placed

into his practice has strengthened our State's economy and helped shape the Las Vegas Valley that we know and love today. In fact, it was Sam who played a key role in the conception and development of many of the hotels and casinos on the Las Vegas Strip, setting the stage for Nevada's unprecedented growth and its booming entertainment scene.

Sam is known for his philanthropic heart. He remains particularly active in Jewish philanthropy, and we share a long history of working together in our synagogue, Congregation Ner Tamid. Sam has also been a central benefactor of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, endowing the namesake Samuel S. Lionel Professor of Intellectual Property Law position at the William S. Boyd School of Law in 2016. I know firsthand the wonderful leader Sam is, and his philanthropic work has distinguished him in the Jewish and legal communities not only in Nevada but also throughout the United States. Sam's name is and will always remain synonymous with his professional and philanthropic dedication to the Silver State.

Happy birthday to Sam, a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, servant leader, and loyal friend. •

TRIBUTE TO WHIT ARMSTRONG

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the retirement of Whit Armstrong, a native of Montgomery, AL, from the Alabama Power Company board of directors, effective on April 26, 2019. Whit is an acknowledged leader in the financial and investment arena with over 30 years in the banking industry, including service as a member of the Alabama State Banking Board. He has provided decades of service to improve the quality of life in his community and across the State of Alabama with numerous civic, economic development, educational, and business organizations.

Mr. Whit Armstrong previously served as president, chief executive officer, and chairman of the board of The Citizens Bank in Enterprise, AL, and of its holding company, Enterprise Capital Corporation, Inc. He currently serves as managing member of Creeke Capital Investments, LLC, also located in Enterprise, AL.

Whit has earned many recognitions for his contributions, among them a Silver Beaver Award for Outstanding Service to the Boy Scouts and the 1975 Alabama Jaycees' Outstanding Young Man of Alabama Award. He earned his bachelor's degree and master of science in finance with a focus in banking from the University of Alabama.

At home in the Wiregrass, Whit is married to Dr. Rebecca Brown Armstrong. They have a son, Whit Junior, and four grandchildren, Whit III, Charlotte, James, and Katrina Armstrong. An engaged resident in his community, Whit is an active member of First United Methodist Church of Enterprise.

His extensive experience in business and civic life, along with his seasoned judgment and knowledge of the Alabama Power Company, have provided great value to Alabama Power's board of directors.

What is truly remarkable are Whit Armstrong's many accomplishments and contributions to the State. I am proud to take this time to recognize him for his service on the Alabama Power Company board of directors, which has benefitted the customers of Alabama Power, the people of Alabama, and the State. His achievements and dedication to advancing the industry have not gone unnoticed. I join Whit Armstrong's friends, family, and colleagues in wishing him the best of luck as he transitions into a new chapter of his life, and I thank him for his commitment to Alabama. •

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIGMA NU
FRATERNITY

• Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I am pleased to advise the Senate of the 150th anniversary of Sigma Nu Fraternity, a principles-based men's fraternal organization with more than 160 chapters on college campuses in the United States, approximately 12,000 current collegiate members, and more than 250,000 initiates in its history. This year, Sigma Nu celebrates the 150th anniversary of its public founding on January 1, 1869, at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, VA. Cadets James Frank Hopkins, James McIlvaine Riley, and Greenfield Quarles joined together to form Sigma Nu as a brotherhood committed to the principles of love, honor, and truth and in firm opposition to hazing. Sigma Nu Fraternity remains the only men's college fraternity founded in direct opposition to hazing. Its history and its mission to develop ethical leaders for today's society are worthy of the highest esteem.

Originally founded as the Legion of Honor, Sigma Nu's central founding value is honor, and the concept that a man's character and conduct should always be governed by a high sense of honor guides all its work. This value is as relevant 150 years later as it was then.

For 150 years, members of Sigma Nu have led in their respective communities, professions, and families. From NASA to the Pentagon, from the arts to the sciences, and from business to public service, there are few facets of American life and history in which a Sigma Nu initiate has not made his mark.

When this Nation has called upon its citizen-soldiers, Sigma Nu initiates have answered that call. They have fought and died in every major conflict since the Civil War. Its members are veterans of every branch of the Armed Forces, including two Medal of Honor recipients. Sigma Nus have understood the price of freedom and been willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for it.

The 12,000 collegiate members on campuses across the country today serve their communities in student government, interfraternity councils, athletic teams, and other student organizations. Last year, these young future leaders of our Nation performed over 375,000 hours of community service and raised over \$2 million for philanthropic causes.

Whether it is through its award-winning ethical leadership development program, LEAD, or through the mentorship of more than 2,000 volunteer advisors, Sigma Nu continues to be at the forefront of developing the minds, hearts, and character of its initiates, inspiring them to excel with the timeless value of honor.

Today, in its 150th year, Sigma Nu Fraternity calls upon its initiates to renew that legacy, to reflect on the principles of its founders, and to commit to a strong future for this esteemed brotherhood. As a proud initiate of Sigma Nu Fraternity, I would like to congratulate the fraternity on achieving 150 years of love, honor, and truth and to wish it many more years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 276. An act to direct the Secretary of Education to establish the Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award Program recognizing excellence exhibited by classified school employees providing services to students in prekindergarten through high school.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 23. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Countering International

Parental Child Abduction Month and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 27. A resolution calling for a prompt multinational freedom of navigation operation in the Black Sea and urging the cancellation of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 35. A resolution supporting democratic principles and standards in Bolivia and throughout Latin America.

S. Res. 67. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the importance and vitality of the United States alliances with Japan and the Republic of Korea, and our trilateral cooperation in the pursuit of shared interests.

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 95. A resolution recognizing the 198th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

S. Res. 96. A resolution commending the Government of Canada for upholding the rule of law and expressing concern over actions by the Government of the People's Republic of China in response to a request from the United States Government to the Government of Canada for the extradition of a Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. executive.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Susan Combs, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

*Aimee Kathryn Jorjani, of Wisconsin, to be Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for a term expiring January 19, 2021.

*David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Interior.

By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Daniel P. Collins, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Kenneth Kiyul Lee, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

James Wesley Hendrix, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Sean D. Jordan, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Mark T. Pittman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Nick Edward Proffitt, of Virginia, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Virginia for the term of four years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1026. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow workers an above-the-line deduction for union dues and expenses and to allow a miscellaneous itemized deduction for workers for all unreimbursed expenses incurred in the trade or business of being an employee; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1027. A bill to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1028. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule regarding the application of the Act to marijuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1029. A bill to allow the use of certified facility dogs in criminal proceedings in Federal courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. LEE):

S. 1030. A bill to allow individuals to choose to opt out of the Medicare part A benefit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 1031. A bill to implement recommendations related to the safety of amphibious passenger vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1032. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of income for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of certain corporations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 1033. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a public health insurance option, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. RED, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1034. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. INHOPE, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr.

RISCH, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ENZI, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 1035. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit dismemberment abortions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1036. A bill to expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students and improve textbook price information; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1037. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize provisions relating to rural health clinics under Medicare; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 1038. A bill to strengthen highway funding in the near term, to offer States additional financing tools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1039. A bill to limit the use of funds for kinetic military operations in or against Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1040. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to identify each alien who is serving, or has served, in the Armed Forces of the United States on the application of any such alien for an immigration benefit or the placement of any such alien in an immigration enforcement proceeding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1041. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a veterans visa program to permit veterans who have been removed from the United States to return as immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1042. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow certain alien veterans to be paroled into the United States to receive health care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. COTTON, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. MORAN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1043. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 1044. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign traffickers of illicit opioids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 1045. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to permit nurses to practice in health care facilities with critical shortages of nurses through programs for loan repayment and scholarships for nurses; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. JONES, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1046. A bill to establish the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1047. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to create a dependency and indemnity compensation allowance for surviving spouses receiving dependency and indemnity compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. REED, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1048. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Reducing Youth Use of E-Cigarettes Initiative; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KAINÉ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1049. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 1050. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to increase the ability of a State to administer a permit program under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CRUZ, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1051. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a program to allow States to assume certain Federal responsibilities under that Act with respect to agency actions applicable to highway projects within the States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1052. A bill to authorize the Office of Fossil Energy to develop advanced separation technologies for the extraction and re-

covery of rare earth elements and minerals from coal and coal byproducts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1053. A bill to establish a universal personal savings program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CRUZ, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1054. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish a program to allow States to assume certain Federal responsibilities under that title with respect to agency actions applicable to highway projects within the States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1055. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 regarding the procurement of certain items related to national security interests for Department of Homeland Security frontline operational components, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH:

S. 1056. A bill to clarify oversight and jurisdiction over the regulation, inspection, and labeling of cell-cultured meat and poultry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. SINEMA):

S.J. Res. 18. A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 141. A resolution celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 142. A resolution condemning the Government of the Philippines for its continued detention of Senator Leila De Lima, calling for her immediate release, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 143. A resolution recognizing Israeli-American culture and heritage and the contributions of the Israeli-American community to the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LANKFORD, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 144. A resolution designating May 5, 2019, as the "National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. Res. 145. A resolution commemorating the bicentennial of the birth of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise and the 130th anniversary of the founding of the Central Conference of American Rabbis; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Res. 146. A resolution recognizing the centennial of the Institute of International Education; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. RISCH):

S. Con. Res. 13. A concurrent resolution reaffirming the United States commitment to Taiwan and to the implementation of the Taiwan Relations Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 16

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 16, a bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide for the treatment of core seasonal industries affected by antidumping or countervailing duty investigations, and for other purposes.

S. 66

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 66, a bill to regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, and for other purposes.

S. 151

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 151, a bill to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

S. 169

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 169, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from gross income for civil damages as recompense for trafficking in persons.

S. 246

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 246, a bill to block the implementation of certain presidential actions that restrict individuals from certain countries from entering the United States.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to assist employers providing employment under special certificates issued under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to transform their business and program models, to support individuals with disabilities to transition to competitive integrated employment, to phase out the use of such special certificates, and for other purposes.

S. 286

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from North Da-

kota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 286, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 431

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 431, a bill to promote registered apprenticeships and on-the-job training for small and medium-sized businesses within in-demand industry sectors, through the establishment and support of eligible partnerships.

S. 517

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 517, a bill to establish a tiered hiring preference for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces.

S. 567

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 567, a bill clarifying that it is United States policy to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 596, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for direct payment to physician assistants under the Medicare program for certain services furnished by such physician assistants.

S. 598

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 598, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase certain funeral benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 684

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 684, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr.

BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 729

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 729, a bill to prohibit the use of funds to Federal agencies to establish a panel, task force, advisory committee, or other effort to challenge the scientific consensus on climate change, and for other purposes.

S. 792

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 792, a bill to require enforcement against misbranded milk alternatives.

S. 851

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 851, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

S. 874

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 874, a bill to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain individuals who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

S. 879

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 879, a bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 880

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 880, a bill to provide outreach and reporting on comprehensive Alzheimer's disease care planning services furnished under the Medicare program.

S. 950

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 950, a bill to require the Director of the United States Geological Survey to perform a nationwide survey of perfluorinated compounds, and for other purposes.

S. 952

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas

(Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 952, a bill to provide that the Federal Communications Commission may not prevent a State or Federal correctional facility from utilizing jamming equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 962

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 962, a bill to provide funding for Federally qualified health centers and the National Health Service Corps.

S. 995

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 995, a bill to amend title XXIX of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program under such title relating to lifespan respite care.

S. 1022

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1022, a bill to clarify the effect of certain final rules and determinations of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to greenhouse gas emissions standards for light-duty vehicles.

S.J. RES. 13

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 13, a joint resolution to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 9, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

S. RES. 98

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 98, a resolution establishing the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program for the placement in offices of Senators of children, spouses, and siblings of members of the Armed Forces who are hostile casualties or who have died from a training-related injury.

S. RES. 120

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 120, a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

S. RES. 123

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Iowa (Ms.

ERNST) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 123, a resolution supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and recognizing its 70 years of accomplishments.

S. RES. 135

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 135, a resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and valor by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending those individuals for leadership and bravery in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II.

AMENDMENT NO. 246

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 246 intended to be proposed to H.R. 268, a bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1036. A bill to expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students and improve textbook price information; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1036

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Affordable College Textbook Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The high cost of college textbooks continues to be a barrier for many students in achieving higher education.

(2) According to the College Board, during the 2017–2018 academic year, the average student budget for college books and supplies at 4-year public institutions of higher education was \$1,240.

(3) The Government Accountability Office found that new textbook prices increased 82 percent between 2002 and 2012 and that although Federal efforts to increase price transparency have provided students and families with more and better information, more must be done to address rising costs.

(4) The growth of the internet has enabled the creation and sharing of digital content, including open educational resources that can be freely used by students, teachers, and members of the public.

(5) According to the Student PIRGs, expanded use of open educational resources has the potential to save students more than a billion dollars annually.

(6) Federal investment in expanding the use of open educational resources could significantly lower college textbook costs and reduce financial barriers to higher education, while making efficient use of taxpayer funds.

(7) Educational materials, including open educational resources, must be accessible to the widest possible range of individuals, including those with disabilities.

SEC. 3. OPEN TEXTBOOK GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institution of higher education" has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(2) OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE.—The term "open educational resource" has the meaning given the term in section 133 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015b).

(3) OPEN TEXTBOOK.—The term "open textbook" means an open educational resource or set of open educational resources that either is a textbook or can be used in place of a textbook for a postsecondary course at an institution of higher education.

(4) RELEVANT FACULTY.—The term "relevant faculty" means both tenure track and contingent faculty members who may be involved in the creation or use of open textbooks created as part of an application under subsection (d).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Education.

(6) SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL.—The term "supplemental material" has the meaning given the term in section 133 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015b).

(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts appropriated under subsection (k), the Secretary shall make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to support projects that expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students while maintaining or improving instruction and student learning outcomes.

(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term "eligible entity" means an institution of higher education, a group of institutions of higher education, or States on behalf of institutions of higher education.

(d) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desiring a grant under this section, after consultation with relevant faculty, shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the project to be completed with grant funds and—

(A) a plan for promoting and tracking the use of open textbooks in postsecondary

courses offered by the eligible entity, including an estimate of the projected savings that will be achieved for students;

(B) a plan for evaluating, before creating new open textbooks, whether existing open textbooks could be used or adapted for the same purpose;

(C) a plan for quality review and review of accuracy of any open textbooks to be created or adapted through the grant;

(D) a plan for assessing the impact of open textbooks on instruction and student learning outcomes at the eligible entity;

(E) a plan for disseminating information about the results of the project to institutions of higher education outside of the eligible entity, including promoting the adoption of any open textbooks created or adapted through the grant; and

(F) a statement on consultation with relevant faculty, including those engaged in the creation of open textbooks, in the development of the application.

(e) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give special consideration to applications that demonstrate the greatest potential to—

(1) achieve the highest level of savings for students through sustainable expanded use of open textbooks in postsecondary courses offered by the eligible entity;

(2) expand the use of open textbooks at institutions of higher education outside of the eligible entity; and

(3) produce—

(A) the highest quality open textbooks;

(B) open textbooks that can be most easily utilized and adapted by faculty members at institutions of higher education;

(C) open textbooks that correspond to the highest enrollment courses at institutions of higher education;

(D) open textbooks created or adapted in partnership with entities within institutions of higher education, including campus bookstores, that will assist in marketing and distribution of the open textbook; and

(E) open textbooks that are accessible to students with disabilities.

(f) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out any of the following activities to expand the use of open textbooks:

(1) Professional development for any faculty and staff members at institutions of higher education, including the search for and review of open textbooks.

(2) Creation or adaptation of open textbooks.

(3) Development or improvement of supplemental materials and informational resources that are necessary to support the use of open textbooks, including accessible instructional materials for students with disabilities.

(4) Research evaluating the efficacy of the use of open textbooks for achieving savings for students and the impact on instruction and student learning outcomes.

(g) LICENSE.—For each open textbook, supplemental material, or informational resource created or adapted wholly or in part under this section that constitutes a new copyrightable work, the eligible entity receiving the grant shall release such textbook, material, or resource to the public under a non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual, and irrevocable license to exercise any of the rights under copyright conditioned only on the requirement that attribution be given as directed by the copyright owner.

(h) ACCESS AND DISTRIBUTION.—The full and complete digital content of each open textbook, supplemental material, or informational resource created or adapted wholly or

in part under this section shall be made available free of charge to the public—

(1) on an easily accessible and interoperable website, which shall be identified to the Secretary by the eligible entity;

(2) in a machine readable, digital format that anyone can directly download, edit with attribution, and redistribute; and

(3) in a format that conforms to accessibility standards under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d), where feasible.

(i) REPORT.—Upon an eligible entity's completion of a project supported under this section, the eligible entity shall prepare and submit a report to the Secretary regarding—

(1) the effectiveness of the project in expanding the use of open textbooks and in achieving savings for students;

(2) the impact of the project on expanding the use of open textbooks at institutions of higher education outside of the eligible entity;

(3) open textbooks, supplemental materials, and informational resources created or adapted wholly or in part under the grant, including instructions on where the public can access each educational resource under the terms of subsection (h);

(4) the impact of the project on instruction and student learning outcomes; and

(5) all project costs, including the value of any volunteer labor and institutional capital used for the project.

(j) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives detailing—

(1) the open textbooks, supplemental materials, and informational resources created or adapted wholly or in part under this section;

(2) the adoption of such open textbooks, including outside of the eligible entity;

(3) the savings generated for students, States, and the Federal Government through projects supported under this section; and

(4) the impact of projects supported under this section on instruction and student learning outcomes.

(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as are necessary.

SEC. 4. TEXTBOOK PRICE INFORMATION.

Section 133 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE.—The term ‘open educational resource’ means a teaching, learning, or research resource that is offered freely to users in at least one form and that resides in the public domain or has been released under an open copyright license that allows for its free use, reuse, modification, and sharing with attribution.”;

(B) in paragraph (9), by striking “textbook that” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “textbook that may include printed materials, computer disks, website access, and electronically distributed materials.”;

(2) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “or other person or adopting entity in charge of selecting course materials” and inserting “or other person or entity in charge of selecting or aiding in the discovery and procurement of course materials”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) Whether the college textbook or supplemental material is an open educational resource.”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “ISBN”; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “disclose, on the institution’s Internet course schedule and in a manner of the institution’s choosing, the International Standard Book Number and retail price information” and inserting “verify and disclose (on, or through a link from, the institution’s Internet course schedule and in a manner of the institution’s choosing) the International Standard Book Number and retail price information”;

(II) by striking “and retail price” and inserting “, retail price, and any applicable fee”;

(III) by inserting “, and whether each required and recommended textbook and supplemental material is an open educational resource,” after “supplemental materials”;

(IV) by striking “used for preregistration and registration purposes”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “for a college textbook or supplemental material, then the institution shall so indicate by placing the designation ‘To Be Determined’” and inserting “or available for a college textbook or supplemental material, then the institution shall indicate the status of such information”;

(4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION FOR COLLEGE BOOKSTORES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An institution of higher education receiving Federal financial assistance shall assist a college bookstore that is operated by, or in a contractual relationship or otherwise affiliated with, the institution, in obtaining required and recommended course materials information and such course schedule and enrollment information as is reasonably required to implement this section so that such bookstore may—

“(A) verify availability of such materials;

“(B) source lower cost options, including presenting lower cost alternatives to faculty for faculty to consider, when practicable; and

“(C) maximize the availability of format options for students.

