House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Smith of Nebraska).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, May 7, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Adrian Smith to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Pledge of allegiance

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks O God for giving us another day. Please help us to use it well.

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of Government is given. Help them to meet their responsibilities during these days, to attend to the immediate needs and concerns of the moment, all the while enlightened by the majesty of Your creation and Your eternal spirit.

We give You thanks that we all can know and share the fruits of Your spirit, especially in this time the virtue of tolerance and reconciliation, of justice and righteousness, of goodwill and understanding, of patience and loving care for others.

Watch over this House and cause Your blessing to be upon each Member, that they might serve all the people with sincerity and truth.

May all that is done within the people’s House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

The Journal

The Speaker pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

Pledge of allegiance

The Speaker pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Wilson) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

President fails young americans

The Speaker pro tempore. The Speaker, last Friday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released the latest jobs report. Sadly, for the past 39 months, our Nation’s unemployment rate has remained at or above 8 percent. It is gruesomely clear that the President’s policies are not working for young Americans but, instead, are destroying jobs, with 54 percent of college graduates under 25 unemployed or underemployed.

The most recent report confirmed that more than 500,000 of discouraged Americans have given up searching for a job in the last 2 months. If the labor force remained the same size as 2009, when the President was sworn into office, our Nation’s unemployment rate would be at 11 percent. The President’s policies are failing young Americans with shrinking jobs and growing deficits with devastating interest payments.

It is past time for the liberal-controlled Senate to take up the House Republicans’ more than 30 bills which will help create jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Congratulating zippo manufacturing company

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. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Zippo Manufacturing Company, which is located in the Fifth District of Pennsylvania, city of Bradford, McKean County.

Zippo employs approximately 900 people in Bradford, which is a community of approximately 8,000 people, making it the largest employer in the county.

Zippo has been making lighters since 1895 and became very popular during World War II. Next month, Zippo will celebrate the production of its 500 millionth windproof pocket lighter at the company’s manufacturing plant. The actual 500 millionth Zippo lighter will be classic brushed chrome with two-tone engraving and an individual serial number of “1.”

But it’s not just the number that Zippo and its employees will celebrate; it’s that over the years Zippo has developed an iconic brand; it’s that consumers in over 160 countries around the world buy Zippo products; it’s that despite the drastic downturn in the economy, Zippo, through hard work and innovation, has continued to successfully grow its business, support our domestic manufacturers and the strength of our communities.

For these reasons, Zippo CEO Gregory Booth was recently nominated to serve on the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Manufacturing Council.
I want to congratulate Zippo on this tremendous accomplishment.

HONORING LEONA MARTENS
(Mr. GARDNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Leona Martens of Greeley, Colorado.

Leona faithfully served the community of Weld County for 22 years as the executive director of the Weld County Food Bank. While Leona lost her battle against cancer, her legacy and influence will continue the fight against hunger for generations to come. Under Leona’s leadership, the Weld Food Bank grew its annual distribution from 40,000 to 8 million pounds of food. She expanded their operating facilities to 35,000 square feet, where they serve more than 10,000 residents each month.

The tremendous leadership, dedication, and passion she held for the citizens of Weld County is unrivaled, and the county has truly reaped the benefit of her work.

I had the opportunity to tour the food bank—part of it is named after her—and in her memory—this past December and fully agree with her colleagues and friends who described Leona as “an amazing leader with tremendous vision,” a “tireless worker,” and “true friend.”

Thanks to Leona’s passion and tireless effort, Weld County citizens are ensured continued service and dedication.

It is my honor to stand here today to remember and recognize Leona Martens for her incredible vision, hard work, and passion to improve the lives of the citizens of Greeley, Colorado.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE KAY GRANGER, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable Kay Granger, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2012.

Hon. John A. Boehner,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Dear Speaker Boehner: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, for deposition testimony.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is not consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

PETE SESSIONS, Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM SPECIAL ASSISTANT THE HONORABLE ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

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Sincerely,

PETE SESSIONS, Member of Congress.
May 7, 2012

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H2933

have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 105, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall on June 24 to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha, a legendary figure in Hawaiian history and culture.

On June 11, the people of Hawaii will celebrate the 96th annual Kamehameha Day, commemorating the life of Kamehameha the Great, who between 1795 and 1810 unified the islands into the kingdom of Hawaii. Known for being a fierce warrior who fought for unity and independence, King Kamehameha was highly regarded for ruling with fairness and compassion. His law, known as the Law of the Splintered Paddle, specifically protected civilians in wartime and is today a model for human rights throughout the world.

A statue of King Kamehameha graces the Capitol Visitor Center as part of the National Statuary Hall Collection. In addition, we authorize the use of this space for the celebration of his life and accomplishments.

I thank the gentleman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) for introducing this concurrent resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 105 authorizes the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a celebration on June 24, 2012. This will be the 43rd time that we have celebrated the birthday of King Kamehameha in the Nation’s Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, Kamehameha has a unique history. We are, of course, the 50th State, and we are the only State that comes with a kingdom as part of our history. June 11 is the recognized State holiday. King Kamehameha was born around 1758, and he unified the eight Hawaiian Islands by 1810. He is also known as King Kamehameha I. His birthday has been celebrated for about 140 years in my State, beginning in 1871 by his great-grandson King Kamehameha V. The statue that you see in the Capitol Visitor Center today has also a fascinating history. It was commissioned for the then-kingdom by Thomas Gould, and he finished it in 1880. It was made in Italy. He was an American sculptor. The ship actually sank that was bringing the first Kamehameha statue to Hawaii, and in 1883, the second statue made its way to Hawaii. What stands in Emancipation Hall today is molded from the second statue. That is the official statue that stands in front of what we call Aliʻiolani Hale, which is the home of the Hawaii Supreme Court. The first statue was discovered and stands in the Big Island, which is the birthplace of King Kamehameha.

As you look at the statue—and I invite everyone to do that—you will see that it stands approximately 8½ feet tall. He has a helmet and a feather cape, and they are made from very rare bird feathers. His left hand has a spear, and that was his statement that he was ready to defend his kingdom. But his right hand is open in a gesture, and that is to welcome people, and that is what we call the gesture of, of course, aloha.

Lei draping is the customary celebration which will also happen on June 24 here, and what you see there is a tradition that has become almost uniquely Hawaii’s. Lei is the way that we bond. And the lei draping is symbolic of the bonds that people have in Hawaii, and it is a very close and strong bond. The act of presenting a lei is something that many identify with Hawaii as they come to visit our beautiful islands.

As we all know, the President was born in Hawaii, and on June 20, 2010, he issued Proclamation 8334 in honor of the bicentennial of the unification of the islands by King Kamehameha. This is what the President had to say in that proclamation:

On this bicentennial King Kamehameha Day, we celebrate the history and heritage of the Aloha State, which has immeasurably enriched our national culture. The Hawaiian narrative is one of both profound triumph and, sadly, deep injustice. It is the story of Native Hawaiians oppressed by crippling disease, aborted treaties, and the eventual conquest of their sovereign kingdom. These grim milestones remind us of an unjust time in our history, as well as the many pitfalls in our Nation’s long and difficult journey to perfect itself. Yet, through the peaks and valleys of our American story, Hawaii’s steadfast sense of community and mutual support has allowed the results when we are united in a spirit of limitless possibility.

This particular celebration is also very special for the people of Hawaii, and I believe for Members of this House as well as Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA will be retiring at the end of his term, and as many of you are aware of, he served 14 years in this House and the last 22 in the United States Senate. He is the epitome of aloha. He is the epitome of everything that is good about Hawaii.

In honor of him, I would like to read a portion of what he said in the June 2009 Kamehameha Lei Draping Ceremony here because I think he gave a different perspective of King Kamehameha that many of us do not know.

He said:

As a military leader and statesman, Kamehameha was a brilliant visionary who pursued opportunities for progress. He pioneered military strategies that included unique flanking tactics and the use of cannons on the bow of his canoes. Those revolutionary concepts enabled him to succeed in battle and are principles recognized and taught to this day at West Point. Beyond his military accolades, Kamehameha understood that if his people were going to thrive, they must be unified. Through governance, Kamehameha brought Native Hawaiians together and established an environment through which they could perpetuate their heritage and way of life. Under his leadership, the government strengthened its autonomy and self-sufficiency. He set the foundation for international commerce and diplomacy that brought peace and prosperity to his people.