“(2) DUE DATES.—In carrying out paragraph (1), an institution of higher education may establish due dates for faculty or departments to notify the campus bookstore of required and recommended course materials.”;

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) available open educational resources.”;

(6) by striking subsection (g) and redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively.

SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that institutions of higher education should encourage the consideration of open textbooks by faculty within the generally accepted principles of academic freedom that establishes the right and responsibility of faculty members, individually and collectively, to select course materials that are pedagogically most appropriate for their classes.

SEC. 6. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit a report to the Committee on Health,

Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives on the cost of textbooks to students at institutions of higher education. The report shall particularly examine—

(1) the implementation of section 133 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015b), as amended by section 4, including—

(A) the availability of college textbook and open educational resource information on course schedules;

(B) the compliance of publishers with applicable requirements under such section; and

(C) the costs and benefits to institutions of higher education and to students;

(2) the change in the cost of textbooks;

(3) the factors, including open textbooks, that have contributed to the change of the cost of textbooks;

(4) the extent to which open textbooks are used at institutions of higher education; and

(5) how institutions are tracking the impact of open textbooks on instruction and student learning outcomes.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 1044. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign traffickers of illicit opioids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1044

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Fentanyl Sanctions Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.

TITLE I—SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN OPIOID TRAFFICKERS

- Sec. 101. Identification of foreign opioid traffickers.
- Sec. 102. Sense of Congress and reporting on international opioid control regime.
- Sec. 103. Imposition of sanctions.
- Sec. 104. Description of sanctions.
- Sec. 105. Waivers.
- Sec. 106. Procedures for judicial review of classified information.
- Sec. 107. Briefings on implementation.

TITLE II—COMMISSION ON COMBATING SYNTHETIC OPIOID TRAFFICKING

- Sec. 201. Commission on combating synthetic opioid trafficking.

TITLE III—OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 301. Director of National Intelligence program on use of intelligence resources in efforts to sanction foreign opioid traffickers.
- Sec. 302. Department of Defense funding.
- Sec. 303. Department of State funding.
- Sec. 304. Department of the Treasury funding.
- Sec. 305. Appropriate committees of Congress defined.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that from June 2017 through June 2018 more than 48,000 people in the United States died from an opioid overdose, with synthetic opioids (excluding methadone), contributing to a record 31,500 overdose deaths. While drug overdose deaths from methadone, semi-synthetic opioids, and heroin have decreased in recent months, overdose deaths from synthetic opioids have continued to increase.

(2) The objective of preventing the proliferation of synthetic opioids through existing multilateral and bilateral initiatives requires additional efforts to deny illicit actors the financial means to sustain their markets and distribution networks.

(3) The People’s Republic of China is the world’s largest producer of illicit fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, and their immediate precursors. From the People’s Republic of China, those substances are shipped primarily through express consignment carriers or international mail directly to the United States, or, alternatively, shipped directly to transnational criminal organizations in Mexico, Canada, and the Caribbean.

(4) In 2015, Mexican heroin accounted for 93 percent of the total weight of heroin seized in the United States, transported to the United States by transnational criminal organizations that maintain territorial influence over large regions in Mexico and remain the greatest criminal drug threat to the United States.

(5) The United States and the People’s Republic of China, Mexico, and Canada have made important strides in combating the illicit flow of opioids through bilateral efforts of their respective law enforcement agencies.

(6) Insufficient regulation of synthetic opioid production and export and insufficient law enforcement efforts to combat opioid trafficking in the People’s Republic of China and Mexico continue to contribute to a flood of opioids into the United States.

(7) While the Department of the Treasury used the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) to sanction the first synthetic opioid trafficking entity in April 2018, precision economic and financial sanctions policy tools are needed to address the flow of synthetic opioids.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should apply economic and other financial sanctions to foreign traffickers of illicit opioids to protect the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States; and

(2) it is imperative that the People’s Republic of China follow through on the commitments it made to the United States on December 6, 2018, through the Group of Twenty—

(A) to schedule the entire category of fentanyl-type substances as controlled substances; and

(B) to change its national and provincial laws and increase provincial law enforcement efforts to prosecute traffickers of fentanyl substances.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ALIEN; NATIONAL; NATIONAL OF THE UNITED STATES.—The terms “alien”, “national”, and “national of the United States” have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND LEADERSHIP.—The term “appropriate congressional committees and leadership” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Rela-

tions, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the majority leader and the minority leader of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Speaker and the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(3) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE; LISTED CHEMICAL.—The terms “controlled substance”, “listed chemical”, “narcotic drug”, and “opioid” have the meanings given those terms in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

(4) ENTITY.—The term “entity” means a partnership, joint venture, association, corporation, organization, network, group, or subgroup, or any form of business collaboration.

(5) FOREIGN OPIOID TRAFFICKER.—The term “foreign opioid trafficker” means any foreign person that the President determines plays a significant role in opioid trafficking.

(6) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person”—

(A) means—

(i) any citizen or national of a foreign country; or

(ii) any entity not organized under the laws of the United States or a jurisdiction within the United States; and

(B) does not include the government of a foreign country.

(7) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly”, with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(8) OPIOID TRAFFICKING.—The term “opioid trafficking” means any illicit activity—

(A) to cultivate, produce, manufacture, distribute, sell, or knowingly finance or transport illicit opioids, controlled substances that are opioids, listed chemicals that are opioids, or active pharmaceutical ingredients or chemicals that are used in the production of controlled substances that are opioids;

(B) to attempt to carry out an activity described in subparagraph (A); or

(C) to assist, abet, conspire, or collude with other persons to carry out such an activity.

(9) PERSON.—The term “person” means an individual or entity.

(10) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) any citizen or national of the United States;

(B) any alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States;

(C) any entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States (including a foreign branch of such an entity); or

(D) any person located in the United States.

TITLE I—SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN OPIOID TRAFFICKERS

SEC. 101. IDENTIFICATION OF FOREIGN OPIOID TRAFFICKERS.

(a) PUBLIC REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership, in accordance with subsection (c), a report—

(A) identifying the foreign persons that the President determines are foreign opioid traffickers;

(B) detailing progress the President has made in implementing this title; and

(C) providing an update on cooperative efforts with the Governments of Mexico and

the People's Republic of China with respect to combating foreign opioid traffickers.

(2) IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL PERSONS.—If, at any time after submitting a report required by paragraph (1) and before the submission of the next such report, the President determines that a foreign person not identified in the report is a foreign opioid trafficker, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership an additional report containing the information required by paragraph (1) with respect to the foreign person.

(3) EXCLUSION.—The President shall not be required to include in a report under paragraph (1) or (2) any persons with respect to which the United States has imposed sanctions before the date of the report under this title or any other provision of law with respect to opioid trafficking.

(4) FORM OF REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each report required by paragraph (1) or (2) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(B) AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC.—The unclassified portion of a report required by paragraph (1) or (2) shall be made available to the public.

(b) CLASSIFIED REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership, in accordance with subsection (c), a report, in classified form—

(A) describing in detail the status of sanctions imposed under this title, including the personnel and resources directed toward the imposition of such sanctions during the preceding fiscal year;

(B) providing background information with respect to persons newly identified as foreign opioid traffickers and their illicit activities;

(C) describing actions the President intends to undertake or has undertaken to implement this title; and

(D) providing a strategy for identifying additional foreign opioid traffickers.

(2) EFFECT ON OTHER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) is in addition to the obligations of the President to keep Congress fully and currently informed pursuant to the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).

(c) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the date that is 5 years after such date of enactment, the President shall submit the reports required by subsections (a) and (b) to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership.

(d) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—

(1) INTELLIGENCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a report required by subsection (a) or (b) shall not disclose the identity of any person if the Director of National Intelligence determines that such disclosure could compromise an intelligence operation, activity, source, or method of the United States.

(2) LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a report required by subsection (a) or (b) shall not disclose the identity of any person if the Attorney General, in coordination, as appropriate, with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the head of any other appropriate Federal law enforcement agency, and the Secretary of the Treasury, determines that such disclosure could reasonably be expected—

(A) to compromise the identity of a confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution that furnished information on a confidential basis;

(B) to jeopardize the integrity or success of an ongoing criminal investigation or prosecution;

(C) to endanger the life or physical safety of any person; or

(D) to cause substantial harm to physical property.

(3) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—If the Director of National Intelligence makes a determination under paragraph (1) or the Attorney General makes a determination under paragraph (2), the Director or the Attorney General, as the case may be, shall notify the appropriate congressional committees and leadership of the determination and the reasons for the determination.

(e) PROVISION OF INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR REPORTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence shall consult among themselves and provide to the President and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy the appropriate and necessary information to enable the President to submit the reports required by subsection (a).

SEC. 102. SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL OPIOID CONTROL REGIME.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, in order to apply economic and other financial sanctions to foreign traffickers of illicit opioids to protect the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States—

(1) the President should instruct the Secretary of State to commence immediately diplomatic efforts, both in appropriate international fora such as the United Nations, the Group of Seven, the Group of Twenty, trilaterally and bilaterally with partners of the United States, to establish a multilateral sanctions regime against foreign opioid traffickers; and

(2) the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, may consider forming a new coalition of countries to establish a multilateral sanctions regime against foreign opioid traffickers if certain countries in existing multilateral fora fail to cooperate with respect to establishing such a regime.

(b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall include, in each report required by section 101(b), an assessment conducted by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, of the extent to which any diplomatic efforts described in subsection (a) have been successful.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each assessment required by paragraph (1) shall include an identification of—

(A) the countries the governments of which have agreed to undertake measures to apply economic or other financial sanctions to foreign traffickers of illicit opioids and a description of those measures; and

(B) the countries the governments of which have not agreed to measures described in subparagraph (A), and, with respect to those countries, other measures the Secretary of State recommends that the United States take to apply economic and other financial sanctions to foreign traffickers of illicit opioids.

SEC. 103. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.

The President shall impose 5 or more of the sanctions described in section 104 with respect to each foreign person that is an entity, and 4 or more of such sanctions with respect to each foreign person that is an individual, that—

(1) is identified as a foreign opioid trafficker in a report submitted under section 101(a); or

(2) the President determines is owned, controlled, directed by, supplying or sourcing precursors for, or acting for or on behalf of, such a foreign opioid trafficker.

SEC. 104. DESCRIPTION OF SANCTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions that may be imposed with respect to a foreign person under section 103 are the following:

(1) LOANS FROM UNITED STATES FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—The United States Government may prohibit any United States financial institution from making loans or providing credits to the foreign person.

(2) PROHIBITIONS ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—The following prohibitions may be imposed with respect to a foreign person that is a financial institution:

(A) PROHIBITION ON DESIGNATION AS PRIMARY DEALER.—Neither the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System nor the Federal Reserve Bank of New York may designate, or permit the continuation of any prior designation of, the financial institution as a primary dealer in United States Government debt instruments.

(B) PROHIBITION ON SERVICE AS A REPOSITORY OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS.—The financial institution may not serve as agent of the United States Government or serve as repository for United States Government funds.

The imposition of either sanction under subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be treated as one sanction for purposes of section 103, and the imposition of both such sanctions shall be treated as 2 sanctions for purposes of that section.

(3) PROCUREMENT BAN.—The United States Government may not procure, or enter into any contract for the procurement of, any goods or services from the foreign person.

(4) FOREIGN EXCHANGE.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations as the President may prescribe, prohibit any transactions in foreign exchange that are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and in which the foreign person has any interest.

(5) BANKING TRANSACTIONS.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations as the President may prescribe, prohibit any transfers of credit or payments between financial institutions or by, through, or to any financial institution, to the extent that such transfers or payments are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and involve any interest of the foreign person.

(6) PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations as the President may prescribe, prohibit any person from—

(A) acquiring, holding, withholding, using, transferring, withdrawing, transporting, importing, or exporting any property that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and with respect to which the foreign person has any interest;

(B) dealing in or exercising any right, power, or privilege with respect to such property; or

(C) conducting any transaction involving such property.

(7) BAN ON INVESTMENT IN EQUITY OR DEBT OF SANCTIONED PERSON.—The President may, pursuant to such regulations or guidelines as the President may prescribe, prohibit any United States person from investing in or purchasing significant amounts of equity or debt instruments of the foreign person.

(8) EXCLUSION OF CORPORATE OFFICERS.—The President may direct the Secretary of State to deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security to exclude from the United States, any alien that the President determines is a corporate officer or principal of, or a shareholder with a controlling interest in, the foreign person.

(9) SANCTIONS ON PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.—The President may impose on the

principal executive officer or officers of the foreign person, or on individuals performing similar functions and with similar authorities as such officer or officers, any of the sanctions described in paragraphs (1) through (8) that are applicable.

(b) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out subsection (a) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(c) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or to any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—The authority to impose sanctions under subsection (a)(6) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under subsection (a)(8) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967, or other applicable international obligations.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION; REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 105. WAIVERS.

(a) WAIVER FOR STATE-OWNED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN COUNTRIES THAT COOPERATE IN MULTILATERAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, on a case-by-case basis, waive for a period of not more than 12 months the application of sanctions under this title with respect to a financial institution that is owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by a foreign government or any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a foreign government, if the President, not less than 30 days before the waiver is to take effect, certifies to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership that the foreign government is closely cooperating with the United States in efforts to prevent opioid trafficking.

(2) CERTIFICATION.—The President may certify under paragraph (1) that a foreign government is closely cooperating with the United States in efforts to prevent opioid trafficking if that government is—

(A) implementing domestic laws to schedule all fentanyl analogues as controlled substances; and

(B) doing 2 or more of the following:

(i) Implementing substantial improvements in regulations involving the chemical and pharmaceutical production and export of illicit opioids.

(ii) Implementing substantial improvements in judicial regulations to combat

transnational criminal organizations that traffic opioids.

(iii) Increasing efforts to prosecute foreign opioid traffickers.

(iv) Increasing intelligence sharing and law enforcement cooperation with the United States with respect to opioid trafficking.

(3) SUBSEQUENT RENEWAL OF WAIVER.—The President may renew a waiver under paragraph (1) for subsequent periods of not more than 6 months each if, not less than 30 days before the renewal is to take effect, the Director of National Intelligence certifies to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership that the government of the country to which the waiver applies has effectively implemented and is effectively enforcing the measures that formed the basis for the certification under paragraph (2).

(b) WAIVERS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND ACCESS TO PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this title with respect to a person if the President determines that the application of such sanctions with respect to that person would significantly harm—

(A) the national security of the United States; or

(B) subject to paragraph (2), the access of United States persons to prescription medications.

(2) MONITORING.—The President shall establish a monitoring program to verify that a person receiving a waiver under paragraph (1)(B) is not trafficking illicit opioids.

(3) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 21 days after making a determination under paragraph (1) with respect to a person, the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees and leadership of the determination and the reasons for the determination.

(c) HUMANITARIAN WAIVER.—The President may waive, for renewable periods of 180 days, the application of the sanctions under this title if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership that the waiver is necessary for the provision of humanitarian assistance.

SEC. 106. PROCEDURES FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If a finding under this title, or a prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding, is based on classified information (as defined in section 1(a) of the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.)) and a court reviews the finding or the imposition of the prohibition, condition, or penalty, the President may submit such information to the court *ex parte* and *in camera*.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to confer or imply any right to judicial review of any finding under this title, or any prohibition, condition, or penalty imposed as a result of any such finding.

SEC. 107. BRIEFINGS ON IMPLEMENTATION.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act, and every 180 days thereafter until the date that is 5 years after such date of enactment, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a comprehensive briefing on efforts to implement this title.

TITLE II—COMMISSION ON COMBATING SYNTHETIC OPIOID TRAFFICKING

SEC. 201. COMMISSION ON COMBATING SYNTHETIC OPIOID TRAFFICKING.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a commission to develop a consensus on a strategic approach to combating the flow of synthetic opioids into the United States.

(2) DESIGNATION.—The commission established under paragraph (1) shall be known as the “Commission on Synthetic Opioid Trafficking” (in this section referred to as the “Commission”).

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Commission shall be composed of the following members:

(i) The Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

(ii) The Secretary of Homeland Security.

(iii) The Secretary of Defense.

(iv) The Secretary of the Treasury.

(v) The Secretary of State.

(vi) Two members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall be a Member of the Senate and one of whom shall not be.

(vii) Two members appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall be a Member of the Senate and one of whom shall not be.

(viii) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a Member of the House of Representatives and one of whom shall not be.

(ix) Two members appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a Member of the House of Representatives and one of whom shall not be.

(B)(i) The members of the Commission who are not Members of Congress and who are appointed under clauses (vi) through (ix) of subparagraph (A) shall be individuals who are nationally recognized for expertise, knowledge, or experience in—

(I) transnational criminal organizations conducting synthetic opioid trafficking;

(II) the production, manufacturing, distribution, sale, or transportation of synthetic opioids; or

(III) relations between—

(aa) the United States; and

(bb) the People’s Republic of China, Mexico, or any other country of concern with respect to trafficking in synthetic opioids.

(ii) An official who appoints members of the Commission may not appoint an individual as a member of the Commission if the individual possesses any personal or financial interest in the discharge of any of the duties of the Commission.

(iii)(I) All members of the Commission described in clause (i) shall possess an appropriate security clearance in accordance with applicable provisions of law concerning the handling of classified information.

(II) For the purpose of facilitating the activities of the Commission, the Director of National Intelligence shall expedite to the fullest degree possible the processing of security clearances that are necessary for members of the Commission.

(2) CO-CHAIRS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall have 2 co-chairs, selected from among the members of the Commission, one of whom shall be a member of the majority party and one of whom shall be a member of the minority party.

(B) SELECTION.—The individuals who serve as the co-chairs of the Commission shall be jointly agreed upon by the President, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Commission are as follows:

(1) To define the core objectives and priorities of the strategic approach described in subsection (a)(1).

(2) To weigh the costs and benefits of various strategic options to combat the flow of

synthetic opioids from the People's Republic of China, Mexico, and other countries.

(3) To evaluate whether the options described in paragraph (2) are exclusive or complementary, the best means for executing such options, and how the United States should incorporate and implement such options within the strategic approach described in subsection (a)(1).

(4) To review and make determinations on the difficult choices present within such options, among them what norms-based regimes the United States should seek to establish to encourage the effective regulation of dangerous synthetic opioids.

(5) To report on efforts by actors in the People's Republic of China to subvert United States laws and to supply illicit synthetic opioids to persons in the United States, including up-to-date estimates of the scale of illicit synthetic opioids flows from the People's Republic of China.

(6) To report on the deficiencies in the regulation of pharmaceutical and chemical production of controlled substances and export controls with respect to such substances in the People's Republic of China and other countries that allow opioid traffickers to subvert such regulations and controls to traffic illicit opioids into the United States.

(7) To report on the scale of contaminated or counterfeit drugs originating from the People's Republic of China and India.