As we all know, Senator AKAKA is the only Native Hawaiian who serves in the Congress of the United States. It is very important for us to know that King Kamehameha was very thoughtful, even in the days that he was unifying the Hawaiian Islands. He is known in Hawaii for the Law of the Splintered Paddle, also called Kanawai Mamalahoe. What he basically said was that we have a responsibility to protect civilians at the time of war, that every human life was precious, and it was wrong for the powerful to mistreat the weak.

The context of this story is also very moving. Someone who didn’t know who he was actually hit him on the head with a paddle and, of course, it splintered. When they found out that they had hit him, they all thought that their lives would come to an end. But instead, he decreed the Law of the Splintered Paddle. This is the visionary who united the Hawaiian Islands.

By this resolution, we honor this great person and also that makes Hawaii special and unique.

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

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 105, to authorize the use of the Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the Lei Draping Ceremony on June 24, 2012, to celebrate the birthday of the great warrior, King Kamehameha.

I want to thank my colleagues, Ms. HANABUSA and Ms. HIRO, for their leadership, and to all the members of the Hawaiian congressional delegation for their support of this important legislation. I also want to take this opportunity to commend my good friend, Senator DANIEL AKAKA, for his stewardship on this and many other issues benefitting the people of Hawaii. Senator AKAKA has been an integral part of the Lei Draping Ceremony for the past 36 years, and it is befitting that his outstanding service and dedication to the people of Hawaii will be recognized in next month’s ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 40 years, the Hawaiian congressional delegation and the Hawaii State Society of Washington D.C. has hosted the Lei Draping Ceremony on or about the second week of June to coincide with the celebration of King Kamehameha Day in
the State of Hawaii. Because King Kamehameha’s statue has been moved to the Emancipation Hall of the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, it now requires the enactment of a congressional resolution to authorize this annual celebration; hence, House Concurrent Resolution 105 being considered before the House today.

Mr. Speaker, for some 2,000 years, the Hawaiian Islands existed under some tremendous rivalries among the Native Hawaiian chiefs. After almost 10 years of fighting, King Kamehameha brought all of the Hawaiian Islands under one rule, thus fulfilling an ancient prophecy that one day a high chief would be born and will defeat the chiefs of the other islands and thereby bring all the eight Hawaiian Islands under one rule.

Mr. Speaker, King Kamehameha, while a mountain of a man—standing at 6 feet, 8 inches tall and weighing about 300 pounds and a great warrior of many great conquests—perhaps is better known for his foresight and for the peace and stability he brought to the Hawaiian Islands. He was shrewd in building prosperity for his people by encouraging agricultural development and promoting international trade in Europe, and even with the United States.

While he was open to new ideas, he was cautious and circumspect in the old ways. It was said that before the unification of the Hawaiian Islands in 1782, King Kamehameha, during a raid, came across two unarmed fishermen, and as he attempted to slay the fishermen, his foot was caught between two rocks. In defending themselves, the two fishermen immediately hit King Kamehameha on the head with a large paddle, broke it, and left him for dead. King Kamehameha survived, and some 12 years later, the fishermen were caught and brought before the King. Rather than seeking revenge on the fishermen who saved his life, King Kamehameha set the fishermen free with gifts. From then on, King Kamehameha, declared what is known today in Hawaiian history as the Law of the Splintered Paddle, or Mamalahoe, as known among the Hawaiian people. The Law of the Splintered Paddle has become the basis of many modern human rights laws regarding the treatment of unarmed men, women, and children that they are not to be harmed when traveling along the roadway.

In his lifetime, King Kamehameha strove to maintain the sovereignty of his people. He created a unified legal system and did not allow non-Hawaiian to own land. These efforts came at the height of colonialism in the Pacific region, when one after another Pacific island succumbed to the colonial powers.

Mr. Speaker, I submit to you and to my colleagues and to the American people that the Native Hawaiian, King Kamehameha, was one of the greatest warrior chiefs who has ever lived among the Polynesian people. For anyone who has ever visited the Hawaiian Islands—now, proudly, the 50th State of our Nation—just think that during the late 1700s, he, with a fleet of some 900 war canoes and with some 20,000 warriors, embarked upon one of the greatest feats in military history—to unite the Hawaiian Islands under one rule, to take almost 10 years to achieve. And for some 100 years, King Kamehameha and his descendants ruled the Hawaiian Islands as an independent and sovereign nation.

King Kamehameha, indeed, was a true warrior of the first order. He was a master of the ancient Hawaiian martial arts, known to the Hawaiians as lua. We Samoans call it limalama. He fulfilled another prophecy, whereby anyone who would move what was known as the Naha Stone, which weighed only 4,500 pounds—Kamehameha moved the stone, again, fulfilling another prophecy that whoever was able to move the Naha Stone would rule the Hawaiian Islands. Kamehameha fulfilled that prophecy.

Of interest also, Mr. Speaker, King Kamehameha’s military tactics are still being studied at our West Point Military Academy at New York. In sports, he was a master surfer. In those days, the surfboards weighed over a hundred pounds. Can you imagine a 6-foot, 8-inch man surfing with a board that is about a hundred pounds in weight? Another famous ancient Hawaiian sport was to jump off the high cliffs just to jump in the ocean. But one of the sports that King Kamehameha was very famous for—specialized in—was the idea that three spears would be thrown at you, and what he would do is let two spears pass you, then he would carry two spears, catch the other two spears, and bury the remaining two spears. Try that, Mr. Speaker, and see if you might be able to do this.

The Kamuela statue, is it? I want to thank the gentrality from Hawaii (Ms. Hanabusa) for her sponsorship of this legislation. Let’s pass House Concurrent Resolution 105.

And I thank my friend from Mississippi for his assistance in managing this bill.

Mr. Harper. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

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

Ms. Hanabusa. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. However, I would like to, first of all, thank the gentleman from Mississippi for managing this legislation and bringing it to the floor; Speaker Boehner, Chairman Lungren, and Ranking Member Brady for allowing it to come forward as well; and the Architect of the Capitol, the Capitol Police, and all others who will assist in this matter. And, of course, the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we’ll pass this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. Hirono. Mr. Speaker, Aloha. I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 105, which authorizes the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor’s Center for the annual Kamehameha Day Lei Draping on June 24, 2012.

The event has been held on or around June 11th to coincide with the celebration of Kamehameha’s birthday, a state holiday in Hawaii. The Kamehameha Day Lei Draping has been hosted by the Hawaii Congressional delegation and the Hawaii State Society of Washington DC since 1969; it parallels the lei draping ceremonies taking place at the Kamehameha statues on the islands of Oahu and Hawaii.

Commonly believed to be born in about 1758, Kamehameha came from a family of ali’i (chiefs) on the island of Hawaii and was raised to become a skilled warrior in the traditional ways of combat. In 1778, as a young man, Kamehameha met the world-renowned navigator, Captain James Cook, the first European to visit Hawaii. Kamehameha later led a successful campaign for control of his native island of Hawaii and subsequently conquered the islands of Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe, and Oahu. With the agreement by King Kaumuali‘i of Kauai to accept Kamehameha’s rule in 1810, the island chain became a united kingdom for the first time. The islands became known collectively as Hawaii, then the United States.

Under Kamehameha’s reign, the islands became more involved in international commerce and a center for the sandalwood trade. As his kingdom opened up to the world and began adopting many western ways, Kamehameha maintained an ardent defender of traditional Hawaiian culture and way of life, including restoring sacred sites. In the words of famed British explorer Captain George Vancouver, King Kamehameha was a man with “an open, cheerful and sensible mind; combined with great generosity of disposition.” Greatly mourned at the time of his passing in 1819, he continues to be revered in Hawaii and remains a respected historical figure today. A holiday in his honor was decreed by Kamehameha V, his great-grandson, in 1871.

This year marks the 43rd year of the annual Kamehameha Day Lei Draping Ceremony, which brings together people from Hawaii from all over the Washington area. Many also travel from the islands to take part in this beautiful showcase of traditional Hawaiian culture, including hula performances, traditional Hawaiian music, and honorary chants.

This yearly celebration would not be possible without the help and assistance of the outstanding staff of the Committee on House Administration, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, and the Office of the Sergeant at Arms. We thank them again for their support this year.