(8) To report on how the United States could work more effectively with provincial and local officials in the People's Republic of China and other countries to combat the illicit production of synthetic opioids.

(9) In weighing the options for defending the United States against the dangers of trafficking in synthetic opioids, to consider possible structures and authorities that need to be established, revised, or augmented within the Federal Government.

(d) **FUNCTIONING OF COMMISSION.**—The provisions of subsections (c), (d), (e), (g), (h), (i), and (m) of section 1652 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232) shall apply to the Commission to the same extent and in the same manner as such provisions apply to the commission established under that section, except that—

(1) subsection (c)(1) of that section shall be applied and administered by substituting “30 days” for “45 days”;

(2) subsection (g)(4)(A) of that section shall be applied and administered by inserting “and the Attorney General” after “Secretary of Defense”; and

(3) subsections (h)(2)(A) and (i)(1)(A) of that section shall be applied and administered by substituting “level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316” for “level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315”.

(e) **TREATMENT OF INFORMATION RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY.**—

(1) **RESPONSIBILITY OF DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.**—The Director of National Intelligence shall assume responsibility for the handling and disposition of any information related to the national security of the United States that is received, considered, or used by the Commission under this section.

(2) **INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CONGRESS.**—Any information related to the national security of the United States that is provided to the Commission by the appropriate congressional committees and leadership may not be further provided or released without the approval of the chairperson of the committee, or the Member of Congress, as the case may be, that provided the information to the Commission.

(3) **ACCESS AFTER TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision

of law, after the termination of the Commission under subsection (h), only the members and designated staff of the appropriate congressional committees and leadership, the Director of National Intelligence (and the designees of the Director), and such other officials of the executive branch as the President may designate shall have access to information related to the national security of the United States that is received, considered, or used by the Commission.

(f) **REPORTS.**—The Commission shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership—

(1) not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, an initial report on the activities and recommendations of the Commission under this section; and

(2) not later than 270 days after the submission of the initial report under paragraph (1), a final report on the activities and recommendations of the Commission under this section.

(g) **LIMITATION ON FUNDING.**—Of amounts made available under sections 302, 303, and 304 to carry out this Act, not more than \$5,000,000 shall be available to the Commission in any of fiscal years 2020 through 2025.

(h) **TERMINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission, and all the authorities of this section, shall terminate at the end of the 120-day period beginning on the date on which the final report required by subsection (f)(2) is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership.

(2) **WINDING UP OF AFFAIRS.**—The Commission may use the 120-day period described in paragraph (1) for the purposes of concluding its activities, including providing testimony to Congress concerning the final report required by subsection (f)(2) and disseminating the report.

TITLE III—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 301. DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM ON USE OF INTELLIGENCE RESOURCES IN EFFORTS TO SANCTION FOREIGN OPIOID TRAFFICKERS.

(a) **PROGRAM REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of National Intelligence shall, with the concurrence of the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, carry out a program to allocate and enhance use of resources of the intelligence community, including intelligence collection and analysis, to assist the Secretary of the Treasury and the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration in efforts to identify and impose sanctions with respect to foreign opioid traffickers under title I.

(2) **FOCUS ON ILLICIT FINANCE.**—To the extent practicable, efforts described in paragraph (1) shall—

(A) take into account specific illicit finance risks related to narcotics trafficking; and

(B) be developed in consultation with the Undersecretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Crimes, appropriate officials of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of the Treasury, the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, and appropriate Federal law enforcement agencies.

(b) **REVIEW OF COUNTERNARCOTICS EFFORTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.**—The Director of National Intelligence shall, in coordination with the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, carry out a comprehensive review of the current intelligence collection priorities of the intelligence community for counternarcotics purposes in order to identify whether such priorities are appropriate and sufficient in light of the number of lives lost in the United States each year due to use of illegal drugs.

(c) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **QUARTERLY REPORTS ON PROGRAM.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the Director of National Intelligence and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a report on the status and accomplishments of the program required by subsection (a) during the 90-day period ending on the date of the report. The first report under this paragraph shall also include a description of the amount of funds devoted by the intelligence community to the efforts described in subsection (a) during each of fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

(2) **REPORT ON REVIEW.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a comprehensive description of the results of the review required by subsection (b), including whether the priorities described in that subsection are appropriate and sufficient in light of the number of lives lost in the United States each year due to use of illegal drugs. If the report concludes that such priorities are not so appropriate and sufficient, the report shall also include a description of the actions to be taken to modify such priorities in order to assure that such priorities are so appropriate and sufficient.

(d) **INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “intelligence community” has the meaning given that term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

SEC. 302. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FUNDING.

(a) **SOURCE OF FUNDS.**—Subject to subsection (b), amounts authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2025 for the Department of Defense for operation and maintenance shall be available for operations and activities described in subsection (c).

(b) **LIMITATION ON AMOUNT AVAILABLE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the amount available under subsection (a) in a fiscal year to carry out operations and activities described in subsection (c) may not exceed the following:

(A) In fiscal year 2020, \$25,000,000.
(B) In each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025, \$35,000,000.

(2) **EXCLUSION OF FUNDS FOR US SOUTHCOM FROM LIMITATION.**—Amounts authorized to be appropriated for a fiscal year for operation and maintenance and available for such fiscal year for the United States Southern Command for operations and activities described in subsection (c)(2) shall not count toward the limitation applicable to such fiscal year under paragraph (1).

(c) **OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES.**—The operations and activities described in this subsection are the following:

(1) The operations and activities of any department or agency of the United States Government (other than the Department of Defense) in carrying out this Act.

(2) The operations and activities of the Department of Defense in support of any other department or agency of the United States Government in carrying out this Act.

(d) **TRANSFER AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense may transfer funds authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense as described in subsection (a) to any other department or agency of the United States Government to carry out this Act.

(2) **NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.**—Any transfer under this subsection shall not be subject to

any reprogramming requirements under law. However, a notice on any such transfer shall be provided to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(3) **INAPPLICABILITY OF TRANSFER LIMITATIONS.**—Any transfer under this subsection in a fiscal year shall not count toward or apply against any limitation on amounts transferrable by the Department of Defense in such fiscal year, including any limitation specified in an annual defense authorization Act for such fiscal year.

SEC. 303. DEPARTMENT OF STATE FUNDING.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State to carry out the operations and activities described in subsection (b)—

- (1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and
- (2) \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

(b) **OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.**—The operations and activities described in this subsection are the following:

(1) The operations and activities of any department or agency of the United States Government (other than the Department of State) in carrying out this Act.

(2) The operations and activities of the Department of State in support of any other department or agency of the United States Government in carrying out this Act.

(c) **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), amounts authorized to be appropriated by subsection (a) may not be obligated until 15 days after the date on which the President notifies the appropriate committees of Congress of the President's intention to obligate such funds.

(2) **WAIVER.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State may waive the notification requirement under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

(B) **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—If the Secretary exercises the authority provided under subparagraph (A) to waive the notification requirement under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of the President's intention to obligate amounts authorized to be appropriated by subsection (a) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after obligating such funds.

(d) **TRANSFER AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State may transfer funds authorized to be appropriated by subsection (a) to any other department or agency of the United States Government to carry out this Act.

(2) **NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.**—Any transfer under this subsection shall not be subject to any reprogramming requirements under law. However, a notice on any such transfer shall be provided to the appropriate committees of Congress.

SEC. 304. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY FUNDING.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Treasury to carry out the operations and activities described in subsection (b)—

- (1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and
- (2) \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

(b) **OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.**—The operations and activities described in this subsection are the following:

(1) The operations and activities of any department or agency of the United States Government (other than the Department of the Treasury) in carrying out this Act.

(2) The operations and activities of the Department of the Treasury in support of any

other department or agency of the United States Government in carrying out this Act.

(c) **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), amounts authorized to be appropriated by subsection (a) may not be obligated until 15 days after the date on which the President notifies the appropriate committees of Congress of the President's intention to obligate such funds.

(2) **WAIVER.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury may waive the notification requirement under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

(B) **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—If the Secretary exercises the authority provided under subparagraph (A) to waive the notification requirement under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of the President's intention to obligate amounts authorized to be appropriated by subsection (a) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after obligating such funds.

(d) **TRANSFER AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury may transfer funds authorized to be appropriated by subsection (a) to any other department or agency of the United States Government to carry out this Act.

(2) **NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.**—Any transfer under this subsection shall not be subject to any reprogramming requirements under law. However, a notice on any such transfer shall be provided to the appropriate committees of Congress.

SEC. 305. APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.

In this title, the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 141—CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF ROMANI AMERICANS

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 141

Whereas the Romani people trace their ancestry to the Indian subcontinent;

Whereas Roma have been a part of European immigration to the United States since the colonial period and particularly following the abolition of the enslavement of Roma in the historic Romanian principalities;

Whereas Roma live across the world and throughout the United States;

Whereas the Romani people have made distinct and important contributions in many fields, including agriculture, art, crafts, literature, medicine, military service, music, sports, and science;

Whereas, on April 8, 1971, the First World Romani Congress met in London, bringing

Roma together from across Europe and the United States with the goal of promoting transnational cooperation among Roma in combating social marginalization and building a positive future for Roma everywhere;

Whereas April 8 is therefore celebrated globally as International Roma Day;

Whereas Roma were victims of genocide carried out by Nazi Germany and its Axis partners, and an estimated 200,000 to 500,000 Romani people were killed by Nazis and their allies across Europe during World War II;

Whereas, on the night of August 2-3, 1944, the so-called "Gypsy Family Camp" where Romani people were interned at Auschwitz-Birkenau was liquidated, and in a single night, between 4,200 and 4,300 Romani men, women, and children were killed in gas chambers;

Whereas 2019 is the 75th anniversary of that tragic event;

Whereas many countries are taking positive steps to remember and teach about the genocide of Roma by Nazi Germany and its Axis partners; and

Whereas the United States Congress held its first hearing to examine the situation of Roma in 1994: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) remembers the genocide of Roma by Nazi Germany and its Axis partners and commemorates the 75th anniversary of the destruction of the "Gypsy Family Camp" where Romani people were interned at Auschwitz;

(2) commends the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for its role in promoting remembrance of the Holocaust and educating about the genocide of Roma;

(3) supports International Roma Day as an opportunity to honor the culture, history, and heritage of the Romani people in the United States as part of the larger Romani global diaspora; and

(4) welcomes the Department of State's participation in ceremonies and events celebrating International Roma Day and similar engagement by the United States Government.

SENATE RESOLUTION 142—CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR ITS CONTINUED DETENTION OF SENATOR LEILA DE LIMA, CALLING FOR HER IMMEDIATE RELEASE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 142

Whereas extrajudicial killings perpetrated by the Government of the Philippines as part of a Government-directed antidrug campaign present the foremost human rights challenge in the Philippines;

Whereas the Department of State's 2017 Human Rights Report notes numerous human rights concerns, including the persecution of human rights defenders and the detention of political prisoners in the Philippines, stating, "The most significant human rights issues included: killings by security forces, vigilantes and others allegedly connected to the government, and by insurgents; torture and abuse of prisoners and detainees by security forces; often harsh and life threatening prison conditions; warrantless arrests by security forces and cases of apparent government disregard for

legal rights and due process; political prisoners; killings of and threats against journalists; official corruption and abuse of power; threats of violence against human rights activists; violence against women; and forced labor.”;

Whereas, on February 23, 2017, an arrest warrant was issued for Philippine Senator Leila De Lima for allegations related to drug trafficking, and as of April 4, 2019, Senator De Lima had been detained for 770 days;

Whereas the charges brought against Senator De Lima followed a history of criticizing extrajudicial killings in the Philippines and the Rodrigo R. Duterte administration’s antidrug campaign, including—

(1) in 2009, in her capacity as Chair of the Commission on Human Rights, Senator De Lima investigated the alleged involvement of then-Mayor of Davao City Rodrigo R. Duterte in the extrajudicial killings executed by the so-called “Davao Death Squad”;

(2) on December 15, 2014, then-Secretary of Justice De Lima led a raid of the national penitentiary which resulted in the confiscation of drugs, firearms, and contraband items and the extraction of 19 drug lords and high-profile inmates involved in the facility’s drug network;

(3) on July 13, 2016, Senator De Lima, in her capacity as Chair of the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights, filed Senate Resolution No. 9 calling for an investigation into extrajudicial killings and summary executions of suspected drug offenders arising from President Duterte’s “War on Drugs”;

(4) on August 22, 2016, Senator De Lima conducted Senate hearings during which alleged former death squad members detailed extrajudicial killings executed as part of the antidrug campaign and one member testified that Duterte participated in extrajudicial killings as mayor of Davao City; and

(5) on August 2, 2016, and September 19, 2016, Senator De Lima delivered two privileged speeches on the Senate floor calling on President Duterte to end the killings;

Whereas President Duterte vowed to publicly destroy Senator De Lima;

Whereas the charges against Senator De Lima were supported by testimony from inmates whose illegal activities were disrupted by her 2014 raid;

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Council’s Working Group on Arbitrary Detention adopted an Opinion on August 24, 2018, finding several categories of arbitrary detention and concluding, “Ms. De Lima’s political views and convictions are clearly at the centre of the present case and that the authorities have displayed an attitude towards her that can only be characterized as targeted and discriminatory. Indeed, she has been the target of partisan persecution and there is no explanation for this other than her exercise of the right to express such views and convictions as a human rights defender.”;

Whereas the Department of State’s 2017 Human Rights Report highlighted due process obstructions in the case of Senator De Lima, stating, “During the year prosecutors used a variety of legal tactics, including filing new and amending previous charges, to delay arraignment.”;

Whereas the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention recommended that the Government of the Philippines adopt certain measures, including—

(1) the immediate release of Senator De Lima;

(2) an independent investigation of the circumstances surrounding the arbitrary detention; and

(3) the provision of compensation and other reparations, including reinstatement to the positions from which she was ousted;

Whereas, on July 20, 2017, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission of the United States Congress held a hearing on The Human Rights Consequences of the War on Drugs in the Philippines, during which Human Rights Watch testified about the “relentless government campaign” against Senator De Lima “in evident response to her outspoken criticism of Duterte’s ‘war on drugs’ and her calls for accountability”;

Whereas Amnesty International finds Senator De Lima’s detention to be based solely on her criticism of the Government of the Philippines, her political beliefs, and her peaceful defense of human rights, and considers her a Prisoner of Conscience; and

Whereas the immediate release of Senator De Lima has been called for by nongovernmental organizations, human rights groups, parliamentary bodies, and individuals including the European Parliament, the Australian Parliament, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Liberal International, ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights, and many of Senator De Lima’s colleagues in the Senate minority bloc;

Whereas Maria Ressa, an investigative journalist who founded the online news platform *Rappler*, has been arrested several times on charges against her and her news organization widely viewed by human rights observers and a number of governments as part of a pattern of “weaponizing the rule of law” to repress independent media; and

Whereas Ms. Ressa has been released on bail, but she and *Rappler* still face charges and will soon be standing trial: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns—

(A) the Government of the Philippines for its role in state-sanctioned extrajudicial killings by police and other armed individuals as part of the “War on Drugs”;

(B) the arrest and detention of human rights defenders and political leaders who exercise their rights to freedom of expression;

(C) the harassment, arrest, and unjustified judicial proceedings against the media and journalists, in particular, the proceeding against *Rappler* and Maria Ressa; and

(D) the continued detention of Senator Leila De Lima;

(2) considers Senator De Lima to be a prisoner of conscience, detained solely on account of her political views and the legitimate exercise of her freedom of expression;

(3) calls on the Government of the Philippines to immediately release Senator De Lima, drop all charges against her, remove restrictions on her personal and work conditions, and allow her to fully discharge her legislative mandate, especially as Chair of the Committee on Social Justice;

(4) urges the Government of the Philippines to recognize the importance of human rights defenders and their work and allow them to operate freely without fear of reprisal; and

(5) urges the Government of the Philippines to guarantee the right to the freedom of the press, and to drop all the charges against Maria Ressa and *Rappler*.

SENATE RESOLUTION 143—RECOGNIZING ISRAELI-AMERICAN CULTURE AND HERITAGE AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ISRAELI-AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 143

Whereas Israeli-Americans are a vibrant immigrant community contributing to the diversity of the United States;

Whereas Israeli-Americans, including those on college campuses in the United States, have been subject to forms of discrimination and desire to connect with their culture and celebrate their heritage free from bigotry and bias;

Whereas the United States is a nation of immigrants, and Israeli-Americans contribute invaluable skills that promote the economy and protect the national security of the United States;

Whereas the contributions of Israeli-Americans in the fields of astrophysics, mathematics, chemistry, aerospace engineering, biotech, agriculture, and Internet technologies have been invaluable to the United States;

Whereas Israeli-Americans have helped to form a strong bond between the people of the United States and the people of Israel, reinforcing the shared values and interests between the two countries; and

Whereas countless Israeli-Americans have enriched the society of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that the Israeli-American community has contributed immensely to the society and culture of the United States; and

(2) condemns all forms of discrimination that aim to marginalize or disenfranchise members of the Israeli-American community.

SENATE RESOLUTION 144—DESIGNATING MAY 5, 2019, AS THE “NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED NATIVE WOMEN AND GIRLS”

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LANKFORD, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 144

Whereas, according to a study commissioned by the Department of Justice, in some Tribal communities, American Indian women face murder rates that are more than 10 times the national average murder rate;

Whereas, according to the most recently available data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2017, homicide was the sixth leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native females between 1 and 44 years of age;

Whereas little data exist on the number of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women in the United States;

Whereas, on July 5, 2013, Hanna Harris, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, was reported missing by her family in Lame Deer, Montana;

Whereas the body of Hanna Harris was found 5 days after she went missing;

Whereas Hanna Harris was determined to have been raped and murdered, and the individuals accused of committing those crimes were convicted;

Whereas the case of Hanna Harris is an example of many similar cases; and

Whereas Hanna Harris was born on May 5, 1992: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 5, 2019, as the “National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls”;

(2) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to commemorate the lives of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women whose cases are documented and undocumented in public records and the media; and

(B) to demonstrate solidarity with the families of victims in light of those tragedies.