A concurrent resolution must be passed to authorize the use of the space for this event due to the Kamehameha statue location in Emancipation Hall.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 105.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. Harper) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 105.
The question was taken.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 106) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 106
Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),
SEC. 1. USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR SOAP BOX DERBY RACES.
(a) In General.—The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association (in this resolution referred to as the “sponsor”) shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, soap box derby races (in this resolution referred to as the “event”), on the Capitol Grounds.
(b) Date of Event.—The event shall be held on June 16, 2012, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate in consultation with the Architect of the Capitol.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.
(a) In General.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—
(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and
(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.
(b) Expenses and Liabilities.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incurred in connection with all activities associated with the event.

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.
Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsor is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related equipment, as may be required for the event.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.
The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board are authorized to make such additional arrangements as may be required to carry out the event.

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.
The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in this resolution and shall be authority granted in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, with respect to the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the concurrent resolution be printed in the Record.
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2012”.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION PROJECT FOR JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS.
Section 3 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 761) is amended by adding at the end the following:

(c) Expansion Project.—
(1) Authority to construct.—
(A) In general.—Subject to the requirements of this subsection, the Board may undertake such activities as may be necessary to construct the expansion project.
(B) Responsibilities of the Board.—The Board may commission, construct, and shall be responsible for the planning, design, engineering, and construction of the expansion project.
(2) Limitations.—
(A) Mission.—All activities carried out under this paragraph shall be within the mission of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to serve as the national center for the performing arts.
(B) Funding.—The costs of planning, design, engineering, and construction of the expansion project shall be paid for using non-appropriated funds.

(2) Annual operations and maintenance costs.

(A) Estimates.—Before awarding a contract for construction of the expansion project, the Board shall estimate any additional annual operations and maintenance costs (or savings) associated with the project.
(B) Budget requests.—The Board shall account for any additional costs identified under subparagraph (A) in making a budget request for fiscal year 2014 and each fiscal year thereafter.

(C) Budget priorities.—The Board shall base a final determination on whether to proceed with the expansion project on the ability of the Board to accommodate any additional costs identified under subparagraph (A) within the other budget priorities of the Board.

(3) Acknowledgments.—The Board may acknowledge private contributions used in carrying out the expansion project in the interior of the project, but may not acknowledge such private contributions on the exterior of the project. Any acknowledgment of private contributions under this paragraph shall be consistent with the requirements of section 4(b).

(4) Expansion Project Defined.—In this subsection, the term “expansion project” means an additional to the south end of the building of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts that:

(A) is less than 100,000 square feet;
(B) will improve the existing (as of the date of enactment of this subsection) accessibility and education functions of the Center; and
(C) will become part of the existing (as of the date of enactment of this subsection) structure of the Center.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
Section 13 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 761c) is amended by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

(a) Maintenance, Repair, and Security.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Board to carry out section 4(a)(1)(H) 32,579,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

(b) Capital Projects.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Board to carry out subparagraphs (F) and (G) of section 4(a)(1) $13,588,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

The SPEAKER pro tempore.

Ms. MICA. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4097.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, today I am pleased to stand before you and advocate for the reauthorization of the House-passed H.R. 4097, which would reauthorize the John F. Kennedy Center through 2014.

Everyone knows the Kennedy Center. It is one of the most outstanding national cultural institutions that we have in our Capital City. I am pleased to be the sponsor of what I consider important legislation for several reasons.

First of all, in Congress, we get to do some exciting things. As chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, within our committee we have six subcommittees, and one does oversee public buildings. We’ve had a lot of public consternation—and rightfully so—with some of our public buildings programs under the General Services Administration. I was home last week, and everybody in America recalls the guy in the hot tub thumbing his nose at Congress and the taxpayers. That’s a bad example of behavior and wasteful expenditure of taxpayers’ dollars. But I’m pleased to be here to say that there are many in government that do have programs that are very beneficial for the country, and one is the Kennedy Center. That’s an incredible institution.

As the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I get to sit on their board of trustees. Actually, I’ve gone to their meetings and see how they operate. Most people don’t know, but most of their programs are funded through private donations, not public donations, although the building does stay under the responsibility of the Federal Government.

A lot of folks don’t know a lot about the history of the Kennedy Center. The Kennedy Center—and I learned this being on the board—was actually an idea of a Republican President. Dwight David Eisenhower, in the 1950s, was determined to create an international cultural center in our Nation’s Capital. This center was the idea and the genesis of one of our Presidents. Probably most people don’t know that. I learned that in the rededication of the Eisenhower Theater within the Kennedy Center. After many years, it was renovated, again, mostly through private funds and donations.
I actually saw an old clip of President Eisenhower when he came up with a plan for a national cultural center. Subsequently after that, of course, we had the assassination of our beloved President Kennedy. In 1964, they began work. In 1971, they actually opened the center, the Kennedy Center in honor of our late President. But a little bit about the history.

I’m also excited about this proposal because this legislation authorizes one of the first additions I know of. I know we’ve done some repairs and some renovations, but we’re actually talking about an addition to the Kennedy Center, and it’s going to be funded with private money. Only private funds will be raised for this. So it’s exciting to see a public-private partnership and the great leadership of the Kennedy Center.

I have to pay a little bit of tribute to Michael Kaiser, the president. This guy works day and night to make everything at the Kennedy Center work. And he, of course, reports to the chairman of the board, who is David Rubenstein. He does a magnificent job corralling some of the leaders of our Nation, those in business and free enterprise that come in and through their donations support the Kennedy Center. It’s incredible—Washington, D.C. programs. It truly has made the Nation’s capital a center for a whole host of cultural activities—dance and theater and symphony—and the list goes on and on. And many people across the Nation get to see it in their own living rooms. They don’t always get to come to our Nation’s Capital, but we’ve seen those performances that are televised. So it is a rich part of our Nation’s capital, and certainly a rich part of our Nation’s culture, and we are now seeing for the first time an addition.

This addition will support the center’s educational mission, and that’s very important. It will be a teaching facility, again, both for Washington, D.C., our Nation’s Capital, and for the Nation. And internationally they have programs today. The purpose of the expansion is to provide improved facilities of the Kennedy Center by adding approximately 50,000 square feet of space for classrooms, rehearsal rooms, event spaces, and offices. And for the first time, they will have a dedicated area for educational purposes, as I’ve outlined, for rehearsals and other functions and activities and things that don’t fit into some of the theater and some of the existing facilities that they have already in the main building. So the expansion will permit the center to address its growing needs and provide greater accessibility for the center’s programs and performances for the general public.

So I’m pretty excited about this proposal. Most people don’t know that we worked some years, 15 years, on the visitors center. We were raising funds. Part of the construction of that visitors center was raising funds privately. Most people wouldn’t know that the author of the visitors center was Newt Gingrich, the former Speaker of the House, who made an agreement that half the funds would be raised privately for that visitors center here at the Capitol, and also some public funds. Of course, all that changed with September 11, when the Capitol was attacked and our Nation was attacked, and we had to make some dramatic changes in that whole funding, and security issues that were raised there. But, like the visitors center, we’re raising money privately, and again, the private sector that is building this facility and great addition to the Kennedy Center.

So with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. The Kennedy Center, a Presidential memorial, is one of the Nation’s busiest arts facilities, presenting more than 2,000 performances annually and hosting thousands of theater-goers, visitors, and tourists. In fact, it is considered by many to be the greatest performing arts center in the world. The Kennedy Center also provides educational programs for both teachers and students from pre-kindergarten through college across the United States.

H.R. 4097 is a bipartisan bill that authorizes the Kennedy Center for a total of $36 million for fiscal years 2013 and 2014 for maintenance, repair, and capital projects only.

These authorization levels are derived from the Kennedy Center’s 2001 comprehensive building plan, and the funding is being held flat for fiscal year 2013 and 2014.

The bill also authorizes the Kennedy Center to construct a 100,000-square-foot addition to its existing facilities, using no Federal funds, and with the same restrictions on naming rights as the rest of the building.

In addition to the Kennedy Center’s responsibility to run a national program promoting the arts, it is, first and foremost, a Presidential memorial, and we have a responsibility to fund its maintenance consistent with the dignity of a Presidential memorial. This memorial remains a fitting tribute to President John F. Kennedy, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4097.