SENATE RESOLUTION 145—COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE BIRTH OF RABBI ISAAC MAYER WISE AND THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 145

Whereas March 29, 2019, marks the bicentennial of the birth of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise (referred to in this preamble as “Rabbi Wise”) on March 29, 1819;

Whereas Rabbi Wise—

(1) moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1854; and
(2) resided in Cincinnati, Ohio, until his death in 1900;

Whereas Rabbi Wise is widely recognized as—

(1) the pioneering architect of Reform Judaism in the United States; and
(2) the founding organizer of Reform Jewish institutions in the United States;

Whereas the United States is home to the largest Reform Jewish community in the world, which considers Rabbi Wise to be 1 of the preeminent founders;

Whereas in 1873, Rabbi Wise founded the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, now known as the Union for Reform Judaism;

Whereas in 1875, Rabbi Wise founded Hebrew Union College, now known as Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, which, as of March 2019—

(1) has campuses in—

- (A) Cincinnati, Ohio;
- (B) Los Angeles, California;
- (C) New York, New York; and
- (D) Jerusalem;

(2) is the premier Jewish seminary in North America; and

(3) is the academic, spiritual, and professional leadership development center of Reform Judaism;

Whereas in 1889, Rabbi Wise founded the Central Conference of American Rabbis;

Whereas in 2019—

(1) the annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis shall be held in Cincinnati, Ohio; and

(2) the Central Conference of American Rabbis shall celebrate the 130th anniversary of the founding of the Central Conference of American Rabbis at that convention;

Whereas the Senate congratulates the Central Conference of American Rabbis for reaching the significant milestone of 130 years as an organization; and

Whereas, for 130 years, the Central Conference of American Rabbis has made invaluable contributions to the cultural and religious fabric of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes March 29, 2019, as the bicentennial of the birth of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise (referred to in this resolving clause as “Rabbi Wise”);

(2) recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of Rabbi Wise, which have had an en-

during effect on life, culture, and religion in the United States;

(3) recognizes the extraordinary role of Rabbi Wise in the history of the United States; and

(4) congratulates the Central Conference of American Rabbis on the 130th anniversary of the founding of the conference by Rabbi Wise.

SENATE RESOLUTION 146—RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 146

Whereas 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Institute of International Education (referred to in this preamble as the “IIE”), the oldest educational exchange organization in the United States;

Whereas the trustees of the IIE and the students and scholars associated with the IIE have contributed to their societies in numerous ways and have been recognized with 108 Nobel Prizes;

Whereas the IIE was founded by former Secretary of State Elihu Root, President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University, and Professor Stephen Duggan, Sr., of the College of the City of New York, with support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York;

Whereas the IIE was established to demonstrate that the international exchange of people and ideas can transcend borders and promote greater understanding and peace;

Whereas the IIE is privileged to administer 200 programs that promote mutual understanding and enhance the national security and economic competitiveness of the United States, including—

(1) the Fulbright Program, the flagship international exchange program sponsored by the United States Government;

(2) the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, which enables high-performing United States undergraduate students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad;

(3) the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, which provides a year of enrichment in the United States for experienced professionals from designated countries undergoing development or political transition;

(4) Open Doors, the comprehensive information resource on—

(A) international students and scholars studying or teaching at higher education institutions in the United States; and

(B) students from the United States studying abroad for academic credit at their home colleges or universities;

(5) EducationUSA, the network of over 425 international student advising centers in 178 countries that promotes higher education in the United States to students around the world;

(6) the International Visitor Leadership Program, the premier professional exchange program of the Department of State;

(7) TechWomen, a mentorship and exchange program pairing emerging international women leaders in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with women professionals in the United States;

(8) the Boren Awards and The Language Flagship, initiatives of the National Security Education Program that invests in the next generation of leaders in the United States by supporting United States undergraduate and graduate students in learning

languages critical to United States interests; and

(9) Project Global Officer, a Department of Defense initiative providing summer scholarships and year-round language training to Reserve Officers’ Training Corps students for critical language study and cultural learning;

Whereas the IIE has been rescuing scholars, artists, and students threatened by war, civil and religious conflict, terrorism, and dictatorships and other forms of repression continuously since 1920;

Whereas, in 2002, the IIE endowed a permanent Scholar Rescue Fund (referred to in this preamble as the “IIE-SRF”) to aid scholars threatened by conflict and repression in their home countries by—

(1) vetting the scholars;
(2) providing the scholars with funding; and
(3) placing the scholars at host institutions;

Whereas, since the endowment of the IIE-SRF in 2002, the IIE-SRF has—

(1) placed 793 scholars from 59 countries at 393 host institutions in 44 countries; and

(2) saved entire national academies;

Whereas building economies, helping governments and corporations develop an educated workforce, and preparing students and professionals for success in the global economy is fundamental to the work of the IIE;

Whereas there are more than 27,000 annual participants in programs developed, managed, and implemented by the IIE; and

Whereas the IIE is at the foundation of a network of colleges, universities, and communities that host over 1,000,000 international students annually, at a benefit of over \$42,000,000,000 to the economy of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes—

(1) on the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Institute of International Education (referred to in this resolution as the “IIE”) the many accomplishments of—

(A) the members and staff of the IIE; and
(B) the participants in programs administered by the IIE;

(2) the contributions of the members and staff of the IIE to—

(A) national security;
(B) economic development;
(C) advancement of cultural awareness; and
(D) cooperation among nations;

(3) the effectiveness of the IIE at promoting opportunity by—

(A) providing scholarships and administering programs that benefit underserved populations;

(B) rescuing and assisting threatened and displaced scholars, students, and artists; and
(C) encouraging teaching and learning across cultures into the future; and

(4) the important role of the IIE as a distinguished partner with the—

(A) United States Government;
(B) private sector; and
(C) nonprofit and philanthropic communities.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 13—REAFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN AND TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 13

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act (referred to in this resolution as the “TRA”), which was signed into law on April 10, 1979, codified into law the basis for continued commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan, and serves as the foundation to preserve and promote continued bilateral bonds;

Whereas the TRA enshrines the United States commitment to make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability;

Whereas pursuant to section 1206 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228; 22 U.S.C. 2321k note.), Taiwan is to be treated as though it were designated a major non-NATO ally for transfers of defense articles or defense services;

Whereas in 1982, President Ronald Reagan further clarified the importance and resilience of the United States-Taiwan relationship by agreeing to the Six Assurances;

Whereas the TRA and the Six Assurances are cornerstones of United States policy with respect to Taiwan, as was reaffirmed—

(1) by the House of Representatives with the adoption of H. Con. Res. 88 on May 16, 2016; and

(2) by the Senate with the adoption of S. Con. Res. 38 on July 6, 2016;

Whereas the TRA and the Six Assurances have been essential components in helping to maintain peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific, thereby furthering the political, security, and economic interests of the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas the United States and Taiwan have forged ever closer economic and security relations during the last 4 decades based on—

(1) their shared commitment to democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and free market principles; and

(2) their willingness to partner in efforts to combat global terrorism and to address other global challenges, such as challenges related to the environment, public health, energy security, education, women’s empowerment, digital economy, poverty, and natural disasters;

Whereas the United States-Taiwan global partnership was further strengthened in June 2015, with a memorandum of understanding between the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States, which established the Global Cooperation and Training Framework, and has allowed the 2 parties to cohost many workshops on critical topics, including a December 2018 workshop on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief that was attended by 10 regional governments;

Whereas Taiwan has the expertise, willingness, and capability to engage in international efforts to mitigate global challenges related to such issues as public health, aviation safety, crime, and terrorism, but its participation in such efforts has been constrained by conditions imposed by the People’s Republic of China;

Whereas successive Congresses have called upon the executive branch to develop strategies to obtain meaningful participation for Taiwan in international organizations, such as the World Health Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the International Criminal Police Organization (commonly known as “INTERPOL”);

Whereas the House of Representatives passed H.R. 353 on January 22, 2019, which expresses support for Taiwan’s participation at

the World Health Organization’s World Health Assembly as an observer;

Whereas communication on bilateral security, cultural, and commercial interests would be greatly enhanced with the full implementation of the Taiwan Travel Act (Public Law 115–135), which was signed into law on March 16, 2018, and which states “the United States Government should encourage visits between officials from the United States and Taiwan at all levels”;

Whereas the United States and Taiwan have built a strong economic partnership in which—

(1) the United States is Taiwan’s third largest trading partner; and

(2) Taiwan is the 11th largest trading partner of the United States and a key destination for United States agricultural exports;

Whereas strong United States-Taiwan economic relations have been a positive factor in stimulating economic growth and job creation for the people of the United States and of Taiwan; and

Whereas successive Congresses have publicly reaffirmed United States commitments to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act and Six Assurances, including most recently on December 31, 2018, with the enactment into law of the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–409), which states that—

(1) it is United States policy “to support the close economic, political, and security relationship between Taiwan and the United States”; and

(2) the President should—

(A) “conduct regular transfers of defense articles to Taiwan that are tailored to meet the existing and likely future threats from the People’s Republic of China, including supporting the efforts of Taiwan to develop and integrate asymmetric capabilities, as appropriate, including mobile, survivable, and cost-effective capabilities, into its military forces”; and

(B) “encourage the travel of high-level United States officials to Taiwan, in accordance with the Taiwan Travel Act”:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) reaffirms that the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances are, and will remain, cornerstones of United States relations with Taiwan;

(2) encourages United States officials at all levels to travel to meet with their counterparts in Taiwan, and for high-level Taiwan officials to enter the United States and meet with United States officials, in accordance with the Taiwan Travel Act;

(3) reiterates that the President should conduct regular transfers of defense articles to Taiwan consistent with Taiwan’s national security requirements in accordance with existing law, including the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–409);

(4) calls upon the Secretary of State to actively engage internationally in support of Taiwan’s meaningful participation in international organizations engaged in addressing transnational threats and challenges such as those related to health, aviation security, and crime and terrorism;

(5) recognizes Taiwan’s partnership in combating global terrorism, including as a full partner in the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, and in addressing other global challenges through the Global Cooperation and Training Framework and similar initiatives;

(6) urges the President to explore opportunities to expand and deepen bilateral economic and trade relations with Taiwan;

(7) underscores the importance of the close people-to-people ties cultivated through initiatives such as the Fulbright Program, which has supported thousands of scholar

and grantee exchanges between the United States and Taiwan for 60 years;

(8) welcomes the inclusion of Taiwan into the United States visa waiver program and U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s Global Entry Program to make it easier for those traveling from Taiwan to visit the United States; and

(9) acknowledges the important work done by the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in support of United States-Taiwan interests.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 6 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 4, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 4, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Secretary, and Susan Combs, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of the Interior, and Aimee Kathryn Jorjani, of Wisconsin, to be Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 4, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, at 2:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Daniel P. Collins, and Kenneth Kiyul Lee, both of California, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, James Wesley Hendrix, and Mark T. Pittman, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Sean D. Jordan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Ronald D. Vitiello, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, Virgil Madden, of Indiana, to be a Commissioner of the United States Parole Commission, and Nick Edward Proffitt, of Virginia, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Virginia, Department of Justice.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during

the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, at 2.45 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION, OPERATIONS,
SAFETY, AND SECURITY

The Subcommittee on Aviation, Operations, Safety, and Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 4, 2019, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUPPORTING THE NORTH ATLANTIC
TREATY ORGANIZATION AND
RECOGNIZING ITS 70 YEARS OF
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 5, S. Res. 123.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 123) supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and recognizing its 70 years of accomplishments.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 123) was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The resolution is printed in the RECORD of March 27, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL
OF THE BIRTH OF RABBI
ISAAC MAYER WISE AND THE
130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF THE CENTRAL
CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN
RABBIS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 145, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 145) commemorating the bicentennial of the birth of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise and the 130th anniversary of the founding of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reso-

lution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 145) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE INSTITUTE OF INTER-
NATIONAL EDUCATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 146, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 146) recognizing the centennial of the Institute of International Education.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 146) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 8,
2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 4 p.m., Monday, April 8, 2019, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
APRIL 8, 2019, AT 4 P.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:39 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 8, 2019, at 4 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

FRANK WILLIAM VOLK, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA, VICE JOHN T. COPENHAVER, JR., RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SCOTT SOLES, OF TEXAS, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, VICE JON M. HOLLADAY.

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

MICHELLE BOWMAN, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2020. (REAPPOINTMENT)

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

ALLISON HERREN LEE, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2022, VICE KARA MARLENE STEIN, TERM EXPIRED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL J.K. KRATSIOS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY, VICE PATRICIA K. FALCONE, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

ALMA L. GOLDEN, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE ARIEL PABLOSMENDEZ.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD B. NORLAND, OF IOWA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO LIBYA.

THE JUDICIARY

STEVEN D. GRIMBERG, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, VICE RICHARD W. STORY, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RANDALL P. HUFF, OF WYOMING, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOSEPH CAMPBELL MOORE, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS SENIOR MILITARY ACQUISITION ADVISOR IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 1725(A):

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER B. ATHEARN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

THEODORE W. KLEISNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ROBERT W. HUGHES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

LARRY R. JORDAN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

KONTRINA S. PAK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

MARCUS L. JORDAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ROBERT M. HUDSON
TERRY W. PARTIN
JAMES D. SIZEMORE

To be colonel

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JOHN E. CALLIHAN II
MICHAEL A. HOFFMAN
JOHN A. MEYER
JEFFREY F. RYAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BOGUSLAW A. AUGUSTYN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JAMES R. ACHENBACH
DERRIL J. ALBERT
ALLAN D. BARALL
JEREMY BARAN
LOUISA R. BARGERON
RYAN W. BARNES
FRANK A. BART
ERIK S. V. BENSON
JULIE M. BIRCH
ROBERT G. BLAIR III
JIMMY W. BOAN
DEREK R. BOLZ
GARY H. BOUTELLE
KACEY C. BRASHEAR
PATRICIA L. BREWER
DANIEL M. BROWN
JOHN F. BRUNETT
WILLIAM D. BUNDY
DUANE A. BURK
CHRISTINA L. BURTON
ANTHONY C. BUSILLO III
CHRISTOPHER J. BUZARD
MATTHEW M. CAIN
MARK D. CAMPBELL
ARCHER R. CARE
ARIGAIL A. CATHELINEAUD
JOHN A. CHAVEZ
BRAD A. CLAWSON
BRIAN A. COPE
MICHAEL J. CREEDON
ANGEL R. DAVILALOPEZ
DAVID J. DAVIS
MARK P. DEDRICK
ANDREW S. DEJESSE
CECILIA A. DIAZ
ROBERT J. DINAN
ROSA A. DRAKE
OBUN J. DUFFY
REX A. EISERER
GREGORY H. FAIRBANK
DAVID M. FARABAUGH
SUZANNE M. FIEDL
GAIL A. FISHER
PHILLIP A. FLEMING
WALTER L. FLINN
MARTIN E. FLYNN
JEFFREY W. FOREST
DAVID M. FOSTER
KAREN D. R. FRICKE
JAMES H. GORMLY
JASON A. GRIDER
JOHN C. HAAS, JR.
THOMAS HARZEWSKI
NANCY L. HENDERSON
LEE A. HERING
JAY A. HINES
PHILLIP L. HIRSCH
PATRICK E. HUGHES
MILTON V. HUMPHREY
GREGORY P. HUTCHINS
MICHAEL A. JACOBSON
GEOFFREY J. JERAM
MARK L. JOHNSTON, JR.
HEIDI A. JONES
CHARLES C. JORDAN
LAWRENCE J. KAPP
OK K. KIM
CHAD E. KIRCHNER
ADRIAN I. KOBRYN
REGINALD J. KORNEGAY
ERIC C. KOTOUĆ
GERALD J. KRIEGER
MICHAEL R. LAFONTAINE
RODERICK F. LAUGHMAN
HARRY M. LAWSON
MATTHEW J. LAWSON
RICHARD R. LEACH
SCOTT A. LEIDIGH
JOHN W. LEWIS
ANTHONY M. LEYVA
CHRISTOPHER G. LIBERTINI
RUSSELL J. LOPQUIST
PAUL V. LOHMANN
GEORGE N. MAY
JAMES F. MAZZEI
CARLUS U. MCCONNELL
WILLIAM S. MCDANIEL
EDWARD A. MCGOLDRICK
JOHN M. MCGOWAN
KEVIN O. MCKENZIE
CLINTON MEAD
MICHAEL C. MELANCON
CARLOS J. MELENDEZ
ROBERT W. METCALFE
JOSEPH S. MILLER

CHRISTOPHER MINOR
CHARLES S. MOLINETTS
TRACY G. MONTEITH
MICHAEL A. NAPOLITANO
DAVID S. NASH
CHRISTOPHER J. NIEWIND
DAVID A. OKIMOTO
RODERICK J. PAGE
JAMES E. PATRICK
STEPHEN M. PAZAK
MATTHEW W. PETERSON
JEAN P. PLAMONDON
RONNIE H. PRESTON, JR.
MOHAMMED Z. RAHMAN
ANDREW L. RAMOS
BRIAN J. REGAN
DIANE M. RICHBURG
MATT F. RIESENBERG
CHRISTOPHER B. RILEY
DEAN B. ROBERTS
DEVON D. ROBERTS
JANET E. ROSS
STEPHEN B. RUBRIGHT
THERESA J. RUSIN
NICHOLAS M. SANCHEZ
RUDOLPH P. SANTACROCE
WESLEY B. SARGENT
GREGORY M. SAWMELLE
MATTHEW T. SCILLIA
JOHN A. SHULLI
CHRISTOPHER S. SIMCOX
BETH A. SISSON
DARRIN L. SMITH
EDDIE J. SMITH
GREGORY M. SMITH
MICHAEL D. SMITH
MICHAEL J. SMITH
TRAVIS A. SMITH
JONATHAN D. SOLTZ
DARRAN A. SPAULDING
THERON C. SPURGEON
GEORGE M. STATHAM III
BENJAMIN L. STEVENS
BRYAN L. STOVER
FRANCIS C. SUYAK
ELIZABETH K. SWEET
MICHAEL L. TANG
HENRY L. TENNANT, JR.
JOSEPH C. THAMES, JR.
KATHERINE J. TOWNSEND
JOHN H. TUCKWILLER
SIEGFRIED J. ULLRICH
ANDREW B. ULMER
CHRISTOPHER M. UPCHURCH
TIMOTHY J. VERSPRILLE
STEPHEN D. VILE, JR.
GERARD D. WALSH
ALLISON E. WATKINS
KEITH B. WEBER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

KEITH A. ARCHIBALD
JASON M. ARNDT
BETTINA K. AVENT
JERRY A. BROWN
ANTHONY M. CALLANDRILLO
JOHN G. CASEY
DANIEL L. CEDERMAN
MARCUS A. CHEATHAM
JOHN J. COIRO
BETTY S. CUMMISKEY
VERNON R. DAVIS
ERIC R. FRIEBIS
LEAF S. HALE
SHAWN T. HUBBELL
DAVID M. JENKINS
ELAINE J. JOHNSON
VALERIA G. JOHNSON
BRET D. JONES
DOUGLAS R. KISSELL
MARITZA LAGARES
STEVEN E. LAMPKINS
JAMES M. LEWIS
ANDREW T. LOVE
THOMAS MANION
JABAR M. MARKS
MARY P. MARTINEZ
RHONDA R. MCCULLLEY
DANIEL C. MCTIGUE
MATTHEW N. METZEL
CASEY J. MINER
WILLIAM G. MORRIS
CHARLES N. MOULTON
JEFFREY C. MOZINGO
GARY L. OLIVER
JOSEPH R. PARNELL
AARON P. RADTKE
KIP R. REITZ
JOSEPH C. RICKER
JOHN A. SALO
NICHOLAS J. SCHAPPER
TERRANCE L. SCHOOLER
DARRELL S. SCHUSTER
THOMAS L. SHARRATT
TROY N. SHEARER
TY S. SHORT
MICKIE J. SKAGGS
TRENT A. SMITH
JOSEPH L. THOMAS
MARK A. WATERS
FRANK L. WITSBERGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