Mr. Speaker, I am cosponsor of this bill, but I am pleased to note that the Kennedy Center has gone very national, and it has taken not only its own programs nationally, but it aids arts programs throughout the United States. It raises its own funds, but of course, even if this weren’t a Presidential memorial, it is very hard to raise private funds for maintenance and repair of a memorial in Washington. So I think that the flat funding for 2013 and ’14 is more than justified. I’d like to commend President Michael Kaiser, yes, and the board of trustees, once again, on the art services, the cultural services they are bringing across the Nation, as well as to the Nation’s capital.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. In closing, again, I think this is a very significant piece of legislation that does authorize the first addition that I know of to the Kennedy Center. Not only does it do that, it does it with the whole expansion being done with private funds. But we do have to authorize that. Again, the Federal Government is the custodian and trustee of the center.

Also, I think this bill is brought forward in a fiscally responsible approach for maintaining the facility, and we authorize the capital repair and maintenance program for the Kennedy Center at the requested level, and also in a reduction from current spending levels.

So whether it’s the cultural center of the Nation, the Kennedy Center, and all other government programs either partially funded, like this, or publicly funded, we’ve got to do more with less taxpayers’ money in a responsible fashion. This legislation does that, and I’m pleased to offer it for consideration of the House.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4097.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS’ MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mr. DENHAM, Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 117) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 117
Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS’ MEMORIAL SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and its auxiliary (in this resolution referred to as the “sponsor”) shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, the 31st Annual National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service (in this resolution referred to as the “event”), on the Capitol Grounds, in order to honor the law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2011.

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on May 15, 2012, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) In GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public;

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsor is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment, as may be required for the event.

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to review and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 117.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The objection to the request of the gentleman from California? There was no objection.

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

H. Con. Res. 117 would authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service on May 15 on the West Front of the Capitol, a solemn and respectful public event in our Nation’s capital honoring our heroic law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty in 2011.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, last year, 173 brave men and women were killed in the line of duty. Unfortunately, however, officers were killed in the line of duty increased 13 percent from 2010, with this year marking the first time in 14 years where more officers died from firearms-related incidents than from traffic-related incidents. Over 19,000 law enforcement officers have been killed while on duty since the first law enforcement death was recorded in 1791.

The National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service is a fitting tribute to the more than 19,000 current law enforcement officers and all Federal, State, and local peace officers who give their lives in the daily work of protecting our families, our homes, and our workplaces. We honor these officers and their families as part of the journey of the Special Olympics Torch Run, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, in connection with the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members
may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 118.

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

There was no objection.

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

H. Con. Res. 118 would authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia, Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run that will be held on June 1, 2012.

As in years past, the Torch Run will be launched from the West Terrace of the U.S. Capitol and continue through the Capitol Grounds as part of the journey to the 27th Annual D.C. Special Olympics Summer Games.

The Special Olympics is an international organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children and adults with disabilities through athletics and competition. The Law Enforcement Torch Run began in 1981 when the police chief of Wichita, Kansas, saw an urgent need to raise funds for and to increase the awareness of the Special Olympics. The Torch Run was then quickly adopted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Today, the Torch Run is the largest grassroots effort that raises funds and awareness for the Special Olympics program. The event in D.C. is one of many Law Enforcement Torch Runs throughout the country and across 35 nations.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

This year marks the 27th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit the District of Columbia Special Olympics. The torch relay event is a traditional event organized by law enforcement personnel for the D.C. Special Olympics, which takes place at Catholic University later this month. This event has become a popular event on Capitol Hill and is an integral part of the fundraising efforts for the D.C. Special Olympics, raising thousands of funds through their own sales of t-shirts. Torch Run participants will assemble at the U.S. Capitol Building on June 1, 2012, for opening ceremonies, and then they will proceed to run or walk a 2.3-mile route to McMillan Waterfront.

Each year, approximately 2,500 Special Olympians compete in over a dozen events in the District of Columbia, and more than 1 million children and adults with special needs participate in Special Olympics programs worldwide. The goal of the competitions is to allow mentally challenged individuals to participate in events where they are accepted and respected. Confidence and self-esteem are the building blocks for Special Olympics’ athletes are always free of charge. I am truly and personally pleased to support such a worthwhile organization, and I urge Members of the House to support House Concurrent Resolution 118 as well.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 118.

The question was taken. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CONVEYANCE OF PARCEL, TRACY, CALIFORNIA

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1302) to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Tracy, California, to the City of Tracy.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1302

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PARCEL, TRACY, CALIFORNIA

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) CITY.—The term "City" means the city of Tracy, California.

(3) PARCEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "Parcel" means the approximately 150 acres conveyed to the City for educational or recreational purposes pursuant to section 140 of division C of Public Law 105-277 (112 Stat. 2681-599; 113 Stat. 104; 118 Stat. 335).

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term "Parcel" does not include the approximately 50 acres conveyed to the City in the parcel described in section 406 of division C of Public Law 105-277 (112 Stat. 2681-599; 113 Stat. 104; 118 Stat. 335).

(c) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (c) through (f) of section 140 of division C of Public Law 105-277 (112 Stat. 2681-599; 113 Stat. 104; 118 Stat. 335) and subject to subsection (c), the Administrator may offer to enter into a binding agreement with the City, as soon as practicable, but not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, under which the Administrator may convey to the City, through a deed of release or otherwise, any interest in the reversionary interest retained by the United States in the Parcel, and all other terms, conditions, reservations, and restrictions imposed, in connection with the conveyance of the Parcel.

(2) SURVEY.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the appraised acreage and appraised fair market value of the Parcel, as determined by the Administrator pursuant to an appraisal conducted by a licensed, independent appraiser, based on the highest and best use of the Parcel, as determined by the Administrator, shall be provided to the City.

(3) ADJUSTMENT.—If the fair market value of the Parcel as appraised is not sufficiently high, the Administrator may make an additional adjustment to the fair market value of the Parcel to provide the City with the fair market value.

(4) COST.—The costs associated with the conveyance of the Parcel shall be borne by the Administrator.

(b) PROCEEDS.—The net proceeds from the conveyance under this section shall be deposited in the Federal Buildings Fund established by section 392(a) of title 40, United States Code.

(2) EXPENDITURE.—The amounts deposited in the Federal Buildings Fund under paragraph (1) shall be available to the Administrator for any lawful purpose consistent with the authority of the Administrator.

(a) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Administrator may establish such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (b) as the Administrator considers to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(b) NO EFFECT ON COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act affects or limits the application of or obligation to comply with any environmental law, including section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

S. 1302 would direct the General Services Administration to sell 150 acres of land in Tracy, California, to the city of Tracy for not less than its appraised fair market value. This property is unneeded and I believe it is in the best interest of the United States for the Federal Government to sell this property at a fair price.
interest in the property based on certain usage restrictions.

Through three separate pieces of legislation enacted since 1999, Congress has conveyed the 150 acres to the city of Tracy and has restricted its use of the land for educational and recreational uses only. Over the past decade, the city of Tracy has determined that these uses are no longer feasible, and it would like to utilize the land for economic development, thus adding to its base and to the welfare of the citizens of Tracy. In fact, the city expects significant commercial interest in the property and is optimistic that future development on the land will create hundreds of much-needed jobs.

S. 1302 would remove all restrictions currently imposed on the property by Congress and would transfer complete ownership of the land from the Federal Government to the city of Tracy. Additionally, this legislation advances the goal of the disposing of unneeded Federal real property, it's something that Mr. DENHAM, who is with me today, has been very active in.

As we look at the Senate bill passed by the Senate unanimously in August of last year, I believe we see a win-win. The Federal Government takes a piece of land it has no further interest in and that it has, through congressional acts in the past, locked up for specific uses not likely to occur, and we receive full fair market value for the property. This is the way Federal land in excess should be disposed of—sold at fair market value or above and assured to be put to good use by the recipient, which, in this case, is the city of Tracy.

I urge support for this, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of this important legislation, which would result in the efficient disposal of a parcel of Federal real property to the city of Tracy, California. It has been outstanding for some years.

The city of Tracy, with a population of 80,000, has been hard hit by the economic recession. Unemployment in and around Tracy stood at 16.2 percent a year ago, a level far higher than the national average. The people of Tracy are looking for every available avenue to revive their economy, and they have found such a stimulus in the potential construction of a solar field.

Congress can assist Tracy in its economic recovery by supporting S. 1302. This bill authorizes the city of Tracy to purchase, without restriction, 150 acres of Federal land previously conveyed by Congress for a specific public benefit use. The city would pay the Federal Government fair market value for the release of this reversionary interest.

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

Tracy estimates that construction of a solar field will create approximately 200 jobs, which are much needed in the city. The project will also generate cleaner sources of energy and will alleviate the air-quality challenges that presently afflict that area. These are all powerful reasons to support the legislation.

I urge passage of S. 1302, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from California (Mr. DENHAM), who has been a strong advocate for both the disposal of property in a profitable way and in particular contacted us and asked us to move this legislation with a powerful and convincing argument.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1302, a bill to convey a parcel of land in the city of Tracy.

S. 1302 is common sense legislation that will be a win for the Federal taxpayer, the local community, and private enterprise. Simply put, this bill allows the city of Tracy to purchase at fair-market value a parcel of land from the Federal Government.

Currently, the government has a reversionary interest in a vacant parcel of its land, and the community of Tracy deeply needs it. The city would like to purchase the land from the government at fair-market value and eliminate the reversionary interest so that the local community can decide what's best for the land. This will then be leased to a private company to construct a solar project that will provide renewable energy and economic activity to the local community.

I had the opportunity to tour this location with the mayor of Tracy, Brent Ives, who's been working on this for quite some time. He showed how this project will provide a significant economic impact to a community struggling with high rates of unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will solve another problem created by too much government. Local control of this property will put people back to work, benefit the local economy, provide a source of renewable energy, and turn a profit for the taxpayer.

I was proud to be a cosponsor of the House version of this legislation introduced by Mr. McNERNEY and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and I again urge passage of S. 1302 and yield back the balance of my time.

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

Although this is a small piece of property, it's part of a vast amount of property the Federal Government currently owns, controls, and does not use. So as we take this step today, I hope all of my colleagues in the House and the Senate will look at this as at least a small contribution to a direction we should go, find ways to take government-owned property, get it in private hands, paying property tax, being developed, and creating jobs throughout the areas in which it lies.

As I urge support, I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), for her work; I would like to thank the Senate cosponsors, including Senator BOXER, for getting this to us; and I would like to thank Mr. DENHAM for bringing it to the floor at this time.

I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for S. 1302, an important bill to facilitate a land transfer in Tracy, California. I was proud to introduce identical companion legislation in the House of Representatives last year, and I am glad to see S. 1302 on a path to final enactment.

S. 1302 allows the city of Tracy to purchase 150 acres of property from the Federal Government. Congress previously conveyed the parcel to the city but placed certain restrictions on its use. This legislation waives these restrictions so long as the city purchases the property at fair market value.

Tracy has long-standing plans to build a solar field on the site. Building this solar field will create nearly 200 jobs, improve air quality, and increase the availability of renewable energy in California. S. 1302 will also generate revenue for the Federal treasury. This bill is a win for Tracy and a win for the taxpayers.

S. 1302 is being passed today in the spirit of bicameral, bipartisan cooperation. I would like to thank Senators BOXER and FEINSTEIN for their support of this initiative in the Senate as well as Representatives DENHAM and ISSA for their work here in the House. I look forward to seeing the President sign S. 1302 into law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1302.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

1380

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XXX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Voters will be taken in the following order:
- House Concurrent Resolution 105, by the yeas and nays
- House Concurrent Resolution 117, by the yeas and nays
- House Concurrent Resolution 118, by the yeas and nays

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 105) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion, offered by Mr. HARPER that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 376, nays 0, not voting 55, as follows:

YEAS—376
Adams  Akin  Altman  Amash  
Aderholt  Alexander  Allaire  Alex  

AUTORIZATION OF USE OF CAPITAL GROUNDS FOR NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS’ MEMORIAL SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 117) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers’ Memorial Service, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion, offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution:

This is a 5-minute vote. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 377, nays 0, not voting 54, as follows:
This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 0, not voting 56, as follows:

[Roll No. 198]

YEAS—375

Adams
Adler
Akin
Albright
Alexander
Altman
Amash
Amodei
Anthus
Aqua
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baladin
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bashe (CA)
Bashe (GA)
Bates
Becerra
Bentih
Berg
Berkley
Bernier
Bigert
Bilirakis
Bilirakis
Bonamici
Bonham
Boswell
Boustany
Buxton
Buzek
Burges
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Caneseco
Cannon
Capito
Carisch
Cardoza
Carlo
Carson
Carter
Cassidy
Carter (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Clark
Clay
Cleaver
Cliff
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Coles
Conaway
Connelly (VA)
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Curley
Culver
Cuellar
Culhane
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Rigell
Rivera
Rogers (NY)
Rogers (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Ronniest
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sanburns
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schroder
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (NC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, David

NOT VOTING—54

Ackerman
Ackerman
Adney
Brown (FL)
Brown (IL)
Brown (PA)
Brower
Broun (GA)
Bucshon
Bucshon
Burgess
Burges
Burges
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Carter (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chic´
Cicilline
Cline
Cole
Cogburn
Coffman (CO)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Curley
Culver
Cuellar
Culhane
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeLauro
Denham
DesJarlais

SENNENBRENNER
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shinet
Shuler
Shuker
Simpson
Sissors
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southard
Stark
Stein
Stevens
Stutman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thurber
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Tongan
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Oler
Owens
Paasch
Paul
Pennington
Platts
Platts
Pobahabcher
Rothbacher
Rothman (NJ)
Ruppersgerber
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sauls
Slaughter
Smith
Spero
Tiber
Townes

3903

May 7, 2012

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 0, not voting 56, as follows:

[Roll No. 198]

YEAS—375

Adams
Adler
Akin
Albright
Alexander
Altman
Amash
Amodei
Anthus
Aqua
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baladin
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bashe (CA)
Bashe (GA)
Bates
Becerra
Bentih
Berg
Berkley
Bernier
Bigert
Bilirakis
Bonamici
Bonham
Boswell
Boustany
Buxton
Buzek
Burges
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Caneseco
Cannon
Capito
Carisch
Cassidy
Carter (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chic´
Cicilline
Cline
Cole
Cogburn
Coffman (CO)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Curley
Culver
Cuellar
Culhane
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeLauro
Denham
DesJarlais

Rignell
Rogers (NY)
Rogers (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Ronniest
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sanburns
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schroder
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (NC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, David

NOT VOTING—54

Ackerman
Ackerman
Adney
Brown (FL)
Brown (IL)
Brown (PA)
Brower
Broun (GA)
Bucshon
Bucshon
Burgess
Burges
Burges
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Carter (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chic´
Cicilline
Cline
Cole
Cogburn
Coffman (CO)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
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Curley
Culver
Cuellar
Culhane
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeLauro
Denham
DesJarlais

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The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 0, not voting 56, as follows:

[Roll No. 198]
Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on May 7, 2012, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 196–198 because of my primary election in Indiana. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 196, “yea” on rollcall No. 197, and “yea” on rollcall No. 198.

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 07, 2012 I had obligations that necessitated my attention in Sydney, Illinois, in my district and missed suspension votes on H. Con. Res. 105 Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for Events; “aye.”

Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on the above stated resolutions.

IN HONOR OF EAGLE SCOUT RALPH BOYS

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I rise today to honor Eagle Scout Ralph Boys, aged 93, who has finally been recognized for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. 78 years after meeting the requirements for this distinguished rank.

Ralph had met all of the requirements for the rank of Eagle as a sophomore in high school in 1933, but his family relocated, and he was never able to appear in his Court of Honor to receive his badge. After college, Ralph enlisted in the Army and served many assignments throughout his military career, including on General Douglas MacArthur’s headquarters staff during the Philippines campaign of World War II. After the war, Ralph served at posts in Germany, Vietnam, and then the Pentagon, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1967.

After his retirement, he began a search to find the records of his qualifications for the rank of Eagle. After several years of research, Ralph enlisted the help of his family and friends in searching for the records. In 2011, he was finally able to prove his qualifications for the rank of Eagle Scout. Congressman MICK MULVANEY also asked to associate himself with these remarks.

EDINA SCHOOLS GAIN FIRST MINNESOTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Edina High School teacher Jackie Roehl for being named this year’s Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

Out of more than 300 teachers who were nominated, Jackie was recognized for her outstanding work in reducing the achievement gap. By using teaching methods that engaged different students from differing skills and backgrounds, she was able to teach her students more effectively and help improve test scores. After several years of researching teaching methods, surveying students as well as parents, Jackie and her team recently gained the approval to merge advanced placement classes and regular English classes into one course to make sure that all students she teaches are able to be challenged and are able to excel.