TIMOTHY B. ALEXANDER
MICHAEL J. BANKS
DAVID C. BARKUS
AARON H. BAUGHER
JOSEPH A. BAULDRY
HUNTER L. BELCHER
JASON P. BENSON
ANDREW M. BISHOP
BRIAN L. BLANKENSHIP
ALVIN P. BOLTON
JOHN B. BOWLIN
RODNEY W. BOWMAN
SEAN A. BRADY
DONALD R. BRAUGHT
SHILOH P. BRIGGS
MARK E. BRODERICK
TIMOTHY A. BROOKS
JEFFERY P. BURKE
SCOTT L. BUSH
KENDRICK L. CAGER
MIRIAM D. CARLISLEWESTFALL
BRYAN M. CARR
MAXIME C. CASTELEYN
ERICA M. CHRISTIE
SHAWN C. CODY
JOSEPH A. COOKE, JR.
BRETT A. COOPER
GREGORY S. COOPER
JUNE S. COPELAND
VIRGINIA C. CORDERY
KEVIN P. CRAWFORD
JAMEY L. CREEK
DAVID E. CRENSHAW
PAUL F. CRIGLER
ROBERT S. CROCKEM, JR.
JAMES C. CROWLEY
HENRY J. CUDNEY
JAMES T. CULVER
MICHAEL B. DAAKE
ROBERT C. DAVIS
BRIAN K. DEAN
MARC D. DEFREYN
SCOTT J. DESORMEAUX
MICHAEL G. DYKES
ANDREW R. DZIENGELESKI
MICHAEL W. ECKER
CARL E. ENGSTROM
JEFFREY A. ERICKSON
MICHAEL D. EVANS
EVAN C. EWACHIW
JAMES A. FALFAFINE
BRIAN S. FALLON
GREGORY T. FARR
TOD M. FENNER
ROBERT B. FISK
DEAN J. FIX
ANTHONY D. FORD
RENEE M. FORD
DOUGLAS J. FORTIER
CRAIG A. FOURNIER
ARTHUR J. GARFPER, JR.
RANDALL K. GATES
FRANCIS E. GERMANESE
DAVID L. GIBBONS III
DANIEL E. GILBERT
THOMAS W. GOLDEN
LINDA S. GRAY
LOUIS D. GRAY
MARVIN R. GREEN III
BRYANT L. HAAS
JOHN C. HALL
DAVID S. HAMILTON
CHARLES A. HANCOCK
MICHAEL D. HANSON
LANCE D. HARGRAVE
MICHAEL S. HATFIELD
CRAIG S. HEATHSCOTT
BILLIE W. HEISER II
BRIAN P. HENNESSEY
JAVID D. HERAVI
MICHAEL K. HERRINGTON
MICHAEL W. HICKS
JAMES R. HIGGINBOTHAM
ARVID R. HILL
DEREK J. HOLLAND
SCOTT E. HOUSE
TURON M. HUMPHREY
SARAH E. HURLEY
JOHN M. INSETTA
BARRY C. JACKSON
JOSE B. JAKUES
CHARLES K. JAWORSKI, JR.
PETER J. JERZAK
JEFFREY L. JIANNONI
BARRY L. JOHNSON
CHRISTOPHER M. JOHNSON
ROBERT C. JORGENSEN, JR.
MARK E. KALIN
DENNIS E. KEENER
AARON P. KEIRN
JARED D. LAKE
DAVID R. LAYDON
BOBBY J. LEE, JR.
NATALIE L. LEWELLEN
HEATH M. LEWIS
PATRICK L. LEWIS
DANIEL J. LONG
WILLIAM B. LONG
JOHN G. LOWE
MATTHEW A. LUTZ
REECE J. LUTZ
CHRIS M. MABIS
JASON P. MAHPOUZ
JUSTIN L. MANN
MICHAEL J. MANUCY, JR.

TIMOTHY R. MAPLES
 MICHAEL P. MARCINIAK
 GREGORY MARCUSON
 WILLARD B. MARLOW
 CHARLES B. MARTIN, JR.
 ROBERT M. MARTINEZ
 MICHAEL D. MCCOY
 ERIC D. MCELWAIN
 GARY S. MCLEOD
 SARAH M. MCLEVEY
 JAMES L. MCNAIR III
 ROBERT H. MEDINA
 CARL C. MEREDITH
 TIMOTHY M. METCALF
 CHRISTOPHER S. MOENSTER
 DAVID A. MOORE
 ANTHONY MOSCATO
 JASON P. NELSON
 ROBERT D. NESBIT, JR.
 RODNEY D. NEWTON
 ERIC W. NORRIS
 JAMES M. PALEMBAS, JR.
 ROBERT J. PAYNE
 WILLY F. PEGUES IV
 JUSTIN D. PERRYMAN
 NATHANIEL W. PETERS
 THOMAS C. PETERSON
 SALLY F. PETTY
 IRA J. PHILLIPS, JR.
 JOHN E. PITT
 DAVID C. POLKINGHORN
 MATTHEW N. PORTER
 PAMELA L. PRINCE
 JOSHUA B. QUANTZ
 JAMES C. RAE, JR.
 KENNETH J. RATLIFF
 DARREN REAM
 CASEY D. REED
 RANDY N. REMIKER
 EDMUND M. RIELY
 RAYMOND J. RIPBERGER
 FELIX A. RODRIGUEZ, JR.
 GREGORY W. ROGERS
 CARLOS R. ROQUE
 STEPHAN J. RUPPELLEE
 ARON T. SACCHETTI
 CHRISTOPHER J. SAMULSKI
 DEMIAN W. SANMIGUEL
 CLEMENT V. SAWIN
 SEAN W. SAWYER
 STEPHEN E. SAWYER
 MICHAEL T. SCATES
 LORI R. SCHANHALS
 JOHN A. SCHOTT

AARON R. SCHUH
 JAMES D. SEWARD
 WILLIAM M. SHARP
 FRED B. SHIRAH, JR.
 JOSHUA M. SIMER
 JOHN D. SIVLEY
 NATHANIEL R. SKELLY
 JAMES S. SLAVEN
 STEPHEN G. SMITH
 TIFFANY M. SNEED
 RAGNAR P. SORENSEN
 WILLIAM G. START
 JONATHAN S. STEINBACH
 TOMMIE D. STEVENS
 ERIC M. STILLER
 CHAD E. STONE
 JEFFREY D. STOWELL
 JOHN W. STRAIN II
 SHANE P. STRICKLAND
 TIMOTHY A. STROHMAN
 STEPHEN M. STROUD
 CRAIG A. SWANK
 PAUL W. TAPPEN
 DEXTER T. THORNTON
 KENDRICK D. TRAYLOR
 PHILLIP G. TREVINO
 DANA L. TUCKER
 TODD J. VERRILL
 WALTER E. VONHOVEN
 ROBERT S. WALKER
 PAUL A. WATERS
 BRIAN E. WATSON
 RAY P. WATSON
 MATTHEW E. WEAR
 DAVID E. WEST, JR.
 JONATHAN C. WILLIAMS
 JASON L. WISEHART
 KENNETH P. WISNIEWSKI III
 MATTHEW S. WOODRUFF
 ROBERT J. YENCHA
 WING Y. YU

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
 IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY
 UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

GUY W. JENSEN
 DAVID L. RHOINEY
 VENITA M. SIMPSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT
 IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY
 UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

MARISSA A. MAYOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT
 TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
 UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

ADAM C. HANCOCK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT
 TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
 UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JOHN J. EASTMAN

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by
 the Senate April 4, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

ROY KALMAN ALTMAN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED
 STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT
 OF FLORIDA.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

MARK ANTHONY CALABRIA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR
 OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY FOR A
 TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by
 the President to the Senate on April 4,
 2019 withdrawing from further Senate
 consideration the following nomination:

RONALD D. VITIELLO, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT
 SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE SARAH
 R. SALDANA, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY
 16, 2019.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. ANTONIO “TONY”
FRIAS

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Antonio “Tony” Frias of Hudson, Massachusetts who is turning 80 years old on Saturday, April 6, 2019. Tony dedicated his life to his community and business, as the co-founder of S&F Concrete Contractors, Inc. Tony has lived his life admirably, and his legacy of hard work and public service continues to inspire many in our community.

Tony Frias was born in Santa Maria Island, Azores and left school after the 4th grade to immigrate to the United States in 1955 with the earnest pursuit to create a better future. Before becoming involved in construction, Tony challenged himself in various positions, building skills, determination, and exploring interests to cultivate. After seven years of working in the concrete construction industry, Tony and his brother Joseph joined forces with Jack Santos to establish S&F Concrete Contractors, Inc. Today, he continues his work with over 50 years of construction experience at the forefront of the company.

Tony’s lifetime commitment to our community and his work at S&F Concrete Contractors has been invaluable to Massachusetts. I am proud to rise in honor of Tony’s 80th birthday and look forward to his continuing to inspire others in our community.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Antonio Frias today.

RECOGNIZING THE 70TH
ANNIVERSARY OF NATO

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th Anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

NATO emerged out of the ashes of World War II and has been the cornerstone of our security across the Atlantic and around the world. It has also been an important building block for our relationships with transatlantic partners.

NATO remains the most important and critical security link between the United States and Europe. NATO has been an important way for the United States to demonstrate a strong commitment to the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and democratic development of the countries that have emerged from the former Soviet Union, including Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova. NATO allies and partners in both Central and Eastern Europe have stood alongside the United States in joint

peace operations in the Western Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere.

NATO stood with the United States in one of the darkest days of our history when we were attacked on 9/11. When the United States invoked Article 5, the first time done so by a country in the history of the Alliance, NATO joined our fight and are still engaged in Afghanistan to this day.

Last year, I was proud to introduce and see the House of Representatives pass H. Res. 256, a resolution expressing support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The House of Representatives sent a strong message that no matter what President Trump says during the NATO Summit in Brussels, Congress strongly supports our treaty allies and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our friends in Central and Eastern Europe.

We will continue to work to counter Russian aggression in Europe including the occupation of Georgian territory, the annexation of Crimea, continued violations of Baltic airspace and threats to Moldovan territorial integrity and sovereignty.

We will stand by our allies, as they have stood by us.

DYLANN ADAMS CHAVEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dyllann Adams Chavez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Dyllann Adams Chavez is a student at North Arvada Middle High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Dyllann Adams Chavez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dyllann Adams Chavez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ASSASSINATION OF THE REV.
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, today, April 4, 2019, marks the 51st anniversary of one of the darkest and most sorrowful days in American history, the assassination in Memphis, Tennessee of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

The mortal life of one of the towering figures of the 20th century may have been cut short on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel a half century ago, but the spirit that animated that life and inspired a nation lives on and reminds us that nothing is impossible when we are guided by the better angels of our nature.

In remembering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we commemorate a man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice every day.

We honor the courage of a man who endured harassment, threats and beatings, and even bombings.

We celebrate the man who went to jail 29 times to achieve freedom for others, and who knew he would pay the ultimate price for his leadership, but kept on marching and protesting and organizing anyway.

Dr. King once said that we all have to decide whether we “will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness.”

“Life’s most persistent and nagging question,” he said, is “what are you doing for others?”

And when Dr. King talked about the end of his mortal life in one of his last sermons, on February 4, 1968 in the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church, even then he lifted up the value of service as the hallmark of a full life:

“I’d like somebody to mention on that day Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others,” he said. “I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life . . . to love and serve humanity.”

We should also remember that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was, above all, a person who was always willing to speak truth to power.

There is perhaps no better example of Dr. King’s moral integrity and consistency than his criticism of the Vietnam War being waged by the Johnson Administration, an administration that was otherwise a friend and champion of civil and human rights.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15, 1929.

Martin’s youth was spent in our country’s Deep South, then run by Jim Crow and the Ku Klux Klan.

For young African-Americans, it was an environment even more dangerous than the one they face today.

A young Martin managed to find a dream, one that he pieced together from his readings—in the Bible, and literature, and just about any other book he could get his hands on.

Not only did those books help him educate himself, but they also allowed him to work through the destructive and traumatic experiences of blatant discrimination, and the discriminatory abuse inflicted on himself, his family, and his people.

As a youngster, Dr. King learned to use his imagination and his dreams to see right

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

through those “White Only” signs—to see the reality that all men, and women, regardless of their place of origin, their gender, or their creed, are created equal.

Dr. King was a dreamer and through dreams he was able to lift his mind beyond the reality of his segregated society to a beloved place where it was possible that white and black, red and brown, and all others live, work, and prosper together in harmony.

But the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was not an idle daydreamer.

He shared his visions through speeches that motivated others to join in his nonviolent effort to lift themselves from poverty and isolation by creating a new America where equal justice and institutions were facts of life.

In the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote, “We hold these truths to be self evident, that all Men are Created Equal.”

At that time and for centuries to come, African-Americans were historically, culturally, and legally excluded from inclusion in that declaration.

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” Speech, delivered 54 years ago, on August 28, 1963, was a clarion call to each citizen of this great nation that we still hear today.

His request was simply and eloquently conveyed—he asked America to allow of its citizens to live out the words written in its Declaration of Independence and to have a place in this nation’s Bill of Rights.

The 1960s were a time of great crisis and conflict.

It was the decade of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, and the assassinations of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Malcolm X, Presidential Candidate Robert Kennedy, and the man we honor here today.

The dream expressed and shared by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. helped win major victories in the battle for civil rights.

It started when Dr. King led the Montgomery Bus Boycott, with Rosa Parks and others, which lasted for 381 days, and ended when the United States Supreme Court outlawed racial segregation on all public transportation.

But the dream did not die there.

It continued with a peaceful march for suffrage that started in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965, a day that was immediately known and will always be remembered as “Bloody Sunday,” when a peaceful march for voting rights ended in bloodshed and violence at the hands of law enforcement officers as the marchers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

When the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was stolen from us, he was a very young 39 years old.

People remember that Dr. King died in Memphis, but few can remember why he was there.

On that fateful day in 1968 Dr. King came to Memphis to support a strike by the city’s sanitation workers.

The garbage men there had recently formed a chapter of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees to demand better wages and working conditions.

But the city refused to recognize their union, and when the 1,300 employees walked off their jobs the police broke up the rally with mace and Billy clubs.

It was then that union leaders invited Dr. King to Memphis.

Despite the danger he might face entering such a volatile situation, it was an invitation he could not refuse.

Not because he longed for danger, but because the labor movement was intertwined with the civil rights movement for which he had given up so many years of his life.

The death of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will never overshadow his life.

That is his legacy as a dreamer and a man of action.

It is a legacy of hope, tempered with peace.

It is a legacy not quite yet fulfilled.

I hope that Dr. King’s vision of equality under the law is never lost to us, because without that vision—without that dream—we can never continue to improve the human condition.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. understood that a life well lived, and all of the noblest virtues—courage, wisdom, grace, love—were rooted in service to others.

And he memorably expressed this idea in his last sermon, the one given at Mason Temple in Memphis on April 3, 1968, the evening before he was felled by an assassin:

But then the Good Samaritan came by. And he reversed the question: “If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?”

That’s the question before you tonight. Not, “If I stop to help the sanitation workers, what will happen to my job. Not, “If I stop to help the sanitation workers what will happen to all of the hours that I usually spend in my office every day and every week as a pastor?” The question is not, “If I stop to help this man in need, what will happen to me?” The question is, “If I do not stop to help the sanitation workers, what will happen to them?” That’s the question.

Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation. And I want to thank God, once more, for allowing me to be here with you.

So in these difficult days of challenge, let us remember and take inspiration from the remarkable, extraordinary, and consequential life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and move forward together, with greater readiness and determination, to make America a place where all of her people enjoy the blessings of justice, equality, and human dignity.

Let us, the living, continue that struggle today and forever, in the incandescent spirit of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN DOWNS OF MOLT

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Justin Downs of Molt for rescuing a severely injured man amid harsh winter conditions.

A rancher from northwest of Billings, Justin is a volunteer firefighter with the Broadview Fire Department. On a day in early March with challenging winter weather, he was called upon to aid a man injured in a ranching accident. The man was immobile, and because of

snow-drifted roads and fields, emergency vehicles were unable to reach him.

As he has done countless times before, Justin responded to the call. Using his farm tractor, he and a medic began crossing the fields of deep snow about two miles from where conditions had forced emergency vehicles to stop.

Upon arrival, the medic provided initial treatment for the man’s injuries. Justin and the medic then loaded the man into the cab of Justin’s tractor. Justin drove through the snow-covered fields to the rescue vehicles where he left the man with emergency personnel. He then crossed the fields again to get the medic, who had stayed behind because of limited space in the tractor’s cab.

“I know people would help me out if I needed it. We just do what needs to be done when it needs to be done,” Justin said.

Winters in Montana can be harsh and produce dangerous conditions, especially in rural areas where travel can be disrupted for days. It’s encouraging to know neighbors stand ready to lend a hand in times of need.

Madam Speaker, for his selfless service to his community and for coming to the aid of an injured rancher without hesitation and amid hostile winter conditions, I recognize Justin Downs for his spirit of Montana.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WYOMING SEMINARY FIELD HOCKEY TEAM, 2018 PIAA STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wyoming Seminary Field Hockey team on winning their state championship in Pennsylvania. The Blue Knights were named the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association’s Class 1A Field Hockey State Champions on November 17, 2018, after they won the final game against the Newport Buffalos by a final score of 2–0. The team also earned the WVC Division 1 and District 2 Class A Field Hockey Championships.

Head Coach Karen Klassner, Assistant Coach Kim Barbacci, and Assistant Coach Margaret Kerrick led the team to victory during the season. The state champions team roster includes: Grace Aiello, Kate Barilla, Maggie Barilla, Emma Bean, Ava Bufalino, Cristiana Burcovschii, Reese Butcher, Shawna Casey, Julia Christian, Ahna Dinsmore, Halle Kehl, Bari Lefkowitz, Mia Magnotta, Hannah Maxwell, Tyra McCormick, Abby McDaniel, Quinn Medico, Anna Mozeleski, Aubrey Mytych, Grace Parsons, Coty Pinerio, Dani Reiser, Kelsey Reznick, Katie Ritsick, Abby Santo, Elisabeth Seyfarth, Alex Wesneski, Emily Williams, Tyler Wood, and Tiana Wren.

Senior midfielder Kelsey Reznick scored the initial point during a penalty stroke in the final minutes of the first half. In the opening minutes of the second half, forward Hannah Maxwell scored the additional point for her team. Keeper Mia Magnotta made two saves for Wyoming Seminary throughout the course of the game.

It is an honor to recognize the outstanding achievement of these young women and their

coaches. It is with great pride that I congratulate them on their winning season. Go Blue Knights.

BOB AND JACKIE HUNT'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Bob and Jackie Hunt of Leesburg, Florida on their 70th anniversary of marriage.

Bob and Jackie are lifelong residents of Lake County Florida. Bob served in the Navy during World War II. After the war, Bob returned to Florida and joined the Citrus industry. Jackie was a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and working together, they raised and put their three children through college.

Marriage and strong families are indispensable contributors to the prosperity of our nation. Bob and Jackie, I am honored to recognize your loyalty and faithfulness to one another and your family. I offer my sincerest congratulations for 70 years of marriage. May God continue to bless them and their family in the years to come.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MORALE, RECOGNITION, LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1433 the "DHS MORALE Act", which would help improve morale among the 240,00 employees of the Department by creating and cataloguing leadership development opportunities, identifying and addressing factors that impact employee engagement, and recognizing employee contributions through the many plans it offers such as the employee effort recognition award plan which recognizes employees for their efforts over the year and through the DHS Rotation Program to create opportunities for employees.