Mr. Speaker, Jackie has absolutely shown an incredible passion for her profession, for her students, and for her community. I congratulate her on her much-deserved recognition as she continues her success in teaching, in leading, and in inspiring Minnesota’s youth.

THE ANNUAL NATIONAL SUBSTITUTE TEACHER RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. This week, in conjunction with Teacher Appreciation Week, is National Substitute Teacher Recognition Week, recognizing the 270,000 men and women who fill in for regular teachers every day in the United States.

Research by the Substitute Teacher Institute at Utah State University shows that approximately 1 year of every kid’s K–12 education is conducted by those extraordinary individuals who are willing to take on the challenge of providing quality education when the permanent teacher is out of the classroom. I taught for 28 years. I have substituted for my colleagues’ classes—it is a miserable job—but these members of the community who fill the void in education are worthy of our recognition.
I would also like to recognize and commend the Substitute Teacher Institute, which since 1995 has been providing activities and techniques to substitutes and has been providing leadership in its service to districts and substitute teachers nationwide. The Substitute Teacher Institute works to revitalize the role of substitute teachers into opportunities for educational excellence.

I commend them, and I wish to commend all of those people who are substitutes in our Nation’s school systems.

THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS: VOTER PROTECTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERECE). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. This evening, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be anchoring the Congressional Black Caucus hour on voter protection.

At the same time that I have the privilege of hosting this very important discussion, let me make note of the fact that our very distinguished Member, Congressman CHARLIE RANGEL, is being toasted and recognized by our Members. I know that many of them will be commemorating Congressman Rangel, who is a dear friend of mine. He served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and as a Korean War vet, and understands, when soldiers go to battle, they go to battle so that others might have the opportunity for freedom. Certainly embodied in freedom has to be the idea of being able to vote.

So this evening, as I discuss these issues, I am delighted to acknowledge him as well as to acknowledge that this is really a bipartisan concern—and it should be a bipartisan concern, because it’s a concern that should not be at this moment speaking about who you vote for as much as we are speaking about allowing you to vote for the person of your choice and to be able to cast your vote unfeathered.

Mr. Speaker, that is what my discussion will be about tonight. As I do so, allow me just for a moment to be able to share, if you will, a point that I hope that we all can adhere to.

This is going to be a tough election season. There are many actors, if you will, who will be involved in this process. This is a Presidential year, so it’s going to get particularly feisty. But I do believe that there is a certain collegiality and collaboration as it circles around voting and the idea of voting and of voting with equal opportunity.

Even in our words, we need to try and make sure that we’re lifting the voters up.

I heard a comment from someone introducing the intended Republican nominee—though it was turned on cheek with a little humor—who indicated in his remarks very loudly, “Osama is dead.” And in the midst of it, he indicated, “I mean Osama bin Laden.” I assume he was trying to make a play on words, but I really hope that we can stay above the line of decency as we recognize that we live in difficult times.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, we just heard publicly about a particular effort to attack our aviation assets, which was just announced today as breaking news, and we realize that we live in challenging times. For that reason, I think this discussion on voter protection is extremely important.

So let me turn to my friends that until now, historically, the voting franchise has only been expanded. This is most evident in the constitutional amendments that have been passed to protect and expand the right to vote. And since the Voting Rights Act of 1965, it really has been a bipartisan congressional prerogative to ensure access to the ballot.

President Lyndon Baines Johnson, one of the Presidents who has been touted as having the greatest legislative record, had to cobble together Republicans and Democrats from the Deep South—then called the Dixiecrats—and moderate Republicans from the North and Midwest. He successfully passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and successfully passed the 1965 Voting Rights Act. It was a bipartisan effort.

And I might say that many Members who have reflected to have had a chance to encounter—some are still in this House. I remember, most famously, Jack Brooks, after it was all said and done, felt that they had done the right thing.

Today I was at a middle school, and I indicated to them that I would be on the floor of the House discussing voter protection and of voting, and so should not be at this moment speaking about who you vote for as much as we are speaking about allowing you to vote for the person of your choice and to be able to cast your vote unfeathered.

Mr. Speaker, that is what my discussion will be about tonight. As I do so, allow me just for a moment to be able to share, if you will, a point that I hope that we all can adhere to.

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I just read, recently, that the lead person opposing the vote in Pennsylvania, if I am correct—it’s my recollection now—would be 93 years old. That’s who we’re hurting: senior citizens, people who have toiled and worked and paid their taxes, paid into Medicare. And now, because of when they were born, such as my mother Ivalita Jackson, they do not have a birth certificate. We tried, we looked, and we still have an inquiry in. God bless her.

My mother has since passed while we were in the midst of looking for the certificate for a number of reasons, but she had her voting card and she was eligible to vote. But under new voting ID laws, she would not be eligible to vote.

And here is a woman who raised her children, paid her taxes, self-educated herself, achieved a status of a vocational nurse in times when education was not gifted to her.

A recent report by the Brennan Center for Justice of NYU Law School concluded that the newly enacted State laws that would affect more than 5 million eligible voters will disproportionately disenfranchise young, low-income, elderly, and minority voters.

In 2006, the Brennan Center completed a nationwide survey of voting-age citizens and found that African American voters are more than three times as likely as Caucasians to lack a government-issued ID.

The real nonsense of it all is that voter ID laws are to avoid voter impersonation, and voter impersonation is a fictitious, a part of any kind of voter fraud. In fact, under the Bush administration, there was less than 20, if you will, that were prosecuted. We’re talking about a country of 300 million. And this is by recollection: I think there were some 100 cases that were brought forward, and they only wound up prosecuting a finite number.

The heavy burden on minority voters seems patently unfair, and it seems to be a direct result of the great enthusiasm of all voters in 2008. I want to see that all the time. So sometimes we win and sometimes we lose.

Isn’t it interesting, when the wave of Tea Party voters had such an impact in 2010 and many of them were new voters, I didn’t fare well in that, meaning my party’s particular position, but it was the American way. All of the sudden, even with these new voters and the will of the people being adhered to, all of the sudden these new laws come out of the very people who are new to the voting process—many of them—and excited about it. Now comes a sledgehammer to prevent others from voting.

In Texas, thanks to new voter ID, students may not use their school-
issued IDs to vote, which is part of an effort to restrict student IDs as a valid form of identification to vote. This is the same State that will allow Texans with a concealed weapons permit to use their permits to vote, but a student who is trying to get an education, who has a government-issued ID card and the privilege of voting, is denied the same privilege to use their student IDs.

Mind you, the Prairie View A&M case established a Supreme Court case that students could vote where they go to school and a number that because of that case, everybody, including in Texas, have the right to vote, as United States citizens. It happened that way.

By the way, this was not, in essence, a liberal court. This decision was made under the Bush administration that determined that students can vote, and now the State of Texas is suggesting that there is no ID. People can vote in their dorms. Frankly, this seems out of whack. A student should be able to use their ID to vote.

Eleven percent of U.S. citizens, or more than 21 million Americans, do not have government-issued photo identification. Also, as many as 25 percent of all African American citizens of voting age do not have government-issued IDs.

Mandating voter IDs has a disproportionate and unfair impact on low-income individuals and racial and ethnic minorities. This also has a big burden on Hispanic voters in Texas. We found out that many Hispanic voters live in counties where there is no Department of Public Safety office for them to even go to.

Mr. Speaker, do we get an airplane, a helicopter? What do we tell individuals who have toiled, who have worked and are second- and third-generation Texans that just because of their aging status, maybe because of health reasons, they cannot get a voter ID? Senior citizens, voters with disabilities, and many other individuals do not have government-issued ID or the money to even acquire one.

Yes, under Texas law they can vote by mail, but I tell you, getting information to people is very hard. If you're used to being taken when you could just register to vote at your workplace, that is where you have government-issued IDs to vote, which is part of an effort to require a photo ID of voters, and only those who have government-issued photo identification, which includes, again, 25 percent of African American voting age citizens, or more than 5.5 million people; 15 percent of those earning less than $35,000 a year; 18 percent of those age 65 and above—and more than 6 million voters; 20 percent of young voters ages 18 to 29, and it is much higher in the Hispanic community.

The photo ID proposals are not new, with calls for strict voter identification laws emerging out of the 2000 Presidential election, when conservative watchdog groups contended that laws intended to facilitate voting, such as the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, known as "Motor Voter," had opened the doors to illegal voting.

That's impossible, Mr. Speaker. It didn't look like the folks who thought that they were losing suffered too much in the 2000 Presidential election. The candidate of their choice was elected and ascended to the presidency. I can't imagine why they would feel that they had been violated by the 1993 Motor Voter law, which means that they were able to vote at your various sites around the community, including the motor vehicle department.

The Justice Department, under Attorney General Ashcroft, pledged that cracking down on so-called voter fraud would be a top priority of the Bush administration Justice Department, though ultimately, the Department's own extensive analysis found little evidence of voting improprieties. Congress passed the Help America Vote Act in 2002, which established a minimum voting photo identification requirements, prompting calls that States should go further.

Mr. Speaker, this is for everybody. I can't stop or investigate who is coming to the polls and suggest that if you are this party or that party, stay away. Why wouldn't we want to help everyone?

Since 2001, more than 700 voter identification bills have been introduced in 46 States, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. A dozen States have passed new voter ID laws since 2003, but only eight States require a photo ID of voters, and only seven States are being proposed this year. That was before. Now we have, in essence, a new day. We have some tough laws that are hurting voters. We're talking about voter protection, but we have to overcome voter suppression.

If you look at this map, you will see that we are being overwhelmed by voter photo ID requirements. I would say almost two-thirds of the States have inappropriately and incorrectly been going full steam ahead to make voting far more secure.

Let me tell you what an ID does: It stops you from impersonating another person. That has been the lowest level of voter fraud because you are silly to impersonate someone. The next level is to get into a place that might subject you to an arrest. In the State of Texas, precinct judges have the status of a district judge on election day.

This map will show you how bad it is. Look at the red. It requires voter ID. Big Texas: that's why I need the State to announce that the voter ID law is invalid for the May 29 primary, because it looks as if we have a requirement that does not exist for this primary. Someone hear me. We are obligated to tell the 21 million plus Texans that they have the right to vote with a voting certificate if they are registered to vote for the May 29 primary. That red is getting pretty strong. Blue, photo ID required. The red is require photo ID only; nothing else. How absurd.

In essence, we're taking a match and burning the voting certificates that people worked so hard to get, that allow people to vote—that you tell people to register again. It also disallows organizations like the League of Women Voters and puts a very heavy hand on what happens when you register people to vote and how you have to get those registrations in. The big "stop sign. That's why it's red. It's the 'stop people from being able to vote.'

Then look at the photo ID requested, blue States. Then look at the photo voter ID legislation proposed. It covers 90 percent of America. How absurd. And I would be open to finding a way to ensure that that diminished, limited amount of fraud is taken care of. But this is what it does: It puts up a red stop sign. It stops people from voting. It frightens people from voting. It keeps people from voting.

I've asked the State of Texas to not hide that information and to come out with a clear enunciation—not a negative announcement—that says that the Justice Department has stopped the Texas voter ID law. That doesn't help anybody understand anything. Your duty is to be impartial as a State election officer, and you are to come out in a fair and impartial manner. And if you do not have a State-issued voter ID, you can vote in your primary, whether it is Republican, Democratic, or any other primary that is viable in the State of Texas. Why is that so difficult to do? Because we have found that as many as 25 percent of African American citizens of voting age do not have government-issued photo identification, which includes, again, 25 percent of African American voting age citizens, or more than 5.5 million people; 20 percent of young voters ages 18 to 29, and it is much higher in the Hispanic community.

The photo ID proposals are not new, with calls for strict voter identification laws emerging out of the 2000 Presidential election, when conservative watchdog groups contended that laws intended to facilitate voting, such as the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, known as "Motor Voter," had opened the doors to illegal voting.

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Mr. Speaker, this is for everybody. I can't stop or investigate who is coming to the polls and suggest that if you are this party or that party, stay away. Why wouldn't we want to help everyone?
I’ll show it in a moment. It includes legislation introduced. Big red photo ID requirements—passed. Proof of citizenship—passed. Restrictions on voter registration—passed. Restrictions on early absentee voting—passed. Executive action, making it harder to restore voting rights. You can see the country is predominantly red with a big “stop” sign, stopping people from voting.

I beg of you, why would we, who have the privilege of having a document that gave citizens due process, gave us the freedoms of speech, petition, assembly, all having to do with petitioning your government, and then we have a movement that literally stops us in our tracks. Then we have Citizens United that dumps money into elections and literally skews who gets to be selected by the people.

I want everyone to see how much we need to overcome voter suppression by, in essence, protecting everyone’s right to vote. I want to be very clear on this: Everyone is voting.

A dozen States have passed, as I have said, new voter ID laws since 2003. But voter ID proposals have a forceful momentum this year not seen in years passed—this year, meaning 2012, 2011, and going back to 2010. This is part of a broader legislative movement to limit access to the political process for disenfranchised groups at a level not seen since post-Reconstruction era laws implementing a poll tax and a literacy test. Just over the first 2 months of 2011, photo ID proposals have been introduced in 32 States and passed out of one legislative chamber in 12 States. Lawmakers across the Nation have pinpointed photo ID as a top legislative priority. The Governor of Texas designated photo ID as a legislative emergency in order to allow it to be procedurally fast-tracked to the legislature. Photo ID proposals were pre-filed before legislative sessions began in half a dozen States. And secretaries of State in a number of States have listed photo ID as a top priority.

Let me thank Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER for leading out not only members of the Congressional Black Caucus but collaborating with other organizations, and let me thank my colleagues for their efforts on this issue. Let me thank Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN, who is detained at a matter that she had to attend, who’s been anchoring these hour-long discussions with the American public. But we believe, because what you do to others comes back to you. The idea of limiting a person’s access to voting and being able to vote on the cause of how you think they will vote and how you don’t want those people to vote cast a long shadow back to Americans who want to vote in whichever way they do. Stop me from voting, you get stopped from voting.

The idea of a photo ID is not a respecter of race. And if you’re elderly and can’t get to the Department of Public Safety office or in another State you can’t get somewhere, if you’re inhibited or prohibited, it is an impact on you no matter what background you come from.

Thank God for the Congressional Black Caucus that is a respecter of the rights of all people. We are fighting for our children. We’re fighting for young people, the elderly, the disabled. And no matter who you are, if you’re blocked to vote because of the voter ID, this is voter suppression—and we want to have voter protection.

And to find now some elderly woman who does not have her voter photo ID—and I say this. Let the listening public hear. You cannot get a voter ID if you don’t bring something like a birth certificate. And this is where our seniors either can’t get there or they’re too elderly to go to the birthing certificate. Maybe they were, in essence, brought into this world by a volunteer or midwife or family members. There’s no birth certificate. Maybe it’s in the deep dark of the night, where mom and baby did not get recognition until days or weeks afterward. Or, living as long as they lived, the birth certificate has been lost. Mr. Speaker, I’ve heard of veterans whose documents were burned up in a fire. They were still veterans. They still served their country. We see them every day.

And so here we have a situation where you’re disenfranchising groups who have worked so hard or, since post-Reconstruction era laws implementing a poll tax and a literacy test. Just over the first 2 months of 2011, photo ID proposals have been introduced in 32 States and passed out of one legislative chamber in 12 States. Lawmakers across the Nation have pinpointed photo ID as a top legislative priority. The Governor of Texas designated photo ID as a legislative emergency in order to allow it to be procedurally fast-tracked to the legislature. Photo ID proposals were pre-filed before legislative sessions began in half a dozen States. And secretaries of State in a number of States have listed photo ID as a top priority.

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The Governor of Texas designated photo ID as a legislative emergency in order to allow it to be procedurally fast-tracked through the legislature. Photo ID proposals were pre-filed before legislative sessions began in half a dozen States. I don’t know why that hasn’t happened. We’ve dug down with the redistricting case.

The secretaries of State in a number of States have listed photo ID as a top priority. Mr. Speaker, it does nothing. The Bush administration showed they were out of line proselytizing for people who were impersonating a voter. Photo ID proposals have garnered significant momentum in a very mistaken matter—that it’s going to do something. It is not.

Let us point out voter fraud. Let us, in essence, carve it out. But you are not going anywhere with voter ID laws who discriminate against the elderly, who discriminate against minorities, who discriminate against those individuals who have lived long and served their country long enough that they just might not remember where their birth certificate is—or even their marriage certificate.