As a senior member of the Committee and a former chair and ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee and Transportation Security Subcommittee, I understand how important this bill will be in enhancing employee engagement.

H.R. 1433 addresses and is responsible to the needs of DHS employees by developing frameworks to create leadership opportunities and by assessing the needs of the employees in supervisory as well as non-supervisory roles.

The DHS Rotation Program is one of the many programs that this bill has helped steer employees towards by having the Chief Human Capital Officer maintain a catalogue of development opportunities.

The bill also establishes an Employee Engagement Steering Committee—through which

factors are identified that affect employee morale comprised of representatives and individuals throughout the department and labor organizations representing the DHS employees and involvement and solutions sought to counter-act those problems.

This process enhances employee morale as it requires a Department wide Engagement Action Plan to be implemented which comes through the input from the Steering committee.

The bill directs that employees be recognized for their efforts over the year by establishing an Employee Award Program which help with the goals of the department.

This bill greatly helps DHS move in a positive direction when it comes to addressing its longstanding problems of the morale concerns of employees.

I strongly support this bill and urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF AMY DICKINSON AND FOR RECEIVING THE HORATIO ALGER AWARD

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Amy Dickinson and for receiving the Horatio Alger Award.

Amy exemplifies perseverance in the face of adversity and provides an example of the strength which can come from that adversity. Overcoming the challenges of growing up with a single parent, she received a scholarship and worked her way through college to earn a diploma from Georgetown University. Following her graduation in 1981, Amy worked as a producer for NBC and then as a successful writer. Her career represents her ability to overcome the unexpected challenges of life and to grow because of them. Amy has found great success despite the challenges she has faced from a young age and should serve as a reminder of the importance of hard work and dedication.

For nearly forty years, Amy's work has appeared in some of our nation's leading publications, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, and Time magazine. Since 2003, she has written the "Ask Amy" column for the Chicago Tribune which is syndicated throughout North America and reaches an estimated twenty million viewers a day. Her first memoir reached the New York Times best seller list within two weeks of publication. Her work has consistently highlighted her compassion and wisdom.

Amy has dedicated her time to several charitable organizations and initiatives. She has worked tirelessly for library fundraising and literacy projects throughout the nation and has created her own initiative, A Book on Every Bed which encourages family to gift books during the holiday season. She is involved in community organizations such as the State Theatre in Ithaca and has raised money to help children from backgrounds similar to hers. Amy should serve as an inspiration not only to the Horatio Alger scholars, but to all Americans.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to

celebrate Amy Dickinson and her extraordinary career.

KAREN COWLING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Karen Cowling for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Image Award.

Karen Cowling has been an active participant in the Arvada community for many years. She works with Dental at Your Door and Benefits in Action and is receiving this award for her commitment to the Arvada community and the positive image she displays for the city.

The involvement and generosity demonstrated by Karen Cowling is exemplary of the type of positive image that can be displayed for the City of Arvada. She provides dental care to the Arvada homeless and assists people in need with court hearings, hospital visits and mental health services.

I extend my congratulations to Karen Cowling for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce and deepest appreciation for her contributions to our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREENVIEW CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the Greenview Christian Church of Greenview, Illinois, for celebrating their 150th anniversary.

In 1869, the Greenview Christian Church was officially opened as a place of worship for the residents of the city. Since then, the church has grown immensely; it now provides the community with far more than a place to pray. This is where the residents of Greenview come to make strides towards improving their local area, as well as to help those less fortunate than themselves abroad, through their partner missionary program, Faith Promise Rally.

The Greenview Community Church is known throughout the area for the services that it has provided for the community over the last 150 years. Today, we celebrate the church for their dedication to serving Greenview. I extend my sincere congratulations to the Greenview Christian Church for a successful 150 years, and I wish them even more success going forward.

TRIBUTE TO ZYGMUND KOWALEWSKI

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, today I'd like to congratulate Zygmund Kowalewski on the

occasion of his 99th birthday on April 7th, and thank him for his service to the United States Navy and to the United States of America.

Mr. Kowalewski enlisted as a gunner on a twin-engine PBM flying boat in October of 1941, just two months before the ambush at Pearl Harbor would launch the U.S. into World War II. As a part of Torpedo Squadron Eight present at the Battle of Midway, he and his fellow crew members earned commendations for bravery in engagements at Guadalcanal, Midway, and the British Solomon Islands.

Attempting to fly a mail route off the coast of the Fiji Islands, Mr. Kowalewski's plane stalled on takeoff and crashed into the Pacific Ocean. He was forced to free himself from the downed plane and paddle from the wreckage, fearful the ship's 500-pound depth charges would detonate. Madam Speaker, even after receiving combat honors twice for his heroics, Mr. Kowalewski once again piloted a U.S. Navy plane, instead hunting German submarines in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Mr. Kowalewski moved out to Alaska in 1967 after fulfilling his Naval service, continuing to fly as an FAA Airway Systems Inspection Pilot. But whether he was piloting a torpedo bomber or a twin-engine Cessna, he always conducted himself with valor and should be considered among Alaska's finest Naval Aviators for his service.

An aviator needs quick decision-making and a cool head to fly a plane in combat. Many of us will not know the kind of mental toughness required to see a mission to its conclusion, even under the most dire flight conditions.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Zygmund Kowalewski, who now at the age of 99, will have spent nearly one quarter of his life's work in service to his country having flown missions from Dutch Harbor to the Panama Canal. There are few people that can claim to have sacrificed as much under our flag, and he is owed the thanks and gratitude of all of us here in Washington and in Alaska.

RECOGNIZING THE COUNCIL ROCK
HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Council Rock High School South Symphony Orchestra. Beginning April 10, 2019, the Council Rock High School South Symphony Orchestra will be traveling throughout Spain for a nine-day tour.

Notably, the symphony orchestra will perform in three public concerts: at the Teatro Auditorio Riberas del Guadaira in Seville, the Auditorio Manuel de Falla in Granada, and the Plaza Ayuntamiento in Toledo.

These performances not only give these young students the opportunity to perform in historic venues, but allow them to immerse themselves in Spanish music, culture, and history.

I would like to applaud Mr. Christopher Simon, the Orchestra Director at Council Rock High School South, for his visionary leadership. I wish him and all the talented musicians under his direction an eye-opening and rewarding trip.

CONSTITUENTS OF THE MONTH
FOR APRIL

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eric and David Groos, two constituents from San Juan Capistrano, as my Constituents of the Month for April.

Each month, I recognize constituents who have gone above and beyond to help their neighbors, give back to their community, and make the country stronger. As co-founders of a non-profit that provides under-served and at-risk youth with outdoor recreational activities, there is no question that Eric and David are deserving of this recognition.

The brothers' non-profit, Great Opportunities, has served over 3000 young people in my district, mainly coming from San Juan Capistrano's geographically identified gang induction zones where kids are most at-risk of being drawn toward gang activity. Organizations like theirs play a critical role in generating opportunity in socioeconomically disadvantaged communities, and I am extremely grateful for the services they provide.

Eric and David provide kids in my district with more than just recreational activities—they are providing experiences that will help kids develop leadership and problem-solving skills, which will serve them well throughout their lives. I believe we must do more at the local, state, and federal levels to support organizations like theirs that provide under-served youth with the skills they need to succeed in life, and that will continue to be one of my priorities.

I am proud to recognize Eric and David as my constituents of the month for April, and I am deeply grateful for everything they do to give back to our community.

MARY JO GIDDINGS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mary Jo Giddings for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce Pioneer Award.

Mary Jo is a former Woman of the Year Award recipient and has had a positive impact on the Arvada community for nearly 50 years. She is well-deserving of this award as she has served as a leader in Arvada for many years and has contributed in many unprecedented ways.

The leadership demonstrated by Mary Jo is exemplary of the type of positive impact that can be made on the Arvada community with hard work and dedication. She has volunteered at the Arvada Center since it opened in 1976 and sits on the Board of Directors for the Arvada Historical Society and the Arvada Vitality Alliance as well as organizes Arvada Garden Tours.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mary Jo Giddings for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce and appreciate his ongoing contributions to our community.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION
CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF
ROMANI AMERICANS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, this body has long recognized the accomplishments and unique heritage of cultures that make up and enrich the United States. Today, I, along with my colleague Representative STEVE WATKINS of Kansas, am proud to introduce a resolution recognizing and celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans.

Few cultures are as geographically diverse as the Romani people. Tracing their ancestry to the Indian subcontinent, the Romani people migrated and settled throughout Europe over the last millennia. Often, they faced scorn, hatred, persecution and discrimination. Nevertheless, they maintained their unique language and culture while enriching the culture and economies of the countries in which they became citizens. They have made distinct and important contributions in many fields including agriculture, art, crafts, literature, medicine, military service, music, sports, and science.

In 2005, the European Parliament estimated that there were 12 to 15 million Roma in Europe. Roma were among the many groups of people that suffered at the hands of the Nazis and their allies during World War II. It is estimated that between 200,000 to 500,000 Romani people were killed in death camps and elsewhere throughout Europe. In an attempt to liquidate the so-called "Gypsy Family Camp" at Auschwitz-Birkenau, on August 2 to 3, 1944, between 4,200 and 4,300 Romani men, women, and children were murdered in gas chambers in a single night. This year marks the 75th anniversary of that tragic event.

Roma have also been a part of every wave of European migration to North and South America. In the United States, there may be as many as 1 million Americans with some Romani ancestry, whether distant or more recent.

Representative STENY HOYER was the first Member of Congress to raise concern about the situation of Roma, doing so in meetings with Romanian government representatives during a 1990 congressional visit to Romania not long after the execution of Nicolae Ceausescu. In 1994, the late Congressman Tom Lantos, himself a Holocaust survivor, convened Congress's first hearing regarding the situation of the Romani people. That hearing, before the Subcommittee on International Security, International Organizations and Human Rights, received testimony from Dr. Ian Hancock, Andrzej Mirga, Klara Orgovanova, and Nicolae Gheorghie.

Though a great deal has changed since then, sadly, Romani people still face widespread human rights abuses and discrimination in employment, housing, and education. However, there is greater urgency for Roma to advance their causes today than ever before as evidenced by organizations such as the European Roma Rights Center and the still new European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture.

The Helsinki Commission has maintained robust engagement on these issues and, as

chairman during this Congress, I will build on those practices.

The resolution I am introducing today does four things. First, it celebrates Romani American Heritage. Second, it supports International Roma Day and the Department of State's robust engagement in related activities. April 8 marks "International Roma Day" around the world and is a day to celebrate Romani culture and raise awareness of the issues facing Romani people. Third, it commemorates the 75th anniversary of the destruction of the "Gypsy Family Camp" at Auschwitz. Fourth, it commends the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for its critically important role in promoting remembrance of the Holocaust and educating about the genocide of Roma.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask all Members to support this resolution and for its timely consideration on the House Floor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Monday, April 1. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Vote Number 137 (Passage of H.R. 1593, the Coordinating and Leveraging for School Security (CLASS) Act of 2019): YES;

Roll Call Vote Number 138 (Passage of H.R. 1590, the Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel Exercise Act of 2019): YES; and

Roll Call Vote Number 139 (Approval of the Journal): YES.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF SAMUEL S. LIONEL

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise with Representative ERIC SWALWELL today to offer our congratulations to Mr. Samuel S. Lionel, a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, who is celebrating his 100th Birthday on April 7, 2019.

The son of immigrants, Sam Lionel grew up in the Bronx in New York City. He graduated law school at St. John's University in 1940. Shortly after he finished law school, the United States entered WWII, and Mr. Lionel joined the war effort. He fought with the 5th Army in the campaign to liberate Italy. After the war, Mr. Lionel taught at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He retired from the reserves as a Lieutenant Colonel Judge Advocate General.

Mr. Lionel passed the Nevada Bar exam in 1954. Together with the late former Nevada Governor Grant Sawyer, he founded the Lionel, Sawyer, and Collins Law Firm in 1967. The firm quickly became one of the largest and most prestigious in the state, and Mr. Lionel represented many key gaming operators and resorts on the Las Vegas Strip. Through-

out the course of his more than a half-century career, Mr. Lionel has been widely considered the "Dean of the Nevada Bar," and he served as the Chairman of the Board of Bar Examiners for several years.

Mr. Lionel has accumulated numerous awards and honors, including three honorary doctorate degrees from St. John's University, the California Western School of Law, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is the first recipient of the Jurisprudence Award from the Nevada Anti-Defamation League. He won the 2012 Liberty Bell Award, and in 2013 he was named Las Vegas Best Lawyers' Lawyer of the Year.

Samuel Lionel is a fellow with the American College of Trial Lawyers, a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Nevada, and the Clark County Bar Association. He served as a member of the Ninth Circuit Senior Advisory Board from 1990 to 1996.

Remarkably, Mr. Lionel still practices law as a Director at Fennemore Craig, and can be found at the local courthouse waiting his turn to argue a case before the judge. Mr. Lionel, along with his wife Lexy, continue to be active members of the Southern Nevada community. On the occasion of this centennial birthday, we wish him the very best.

COORDINATING AND LEVERAGING ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL SECURITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1593, Class Act of 2019, which addresses the increasing risks of security in schools.

As a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I ensure you that this bill will improve the safety plans and policies within our schools as well as the communication between the homeland security and the Homeland Security Committee.

This Class Act will ensure a council within the Department of Homeland Security that coordinates with school security departments of their policies, plans, and activities in regards to security, and require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report to Congress on the council's effort.

Between January and May 2018, school shootings averaged one per week.

Schools need to be buildings of safety where children can gain an education in peace.

During Homeland Security Committee mark-ups of H.R. 1593, the "Coordinating and Leveraging Activities for School Security Act."

I want to thank and recognize Chairman PAYNE for his tireless work to improve the Department of Homeland Security's capability and capacity to provide services to our youngest citizens.

His dedication to meeting the homeland security needs of children is greatly appreciated.

The amendment I offer to H.R. 1593, the "Coordinating and Leveraging Activities for School Security Act," directs that any engagement with stakeholders should be reflected in the final report provided by this bill.

There are many factors that contribute to school security that we should acknowledge in the bill's report.

I am particularly interested in the work of school architects who design schools and, for decades, have worked successfully to address difficult safety challenges in school design.

As a direct result of school architects, schools are engineered to be resilient against fires, and high winds caused by tornadoes.

School architects are taking on the challenge of addressing the threat of active shooters in schools by developing designs that create visual blind spots in classrooms and hallways as well as engineering features that would delay an active shooter long enough to allow first responders to arrive.

It is my hope that stakeholders will also include students and teachers who can provide different perspectives on what constitutes school safety.

For these reasons, I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 1593.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, on April 4, 2019, I missed Roll Call vote 153. Had I been present for Roll Call 153, on passage of S.J. Res. 7, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress, I would have voted "Yes."

I am deeply dismayed and saddened by the ongoing civil war in Yemen. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, this conflict has resulted in almost 22 million Yemenis in need of humanitarian assistance due to the worsening violence, including over 2 million internally displaced persons, as well as over 190,000 refugees that have fled to neighboring countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, and Somalia. I firmly believe that it is important for the U.S. to continue to support an end to the worsening violence and prevent further human suffering.

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AUTHORITY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Jefferson County Communications Center Authority on their one-year anniversary of establishment.

Jeffcom 911 is an emergency dispatch center that increased production, reduced overhead cost, and created a more efficient public safety system by regionalizing eight emergency service agencies across Jefferson County. The company has overcome obstacles in staffing shortages, technology updates, and changes to policies, procedures, and work flow processes in order to eliminate delays and accomplish their role in public safety.

A workforce of 136 qualified call-takers, dispatchers, and supervisors were required to

manage the eight-member agencies, along with an additional 15 user agencies from surrounding areas. Jeffcom 911 staff persevered through over 25,000 hours of overtime to provide additional training, lectured courses, and individual observation to produce, cultivate, and develop a qualified workforce capable of providing professional support required by the agencies Jeffcom 911 serves 24 hours a day.

Jeffcom 911 commenced operations on April 4, 2018 and is now the single Public Safety Answering Point in Jefferson County, serving a community of 600,000 citizens and covering 774 square miles that range from densely populated metropolitan areas to mountainous landscapes.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jefferson County Communications Center Authority for this well-deserved recognition.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes:

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chair, today I will vote to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), historic landmark legislation with a proven track record of assisting abused and battered women. VAWA must be reauthorized.

As a matter of fact, I was the prime author of the law that provided for the first reauthorization of the VAWA in 2000—a five-year \$3.3 billion comprehensive program that was part of my anti-trafficking law, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act (PL 106–386/TVPA).

Today, I will vote to ensure that VAWA reauthorization overcomes expected difficulties in the Senate and moves to enactment. I will vote to reauthorize, through 2020, critical VAWA programs: legal assistance for victims; addressing housing needs for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking; grants to combat violent crimes on campuses; grants to encourage arrest policies and enforcement of protection orders; grants for enhanced training and services to end abuse later in life.

I will also vote to extend: the critical STOP grants to educate and train law enforcement personnel to address sexual assault; the CHOOSE grants, i.e. Creating Hope Through Outreach, Options, Service, and Education for Children and Youth; training and services to end violence against people with disabilities; the sexual assault services program; rural domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and child abuse enforcement assistance; grants for strengthening the healthcare system's response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; as well as extending other key programs.

This is consistent with my long record of support for VAWA.

I strongly supported passage of VAWA when it was first introduced in 1993, and again

in 1994, when this crucial legislation was signed into law. I have supported multiple reauthorizations of VAWA, and I continue to strongly support this law as it was originally intended.

As I said earlier, I was the prime author of the law that provided for the first reauthorization of the VAWA in 2000 when I included the five-year \$3.3 billion comprehensive program in my Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act (PL 106–386/TVPA).

I also cosponsored the 2005 reauthorization, fought to ensure these programs are fully funded to assist the maximum number of victims, and voted for seven of the first seven VAWA reauthorization bills offered through 2012.

Two versions of VAWA reauthorization are under consideration by the House today. As I noted, the version I will support extends the VAWA until 2020. The other—H.R. 1585—weakens several carefully crafted protections for women and girls.

By granting biological men—who self-identify as women—access to women's shelters, H.R. 1585 removes the hard-fought gains to protect women and girls from abuse and to provide them with physical, emotional and psychological security.

Under the current version of H.R. 1585, women will no longer have a secure place of their own as they flee from male-inflicted physical and emotional abuse and intimidation.

Rather, these heroic women will now have to share their place of refuge, a shelter previously reserved for women seeking protection from male abusers, with biological men who self-identify as women.

Mr. Chair, these brave women and children deserve a place where they can feel protected and secure, so they can begin the difficult process to heal as they deal with post-traumatic stress. Forcing them to share a shelter and its facilities, including showers and sleeping areas, with biological men who self-identify as women will cause these women and children to experience insecurity, discomfort, confusion, and fear of additional assault.

VAWA has always prioritized the challenges and unique needs of battered women and children but this version, if passed, no longer will.

These women's shelters—there are about 1,500 nationwide—offer a safe space where a woman does not have to fear or worry about violence and intimidation and instead allows her to take steps toward rebuilding her life.

Mr. Chair, we must first and foremost protect victims of violence.

I oppose this provision of H.R. 1585 out of genuine concern for the women and children who are forced to flee to domestic abuse shelters and base my concern on evidence from California.

In late 2018, nine female victims residing in a women's shelter in Fresno, California—Naomi's House, operated by Poverello House—filed a lawsuit against the shelter for admitting a biological man because he had self-identified as a woman. These victims stated that they had been sexually harassed by this biological man. They said that he had made “sexual advances” on them and would “stare and leer” and make “sexually harassing comments about their bodies” while they were forced to undress in the same room with him.

After repeatedly confronting the staff of Naomi's House—both verbally and in writing—with their extreme discomfort, these women were

told that they would be expelled from the shelter if they refused to comply.

Mr. Chair, if we allow biological men who self-identify as women to receive access to these women-only shelters, abused women and children will lose the ‘safe space’ they so desperately need.

These victims deserve better. They deserve our protection and support. We must work to ensure the safety of women, girls, and children.

Other shelters designed to help victims of diverse sexual orientations and identities who are victims of domestic abuse ought to be considered by separate legislation.

We can, and we must create bipartisan legislation which seeks to protect all women and girls, as this law originally intended.

We can, and must, do better.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes:

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Chair, I rise today to speak about the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, or VAWA.

For the last several decades VAWA has been a positive force in our nation for the protection of some of our most vulnerable populations. Providing grants to domestic violence organizations, increasing access to housing for survivors, supporting law enforcement, addressing the scourge of sex trafficking, and reducing the rape kit backlog—these are just some of the ways VAWA has helped victims of violence in our communities.

While this should be a bipartisan effort to reauthorize VAWA, the new Democratic majority here in the House has decided to insert provisions into the legislation that advance a political agenda at the expense of sexual assault and domestic violence survivors.

Because of the importance of reauthorizing VAWA and protecting vulnerable women across the nation, I will still be supporting final passage of the Democrat-authored bill. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey has found that over 43 percent of women experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime. Sexual and domestic violence are pervasive problems and reauthorizing VAWA is critical to the fight against these crimes.

However, I wanted to take a minute to highlight some of the provisions included in this legislation that I remain firmly opposed to, and would vote against if given the opportunity.

Fourth Amendment due process rights and the protection of our Second Amendment rights are inherent rights that should not be infringed upon lightly. Ensuring that due process rights are protected prior to removal of fundamental constitutional rights should not be up for debate.

The majority, however, has done just that in their version of VAWA before us today.

We agree that victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other types of violent behavior should have protections under the law from their abusers and stalkers. Many states have enacted measures to codify limitations on firearm possession following judicial action as it relates to domestic violence and stalking, oftentimes called red flag provisions. Let me be clear, I support such red flag provisions when the accused has the protections of due process and judicial action. But this is an effort that is best handled at the state, not federal, level.

Congress must address violence against women and girls. Restricting constitutional due process and Second Amendment protections, however, is not the right way to legislate.

While I plan to vote for the underlying bill before us today, I must reiterate my strong opposition to these provisions. It is my hope that the House majority's partisan provisions—including the firearm possession provisions and other sections that may compromise the safety of women's prisons and shelters—will eventually be removed during conference committee with the Senate and I can cast my vote for a final version that protects women and girls and maintains protections for our Fourth and Second Amendment rights.

HONORING JOE BRAMAN

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Joe Braman, a Refugio rancher, for his impressive accomplishments and dedication to the preservation of law and order.

Joe Braman, the great-great-grandson of Thomas O'Connor, an Irish farmer who moved to Refugio, Texas, in 1836, has received international recognition for his commitment to protecting endangered animals from poachers, as well as aiding law enforcement officers in protecting our border.

In 2018, Mr. Braman worked to assist South African National Parks with the protection of black and white rhinos. Because of the keratin in their horns, poachers had been hunting these South African rhinos to the verge of extinction.

Mr. Braman spent more than a year and a half training dogs to track the poachers and donated 20 free-running pack dogs to the Southern African Wildlife College. The trained dogs could track human scent several hours old and take down hunters more than 20 miles away.

Thanks to meticulous training, Mr. Braman's dogs successfully assisted with 27 arrests and the recovery of 10 rifles in Kruger National Park, leading South African National Parks to recognize Mr. Braman's substantial contribution to their efforts. Mr. Braman received two letters of commendation, one from the Section Rangers at Kruger National Park, and the other from South African National Parks and Southern African Wildlife College.

Mr. Braman's dogs have proved immensely valuable in Texas as well. His dogs often locate individuals with Alzheimer's and Dementia who have become lost.

They have also successfully assisted local law enforcement in manhunts and border se-

curity. This past year, two of his dogs tracked a group of illegal immigrants after the group scattered into the brush. When the available technology tools failed to get the job done, Mr. Braman's dogs led law enforcement to the immigrants, at least one of whom admitted to being a gang member. The results speak for themselves. Mr. Braman and his dogs have a 98 percent success rate with locating and capturing targets, demonstrating their potential usefulness in future border security efforts.

Joe Braman's unique and incredible ability to train dogs has made a positive difference not just in Texas but around the world, and I would like to extend to him my thanks and appreciation for his excellent work and devotion to justice.

JERRY MARKS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jerry Marks for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's Man of the Year Award.

An Arvada native, Jerry Marks has served his community as a volunteer firefighter and board member of the Arvada Chamber of Commerce, Arvada Vitality Alliance, Arvada Economic Development Association, and Arvada City Council.

The involvement and generosity demonstrated by Jerry Marks is exemplary of the type of positive impact that can be made on the Arvada community. He has donated his time, treasure, and talent and has consistently supported local organizations including Community Table, The Arvada Colts, and many more.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jerry Marks for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce and appreciate his ongoing contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL T. LYDON

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Daniel Thomas Lydon, on the occasion of his passing on Monday, March 18, 2019.

The son of two Irish immigrants, Daniel was born in Oakland, California on October 30, 1941. His roots grew deep in our community through his schooling in Oakland and Berkeley as well as his work at the Oakland Tribune, all occurring before he joined the Fremont Fire Department in March 1963.

Almost immediately Daniel sought to make a difference for his fellow firefighters. He played an instrumental role in organizing his department's personnel to establish their labor union, Fremont Firefighters Local 1689. Once formed, Daniel rose to serve as the organization's first president.

Throughout the course of his career with the Fremont Fire Department, Daniel held the rank of firefighter, inspector, lieutenant, captain,

and battalion chief before being trusted to lead the entire department as fire chief, where he served until his well-deserved retirement in 2002.

Under his leadership, the Fremont Fire Department grew to meet the needs of a large, modern, and rapidly developing city. Chief Lydon began to incorporate licensed paramedics among the fire department staff. This enabled them to begin to provide life-saving treatment of patients if they were the first to the scene of an emergency. Daniel expanded the size of the department, in the most literal sense, by adding four new stations to serve the community. Additionally, he helped ensure the safety of his personnel by assisting with key bond measures, ensuring funds were dedicated to retrofitting outdated infrastructure.

Chief Lydon's public service did not end with his retirement from the fire department. He continued to help his community grow by serving as a planning commissioner for the City of Fremont. His legacy continues as the projects he helped shape go on under construction to meet the needs of our community.

Chief Lydon passed away at home, surrounded by his loving family. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Patricia, as well as his children, Bridget, Daniel, Kevin, Margaret, and Michael. His legacy will live on through them, his five grandchildren, and the everlasting impact he made on our community.

RECOGNIZING THE CAPE GIRARDEAU ROTARY CLUB'S 100TH YEAR OF SERVICE

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Cape Girardeau Rotary Club as they celebrate their 100th year of service to the Cape Girardeau, Missouri community.

The Cape Girardeau Rotary Club was organized on January 28, 1919 and received its charter on March 1, 1919. For 100 years, the Rotary club has promoted Cape Girardeau's history, culture, and quality of life in countless ways, including its efforts to establish Cape Rock Park, its city beautification drives, and its historical marker projects.

The Rotary Club has devoted itself to the youth of the community through its unflagging support of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys State, Girls State, the Crippled Children's Society, the Civic Center, and numerous other youth organizations. For the last 60 years, the Rotary Club has held the Academic Excellence Banquet which honors high school seniors in the top ten percent of their academic class.

The Rotary Club has expanded its reach in the region through the establishment of the Jackson Rotary Club and Cape Girardeau Rotary Club-West. They have supported the mission of Rotary International through hundreds of thousands of dollars in contributions to the Rotary Foundation. They have also aided the mission of Rotary International through participation in dozens of foreign exchange programs as well as medical, dental, and other humanitarian relief missions.

The Rotary Club has been an incredible force for good in Cape Girardeau. They undoubtedly foster the Rotary ideal of "Service

Above Self". I thank the members of the Cape Girardeau Rotary Club for their tireless effort and unwavering dedication to serving members of their community.

IN MEMORY OF MAYOR SHIRLEY
SPELLERBERG

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of former Mayor Shirley Cunyus Spellerberg, a dedicated Texan who committed her life to serving others.

Shirley Cunyus graduated from Waco High School in 1945 and enrolled at Baylor University to study business administration. In 1949, she married U.S. Air Force pilot Herman Spellerberg, and together they raised two sons.

The Spellerbergs were stationed in Miami, Florida during Herman's tenure as a PanAm pilot. There, Mrs. Spellerberg became an engaged member of the community, and she hosted a talk radio program called "Speak Out Miami" from 1974 to 1979 as well as co-hosted the weekly television show "To the Point" from 1977 to 1979.

In 1979, they returned to Texas, where Mrs. Spellerberg continued to be an active participant in her community. In 1983, she was elected Mayor of Corinth, a role in which she served for 16 years. In addition to her official capacities, Mayor Spellerberg served as president of the Denton Republican Women's Club, as a member of the State Republican Executive Committee and Republican Party of Texas Platform Committee, as president of Denton County Republican Assembly, and as a founding member of Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum in 1972. For her efforts, she received numerous awards for her political activities in Florida and in Texas. In 2018, she was awarded the "Yellow Rose of Texas" award.

Mayor Spellerberg was a valued North Texas leader for more than thirty years. I am grateful for her steadfast service and appreciate her many years of dedication to our region.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ACT OF 2019

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Wildlife Veterinarians Employment and Training Act of 2019. This bill will provide incentives for students to pursue wildlife and zoological medicine and increases the number of positions available at wildlife and zoological facilities.

Wildlife and zoo veterinarians are the primary source of essential health care and management that is required for animals in both their natural habitat and in captivity. These physicians preserve natural resources and the

lives of animals, while also protecting human health by preventing, detecting and responding to exotic and dangerous diseases.

With the intensification of globalization and climate change, along with the growing interaction among humans, livestock and wildlife, the threat posed by emerging infectious diseases to humans and wildlife continues to increase. Controlling pandemic and large-scale outbreaks of disease has become more challenging over the years, yet there has never been a time where this is a more pertinent issue.

We must take preventative measures to ensure the well-being of both animals and humans. In spite of these threats to public health, the United States faces a shortage of positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), less than one percent of AVMA members identify themselves as wildlife or zoological veterinarians.

On average, veterinarian graduates owe \$143,000 in student loans. Relatedly, salaries for wildlife and zoological professionals are relatively low compared to those who practice companion animal medicine, ranking second to the bottom for salaries paid to veterinarians as a whole. Lower salaries, combined with high educational debt and the small number of positions available, discourage students from becoming wildlife or zoo veterinarians. The number of internships, practical training programs, and formal education programs specializing in wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine are also insufficient.

My bill directly addresses the aforementioned issues, by doing the following:

Create new positions for wildlife and zoo veterinarians.

Limit the amount of educational debt for veterinary medicine students, while providing incentives to study and practice wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine through a scholarship program and a loan repayment program.

Help schools of veterinary medicine develop curricula and training programs specializing in wildlife and zoo veterinary medicine.

Develop affordable and well qualified opportunities for individuals to become wildlife and zoo veterinarians, spur job growth, and promote public health policy across the nation.

Madam Speaker, as you know, wild animals play a very critical role in our natural resources and contribute to maintaining a balanced ecosystem. The number of endangered species has only increased. Invasive non-native species and infectious disease threaten our public health. Therefore, wildlife and zoological veterinarians must be prioritized and given the resources and recognition necessary to protect both animal and human lives.

I urge my colleagues to extend a helping hand to America's veterinarians by supporting this important piece of legislation.

PATSY PFAFF

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Patsy Pfaff for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year Award.

Patsy has been an active participant in the Arvada community for many years. She donates to Mother's Milk, serves on the PTA, and tutors math students at Arvada West High School. She served on the advisory board for All Out Multisport and is active in the ET Chapter of PEO, a group that provides educational opportunities for women through scholarships.

The involvement and generosity demonstrated by Patsy is exemplary of the type of positive impact that can be made on the Arvada community. Being an avid walker, she spends a lot of time on the Ralston Creek Trail, completing over 60 half marathons and is well on her way to reaching her goal of 100 half marathons.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Patsy Pfaff for winning this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce and appreciate his ongoing contributions to our community.

CBRN INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION SHARING ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 1, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1589 the "CBRN Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2019" which amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish chemical sharing function of the Office of Intelligence and require dissemination of information to responsible entities relating to the homeland security.

As a Senior member of the Homeland Security committee, I understand how important this bill is in order to establish safety with chemical use. This bill requires examination of terrorist capabilities with these chemicals as well as threats from global diseases.

Terrorist supporters often promote the use of dangerous chemicals online and this bill would help to counter-act that issue.

H.R. 1589 supports the analysis of all chemicals used to ensure safety as well as supporting the analysis of claims of terrorist actors which enhances prevention and protection capabilities.

H.R. 1589 would allow more specific security measures to be implemented to cater to any threats to the State or any other entities.

The Office of Intelligence and Analysis will be coordinating with other required agencies in order to provide information to the department to ensure optimum safety.

H.R. 1589 will be extremely important in order to share information that is paramount throughout the department.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting to pass H.R. 1589.

AUDREY E. WILLIS CELEBRATES
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Audrey E. Willis for her 100th birthday.

Audrey was born on April 9, 1919 in Trenton, New Jersey. She graduated from Trenton Central High School and completed courses at Mercer County Community College.

Audrey's 100 years of life have been filled with great success. She served 34 years with General Motors before retiring; she went on to work, and retire again, for Mercer County government as a Senior Citizen Program aide. Audrey was also an active member of the Neighborhood Civic Association for the Trenton Housing Authority. Despite a busy life, Audrey has always found time to give back to her community, frequently volunteering with Meals on Wheels. Audrey continues to be an active member at my church, Shiloh Baptist in Trenton, and serves as a Trustee Aide Member and Senior Ministry Member.

In 100 years, Audrey has been blessed to see her family grow and prosper. With her husband, the late Lloyd Willis, Sr., Audrey raised two sons, the late Lloyd Willis, Jr. and Forrest Willis. She also has four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

I have had the pleasure to know Audrey for more than 50 years. As an integral part of our church, she always shares her warmth and caring personality with anyone she meets. Although she has a quiet demeanor, Audrey is a social butterfly who will find a way to go everywhere. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Audrey's 100th birthday. We wish you a wonderful and joyful birthday, and many more blessings in the year ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE THAYER LADY BOBCATS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Thayer Lady Bobcats Basketball team for winning the Class 2 State Championship on March 9, 2019, the first women's basketball state championship in school history.

In his third year, Coach Cecil Meyer led the team to an overall record of 30–3, winning the last 14 games of the year. The Lady Bobcats were full of talented players, notably All-State Seniors Julie Stone and Angela Sorrell along with South Central All-Conference members, Shelby Coursey and Maddy Kerely.

The Lady Bobcats swept through the postseason on their way to a 52–35 win over Mid-Buchanan High School in the championship game, capping the historic run. Their success is a testament to the hard work and preparation the coaches and players put in during the preseason and throughout the year.

On behalf of the Eighth Congressional District of Missouri, it is my great privilege to congratulate the Thayer Lady Bobcats on their historic achievement. We look forward to their continued success. Go Bobcats.

FIGHTING AGAINST SOCIALISM IS A FIGHT WORTH HAVING

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, as we watch the human tragedy that is Venezuela, it should be a stark reminder to everyone that socialism does nothing but destroy the lives of the people while enriching the elites. A recent report out of Venezuela reminded me of a Milton Friedman quote. The famed economist said, "If you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in five years there'd be a shortage of sand." These are the words playing out in Venezuela right now.

Venezuela has the world's largest proven reserves of oil, yet the socialists in charge cannot keep the lights on, nor supply the nation with gasoline for their vehicles. It gets worse for the people of Venezuela as there are now potable water shortages. Keep in mind, Venezuela has over 1,500 miles of coastline and part of the country is a rainforest. But the socialist rulers cannot seem to build desalination plants nor transport its vast water resources to the people that need it.

Venezuela's current crisis reinforces my fight to make sure the United States has an all of the above energy grid. To function properly, a nation needs a variety of fuel sources, some renewables, some nuclear, some hydro, some carbon based. That is a reality for a mature economy and civilization.

I fight against rabid environmentalists who want to shut down every coal plant, every gas plant, every nuclear plant and dismantle our dams and hydro power. They accuse me of wanting to destroy the environment, which is a defamatory lie. What is apparent is the leftists in this country want to destroy our civilization, our affordable energy and our prosperity. They want to do to the United States what the same environmentalists and leftists have done to Venezuela—leave us without electricity, without food, without water, without communications.

The emerging socialist movement in this country is an imminent risk of harm to everything that has made us the leader of the free world. The socialists in this country present a clear and present danger to our health and well-being and should be fought at every opportunity.

Our fathers and grandfathers fought against socialists. They fought and died to make sure the United States remained free, capitalist and prosperous. Let the lessons of Venezuela, Cuba, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries that have failed miserably, and inflict death and harm to millions, teach us to promptly reject U.S. socialists and their harmful ideology, their useful idiocy, and their malevolence.

DANIEL RYLEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Daniel Ryley

for receiving the Arvada Young Professional Leadership Award.

Daniel Ryley has recently been named the Executive Director of the Arvada Economic Development Association and is receiving this award for his innovation and entrepreneurship in the Arvada community. He founded Drynkware, a reusable drink stirrer that is both functional and stylish and helps reduce the use of plastic straws.

The professional accomplishments and community leadership demonstrated by Daniel Ryley is exemplary of the type of positive impact that can be made on the City of Arvada. He serves as Chair of the Community Leaders of Hope Advisory Committee with Extended Hands of Hope, a Human Rights organization that houses and empowers survivors of human sex trafficking.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Daniel Ryley for winning the Arvada Young Professional Leadership Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and leadership in his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTH KANSAS CITY HORNETS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Missouri Class 5 State Championship won by the North Kansas City High School Lady Hornets basketball team. Such an achievement is the result of strong leadership and years of dedication by both players and coaches alike. It is truly an honor to recognize this exemplary group of athletes from the Fifth District of Missouri.

Claiming the State Title was the culmination of years of discipline and hard work on the part of the entire Lady Hornets team. For the past three years the Lady Hornets were the District Champions, and for the last four years they were also the Suburban White-Division Conference Champions, unfortunately falling short in the State Playoffs. However, under the leadership of Head Coach Jeffery Lacy, this senior class was not content concluding their high school careers with anything short of a State Championship. The Lady Hornets' tremendous success this past season—with twenty-nine victories compared to a mere two losses—was the fruition of years of hard work and a "never-give-up" attitude cultivated by these remarkable athletes and coaching staff during their time at North Kansas City High School. It brings me great joy in saying that their hard work paid off with a sound victory in the State Championship on March 16, 2019.

Coming to Jefferson City this year, the Lady Hornets were pegged as the underdogs to the high-scoring and hometown Jefferson City Lady Jays. Despite the doubts, the Hornets remained focused on their ultimate goal. They maintained a mindset of excelling, no matter the obstacle, and marched through the State Tournament with an "us-against-the-world" attitude. The Lady Hornets' road to becoming North Kansas City's first female State Champions is a journey that has been followed by the entire community, witnessing what is possible when a group of individuals come together and dedicate themselves in pursuit of a common goal.

But, the great thing about athletics is they help to create opportunities in other aspects of life. The Lady Hornets' success has already paid off in a multitude of ways, opening doors for several players. A number of them will continue their basketball careers, and most importantly their education, at Division I universities such as the University of Kansas. Whether they know it or not, they will take with them the life lessons learned throughout their time at North Kansas City High School and as a part of this team. With the North Kansas City community, I look forward to seeing where each of these players will go and how future players will develop under the leadership of coaches like Jeffery Lacy and John West.

Madam Speaker, please join with me in celebrating the North Kansas City Lady Hornets and the State Championship they have brought home to Kansas City.

PASSING OF MS. BESSIE M.
SWINDLE

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the life and legacy of a distinguished member of my Houston staff, a constituent, and more importantly a dear friend who passed away on Thursday, March 28, 2019 in Houston, Texas.

Ms. Bessie Swindle was born June 5, 1939 in Loreauville, Louisiana, relocating to Houston, Texas as a young adult where she went on to become a pillar of the Sunnyside community.

Over the course of more than fifty years, she used her skills as a community organizer to make a difference in Houston. Prior to serving as an outreach coordinator in my Houston office, she founded and served as president of the Cloverland Civic Club, representing 400 homeowners in the neighborhood, sponsoring fundraisers, aiding needy families, and raising money for scholarships.

She was involved with several organizations and used her voice to represent Sunnyside residents as a Parent/Teacher Association member, Troop Leader for Girl Scouts of America San Jacinto Council, President of the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church "55 Plus" Club, Community Liaison for former Harris County Precinct 7 Constable Michael Butler and Constable Perry Wooten, member of Mayor Bill White's Phone Tower Commission, and member of the City of Houston Police Officers Civil Service Commission. She also served as president of Southeast Coalition of Civic Clubs and Precinct Judge for Harris County Voting Precinct 271.

During her distinguished lifetime of service, she was the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including Parent of the Year from James H. Law Elementary in 1975, the Mayor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service in 1996, the Texas Legislative Black Caucus Award in 1999, the Sir Knight Dennis Armelin Humanitarian Award in 2004, Mayor Bill White's proclamation of Bessie M. Swindle Day in 2007, the naming of the Bessie Swindle Community Center in Sunnyside, Houston, Texas in 2009, as well as the street naming of Bessie Swindle Way in 2010.

It is eminently clear that Ms. Bessie M. Swindle was no ordinary community servant. She used her influence to constantly stand up for those who needed her assistance—and she made a difference. Ms. Bessie Swindle will be greatly missed for her wit, wisdom, and willingness to work hard. Her contribution will never be forgotten.

I would like to send my condolences to Ms. Swindle's family, friends, and all those who will miss her dearly. I hope that, even in this sad time, Ms. Swindle's record of unselfish dedication to her city and community will serve as a bright light for those who dare to follow in her footsteps.

Ms. Bessie M. Swindle is survived by one daughter: Jackie Swindle. She is also survived by four brothers, one sister, and many beloved nieces and nephews.

IN RECOGNITION OF ED
SPEAKMON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Keller City Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem, Mr. Charles Ed Speakmon, who recently passed away at the age of 71.

A retired Marine, Republican precinct chairman, and former auto repair businessman, Mr. Speakmon spent his life serving both his country and his community in many ways. He was elected to the Keller City Council in 2016, where he was known for his gentle and kind nature as well as his willing participation and resolve to get things done.

Mr. Speakmon also was widely known for the elaborate and award-winning Christmas display that adorned his house every year. He was even given the nickname, "Mr. Christmas" because of the unique gift he annually shared with his community in his passion for the holiday.

Always faithful, Mr. Speakmon was a man of service who was deeply devoted to his country, his community, and his family. To those who knew him, the sense of loss felt in his sudden departure is a tribute to the life he lived. I am honored to have served alongside Councilman Speakmon to represent the community for which he cared so deeply, and I extend my sincerest condolences to his wife, Candy Speakmon, their family, and all who knew and loved him.

JEN SPETTEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jen Spettel for receiving the Arvada Young Professional Leadership Award.

Jen Spettel is the Executive Director of the Susan M. Duncan YMCA and is receiving this award for her innovation and entrepreneurship in the Arvada community. Jen is dedicated to healthy living in Arvada, working for the YMCA for the past 15 years.

The professional accomplishments and community leadership demonstrated by Jen Spettel is exemplary of the type of positive impact that can be made on the City of Arvada. She serves on the 9 Health Fair Board of Trustees, the Retention Committee for the Arvada Economic Development Corporation as well as the City of Arvada's Healthy Places Initiative.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jen Spettel for winning the Arvada Young Professional Leadership Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and leadership in her future accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AUSTIN
FULTON

HON. JOHN R. CURTIS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the service and work of Austin Fulton. Austin has played an instrumental role in setting up my Congressional office. He previously worked for Representative Jason Chaffetz and helped through the successful transition after I was elected to Congress. He was later promoted from Staff Assistant to Legislative Correspondent, where he worked diligently on a variety of policy issues, including housing, veterans, and space policy.

Austin had a positive attitude and was willing to help with any task no matter the scope. I am grateful for all his service, and I wish him the best of luck in his next chapter. Despite his departure, he will always be a member of Team Curtis.

MICHAEL SUDAK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Michael Sudak for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce Image Award.

Michael is receiving this award for his commitment to the Arvada community and the positive image he displays for the city. Michael owns and operates an Arvada-based business which employs local residents at above minimum wage and provides local children with healthy and nutritious school lunch meals, serving many schools that participate in the free and reduced lunch program. The meals he offers are of higher quality and nutrition than required to better care for the at-risk children being served.

The involvement and generosity demonstrated by Michael is exemplary of the type of positive image that can be displayed for the city of Arvada.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Michael Sudak for winning this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce and appreciate his ongoing contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING JOHN NAVARRA

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, First Sergeant John Navarra, who is retiring as the leader of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

John V. Navarra is a retired U.S. Army First Sergeant with 22 years of service to our country. During this time, he served in multiple locations including the United States and Germany and primarily worked in the administration and logistics fields.

Coupled with his service, John has demonstrated a life-long commitment to education by earning an Associate's degree in Business and Computer Science, a bachelor's degree in Interpersonal and Group Communications, a Master's degree in Education with Concentrations in Teaching and Evaluation and a MBA in Leadership.

It is not just his own education that John has been committed to. John has served as the Army JROTC Instructor at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School for 12 years, beginning in 2007. In this role, John educated, provided guidance, and mentored the students in the JROTC program. In doing so, he instilled in them the values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment.

Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor and thank Mr. John Navarra for his

service to his country and his community. I congratulate John on his retirement.

REGARDING MY VOTE ON H.R. 1585

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, while I voted today for H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, I would like to note that this reauthorization is imperfect. I remain strongly opposed to firearm-related provisions that were included, and I am committed to ensuring the final bill protects the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans. As a strong supporter of Second Amendment rights for Americans, I look forward to working in a bipartisan and bicameral manner to resolve these outstanding issues before this critical legislation to prevent violence and protect survivors is signed into law.

REGARDING MY VOTE ON H.R. 1585

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, today I voted "Yes" on H.R. 1585 because we need to advance legislation designed to protect women who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and other crimes that are all too common. While I voted "yes," I have

grave concerns with some provisions of this legislation involving Second Amendment rights and due process. It is my hope these concerns will be addressed in Senate negotiations.

KATLYN THIEDE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Katlyn Thiede for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce Rising Star Award.

Katlyn is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because of her extraordinary skills in entrepreneurship, innovation, and community leadership. She is a member of the National Art Honors Society, owns her own photography business, and volunteers with Foothills Animal Shelter.

The innovation and leadership demonstrated by Katlyn is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. She excels academically with a 4.33 GPA and is described by her teachers as kind, welcoming, determined, and one-of-a-kind.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Katlyn Thiede for this well-deserved recognition by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and leadership in all of her future accomplishments.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2245–S2284

Measures Introduced: Thirty-one bills and eight resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1026–1056, S.J. Res. 18, S. Res. 141–146, and S. Con. Res. 13. **Pages S2269–71**

Measures Reported:

S. Res. 23, supporting the goals and ideals of Countering International Parental Child Abduction Month and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction, and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 27, calling for a prompt multinational freedom of navigation operation in the Black Sea and urging the cancellation of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

S. Res. 35, supporting democratic principles and standards in Bolivia and throughout Latin America, and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 67, expressing the sense of the Senate on the importance and vitality of the United States alliances with Japan and the Republic of Korea, and our trilateral cooperation in the pursuit of shared interests, and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 95, recognizing the 198th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

S. Res. 96, commending the Government of Canada for upholding the rule of law and expressing concern over actions by the Government of the People's Republic of China in response to a request from the United States Government to the Government of Canada for the extradition of a Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. executive. **Page S2269**

Measures Passed:

NATO 70 Years: Senate agreed to S. Res. 123, supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and recognizing its 70 years of accomplishments. **Page S2282**

Central Conference of American Rabbis 130th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 145, commemorating the bicentennial of the birth of Rabbi

Isaac Mayer Wise and the 130th anniversary of the founding of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. **Page S2282**

Institute of International Education: Senate agreed to S. Res. 146, recognizing the centennial of the Institute of International Education. **Page S2282**

Domenico Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of nomination of Daniel Desmond Domenico, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado. **Page S2262**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Tuesday, April 9, 2019. **Page S2262**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2262**

Wyrick Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Patrick R. Wyrick, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma. **Page S2262**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Daniel Desmond Domenico, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado. **Page S2262**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2262**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2262**

Stanton Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Cheryl Marie Stanton, of South Carolina, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor. **Page S2262**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the

Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Patrick R. Wyrick, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma. **Page S2262**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2262**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2262**

Abizaid Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of John P. Abizaid, of Nevada, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. **Page S2262**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Cheryl Marie Stanton, of South Carolina, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor. **Page S2262**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2262**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2262**

Brady Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Holly A. Brady, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana. **Page S2262**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of John P. Abizaid, of Nevada, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. **Pages S2262–63**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2262**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2262**

Morales Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of David Steven Morales, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. **Page S2263**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Holly A. Brady, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana. **Pages S2263**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2263**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2263**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 66 yeas to 33 nays (Vote No. EX. 62), Roy Kalman Altman, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida. **Pages S2249–50, S2284**

By 52 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 64), Mark Anthony Calabria, of Virginia, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years. **Pages S2246–49, S2250–58, S2284**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 63), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2250**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Frank William Volk, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia.

Scott Soles, of Texas, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture.

Michelle Bowman, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2020.

Allison Herren Lee, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2022.

Michael J.K. Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Alma L. Golden, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Richard B. Norland, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to Libya.

Steven D. Grimberg, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Randall P. Huff, of Wyoming, to be United States Marshal for the District of Wyoming for the term of four years.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Navy.

Pages S2282–84

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Ronald D. Vitiello, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, which was sent to the Senate on January 16, 2019. **Page S2284**

Messages from the House: **Page S2269**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2269**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2271–72**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S2272–81

Additional Statements: **Pages S2267–69**

Authorities for Committees to Meet:
Pages S2281–82

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—64) **Pages S2249–50, S2258**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 6:39 p.m., until 4 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2282.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Health and Human Services, after receiving testimony from Alex Azar, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Heather A. Wilson, Secretary of the Air Force, and General David L. Goldfein, USAF, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, both of the Department of Defense.

FEDERAL MARITIME AGENCIES

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Security concluded a hearing to examine Federal maritime agencies, focusing on ensuring a safe, secure, and competitive future, after receiving testimony from Mark H. Buzby, Administrator, Department of Transportation; Michael A. Khouri, Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission; and Admiral Karl L. Schultz, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Secretary, and Susan Combs, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of the Interior, and Aimee Kathryn Jorjani, of Wisconsin, to be Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

MIGRATION AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine migration at the United States Southern border, after receiving testimony from Mark Morgan, former Chief of the Border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security; John Daniel Davidson, Texas Public Policy Foundation, Alexandria, Virginia; and Andrew Selee, Migration Policy Institute, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Daniel P. Collins, and Kenneth Kiyul Lee, both of California, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, James Wesley Hendrix, and Mark T. Pittman, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Sean D. Jordan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, and Nick Edward Proffitt, of Virginia, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Virginia, Department of Justice.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 34 public bills, H.R. 2079–2112; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 290–292 were introduced. **Pages H3099–H3100**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3101–02**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 243, resolution of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Attorney General to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the actions of former Federal Bureau of Investigation Acting Director Andrew McCabe, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–33). **Pages H3098–99**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:18 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 a.m. **Page H3080**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, April 2nd.

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1450 Montauk Highway in Mastic, New York, as the “Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth Post Office Building”: H.R. 829, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1450 Montauk Highway in Mastic, New York, as the “Army Specialist Thomas J. Wilwerth Post Office Building”, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 423 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 151. **Pages H3080–81**

Directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress: The House passed S.J. Res. 7, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress, by a recorded vote of 247 yeas to 175 noes with one answering “present”, Roll No. 153. Consideration began Tuesday, April 2nd.

Pages H3075–80, H3081–83

Rejected the McCaul motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Foreign Affairs with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 194 yeas to 228 noes with one answering “present”, Roll No. 152. **Pages H3081–83**

H. Res. 274, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 7) and the resolution (H. Res. 271) was agreed to Tuesday, April 2nd.

Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019: The House passed H.R. 1585, to reauthorize

the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, by a recorded vote of 263 yeas to 158 noes with one answering “present”, Roll No. 156. Consideration began yesterday, April 3rd. **Pages H3073–75, H3083–87**

Rejected the Stefanik motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 185 yeas to 237 noes, Roll No. 155. **Pages H3084–86**

Agreed to:

Axne amendment (No. 39 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–32) that increases STOP grants from \$40 million to \$60 million; and **Pages H3073–74**

Torres Small (NM) amendment (No. 40 printed in part B of H. Rept. 116–32) that ensures all provisions of the bill comply with immigration laws (by a recorded vote of 425 yeas with none voting “no”, Roll No. 154). **Pages H3074–75, H3083–84**

H. Res. 281, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1585) was agreed to yesterday, April 3rd.

Agreed that in the engrossment of the bill, the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, spelling, and cross-references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House, including the changes placed at the desk. **Page H3087**

Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Representative Shimkus. **Page H3088**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12 noon on Monday, April 8th for Morning Hour debate. **Page H3090**

United States Semiquincentennial Commission—Appointment: Read a letter from Representative McCarthy, Minority Leader, in which he appointed the following Members to the United States Semiquincentennial Commission: Representatives Holding and Aderholt. **Page H3090**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3080–81, H3082–83, H3083, H3083–84, H3086, and H3087. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Testimony was heard from Christopher Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS—BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. Testimony was heard from Scott Angelle, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement; Walter Cruickshank, Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; and Brian Steed, Acting Director, Bureau of Land Management.

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS TACTICAL AVIATION AND GROUND MODERNIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical and Land Forces held a hearing entitled “Navy and Marine Corps Tactical Aviation and Ground Modernization”. Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral Mathias W. Winter, Program Executive Officer, F-35 Lightning II Program, Department of Defense; Rear Admiral Scott D. Conn, Director, Air Warfare, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy; Lieutenant General Steven R. Rudder, Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps for Aviation, U.S. Marine Corps; Lieutenant General David H. Berger, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, and Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration, U.S. Marine Corps; Daniel L. Nega, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition—Air, U.S. Navy; and Jimmy D. Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition—Expeditionary Programs and Logistics Management, U.S. Navy.

MISMANAGED MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING PROGRAMS: WHAT IS THE RECOVERY PLAN?

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled “Mismanaged Military Family Housing Programs: What is the Recovery

Plan?”. Testimony was heard from Thomas Modly, Under Secretary of the Navy, U.S. Navy; Robert H. McMahon, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, Department of Defense; John W. Henderson, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Energy, U.S. Air Force; and Alex A. Beehler, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, U.S. Army.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 1644, the “Save the Internet Act of 2019”; H.R. 1781, the “Payment Commission Data Act of 2019”; H.R. 938, the “BLOCKING Act of 2019”; H.R. 1520, the “Purple Book Continuity Act of 2019”; H.R. 1503, the “Orange Book Transparency Act of 2019”; H.R. 1499, the “Protecting Consumer Access to Generic Drugs Act of 2019”; H.R. 965, the “CREATES Act of 2019”; H.R. 1385, the “SAVE Act”; H.R. 1386, the “ENROLL Act of 2019”; H.R. 987, the “MORE Health Education Act”; H.R. 1010, a bill to provide that the rule entitled “Short-Term, Limited Duration Insurance” shall have no force or effect; H.R. 986, the “Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019”; H.R. 1425, the “State Health Care Premium Reduction Act”; and H.R. 9, the “Climate Action Now Act”. H.R. 1644, H.R. 1781, H.R. 1520, H.R. 1503, H.R. 1499, H.R. 965, H.R. 1385, H.R. 1386, H.R. 987, and H.R. 1425 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 938, H.R. 1010, H.R. 986, and H.R. 9 were ordered reported, without amendment.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1904, the “Indian Water Rights Settlement Extension Act”. Testimony was heard from Alan Mikkelsen, Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Water and Western Resource Issues, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

GENERATION CLIMATE: YOUNG LEADERS URGE CLIMATE ACTION NOW

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Generation Climate: Young Leaders Urge Climate Action Now”. Testimony was heard from Lindsay Cooper, Policy Analyst, Office of Coastal Activities, Office of the Governor, Louisiana; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

SLOVAKIA’S CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OSCE

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. On Wednesday, April 3, 2019, Commission concluded a

hearing to examine Slovakia's chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, focusing on priorities and challenges, after receiving testimony from Miroslav Lajcak, Slovakia Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bratislava.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY,
APRIL 8, 2019**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1644, the "Save the Internet Act of 2019"; H.R. 2021, the "Investing for the People Act of 2019", 5 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

4 p.m., Monday, April 8

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

4 p.m., Monday, April 8

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

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