Significant momentum is going on today, and it is wrong. Opponents are having difficulty waging effective counterattacks to curb the movement on these bills as majority leaderships, emboldened by their increased numbers following in the 2010 midterm elections, are more committed than they ever have been.

Let me congratulate the State of Ohio and Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, where the people of that State defeated that draconian law and they will not have the burden of their voter ID law in the 2012 Presidential election. Yay for them. A battleground State where the people can vote as they choose. And we’re going to all realize that Ohioans will not be encumbered by Ohioan laws. It will be a test of whether or not they will vote, and no one can block them from voting.

In 1890, the State of Mississippi, although African Americans made up 58 percent of the population, due to the structure of voting laws that year in Mississippi, of the 134 elected delegates, only one was African American. And that was during Reconstruction. It does not take a genius to recognize that the African American vote was diluted.

We cannot allow history to repeat itself. That is why we have the Voting Rights Act and why we are ever vigilant to guard against any encroachments on the right to vote.

And so my argument is, today, that we’re going to go across America—and I appreciate my colleagues who have joined in this effort to go across America—and we’re going to introduce voting protection seminars to ensure that every voter—everyone and minority voters and elderly voters—has a right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, I’m very glad to have spoken to my State officials today, I
will place this letter to Texas State officials in the RECORD.


Hon. Hope Andrada, Secretary of State, Austin, TX.

Dear Secretary of State: Thank you for taking my call today Monday, May 7, 2012 regarding current election identification requirements that may or may not be utilized in the 2012 Texas Primary and on a possible run off date. A formal public announcement must be made along with the production of public awareness advertisements outlining that the current law is still in place and operational.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Perez with regard to Section 9 and 15 of S.B. 14, concerning photographic identification, I cannot conclude that the state has sustained its burden under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Therefore, on behalf of the Attorney General, I must object to Sections 9 and 14. In effect, our current proposed photographic identification requirements and related changes may not be implemented and are not legally enforceable.

The public is made aware of the current voting requirements.

The trial date is set for Monday, July 9, 2012 and therefore all means currently permissible should be utilized to ensure the public is made aware that there is currently no requirement in the State of Texas for a state issued photographic identification prior to vote in the upcoming elections.

Thank you for your cooperation and I look forward to working with you.

Very Truly Yours,

Sheila Jackson Lee, Member of Congress.

With that in mind, in the name of so many great leaders, from our early Presidents of our Nation through this historic democratic process to the drafters of the Constitution that began to open the words of this great book with the words, We have come together to establish just laws of the Union, to ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity to ordain and establish just laws for the governance of the States, voter ID laws do not equal to liberty. They do not equal giving our posterity to our children, grandchildren, the grandchildren’s children and grandchildren, great-grandchildren, children.

The voter ID law is oppressive and it denies the right to vote.

I cry in my heart, Mr. Speaker, for those that have fallen victim to a distortion of the right of people to vote and the distortion of the blame game. And so State legislatures have attempted to say they’re doing something and, Mr. Speaker, they are not. They are not.

The photographic identification requirements and related changes in S.B. 14 therefore may not be implemented, and are legally unenforceable. After the Attorney General’s objection is enclosed.

The photographic identification requirements for in-person voting. The Attorney General’s objection is enclosed.

We start our analysis recognizing the state’s legitimate interest in preventing voter fraud and safeguarding voter confidence. Crawford v. Marion County Election Board, 536 U.S. 16 (2002). However, the state’s sole justifications for changing the current practice to require photographic identification to vote in person that appear in the state’s submission, and are presented in its submission are to ensure electoral integrity and deter ineligible voters from voting. At the same time, we note that the state’s submission did not include the evidence of significant in-person voter impersonation not already addressed by the state’s existing laws.

The voting changes at issue must be measured against the benchmark practice to determine whether they would “lead to a retrogression in the position of racial minorities with respect to their effective exercise of the electoral franchise.” Beer v. United States, 425 U.S. 130, 141 (1976). In support of its position that this proposed requirement will not have such a prohibited effect, the state provided two sets of registered-voter data, which were matched with two different data sources maintained by the state’s Department of Public Safety. This data was current as of September 16, 2011, and the other as of early January 2012. The September data reported that there were 12,780,841 registered voters, of whom 2,757,227 (21.8%) were Hispanic. The January data reported that there were 12,892,280 registered voters, of whom 2,816,869 (21.8%) were Hispanic.

There is, however, a significant difference between the two data sets with regard to the number and characteristics of those registered voters with a driver’s license or personal identification card issued by DPS. The September data indicate that 603,892 (4.7%) of the state’s registered voters did not have such identification and the identification population consists of 174,866 voters (29.0% of the 603,892) who are Hispanic and 429,026 voters (71.0%) who are non-Hispanic. The January data indicate that 765,959 voters (9.2%) of the state’s registered voters do not have such identification; this population consists of 304,389 voters (39.2%) who are Hispanic and 461,569 voters (60.8%) who are non-Hispanic. The state has not provided an explanation for the disparate results. More significantly, it determined an override of the two data sets is more accurate. Accordingly, we have considered both in reviewing your submission.

Starting our analysis with the September data, 3.9 percent of Hispanic registered voters do not have the forms of identification described above, but only 4.3 percent of non-Hispanic registered voters are similarly situated. Therefore, a Hispanic voter is 46.5 percent more likely than a non-Hispanic voter to lack these forms of identification. Crawford v. Marion County Election Board.

We start our analysis with the September data indicating that Texas has a significantly higher percentage of the registered voters who do not have such identification described above, but only 4.5 percent of Hispanic registered voters are similarly situated. Therefore, a Hispanic voter is 46.5 percent more likely than a non-Hispanic voter to lack these forms of identification.

Our analysis of the September data indicates that 10.8 percent of Hispanic registered voters do not have a driver’s license or personal identification card issued by DPS. However, only 4.4 percent of non-Hispanic registered voters do not have such identification. So, Hispanic registered voters are more than twice as likely as non-Hispanic registered voters to lack such identification. Under the data provided in January, Hispanics make up only 21.8 percent of all registered voters, but fully 39.2 percent of the registered voters who lack such identification.

Thus, we conclude that the total number of registered voters who lack a driver’s license
or personal identification card issued by DPS could range from 603,892 to 785,955. The disparity between the percentages of Hispanics and non-Hispanics who lack these forms of identification ranges from 46.5 to 120.0 percent. That is, according to the state’s own data, a Hispanic registered voter is at least 46.5 percent less likely than a non-Hispanic registered voter to lack this identification. Even using the data most favorable to the state, Hispanics are more likely than non-Hispanics to lack either a driver’s license or a personal identification card issued by DPS, and that disparity is statistically significant.

The state provided no data on whether African American or Asian registered voters are also disproportionately affected by S.B. 14.

Sections 9 and 14 of S.B. 14 would also permit a voter to vote in person using military photographic identification, a United States citizen’s ID card certificate that contains the person’s photograph, a United States passport, or a license to carry a concealed handgun. The state has produced no data showing what percent of registered voters lack either the license or personal identification card issued by DPS, but do possess another allowable form of photographic identification. Nor has the state provided any data on the demographic makeup of such voters. In addition, when the Texas Legislature was considering S.B. 14, there were a number of legislative proposals to eliminate fingerprinting and traveling to a driver’s license office. The third and final point is the limited hours that such offices are open. Only 49 of the 221 currently operating driver’s license offices across the state have extended hours. Even Senator Troy Fraser, the primary author of this legislation, acknowledged during the legislative hearing that, “You gotta work to make sure that [DPS offices] are open.” Despite the apparent recognition of this limitation, the bill author’s amendment that would have required driver’s license offices to be open until 7:00 p.m. or later on at least one weekday and during four or more hours on at least two Saturdays each month.

The legislation mandates a statewide voter-education effort concerning the new identification requirement. The bill does not provide specific standards for the program. The state, however, has yet to approve a final version of the materials designed to accomplish that goal, either for voters or for election officials. The state has indicated that it will implement a new educational program: but as of this date, our information indicates that the currently proposed plan will incorporate the new identification requirement into a general voter-education program. The legislation requires that poll-worker training materials meet new identification requirements. This is particularly vital because a poll-worker can permit a voter to cast a ballot if the name on the document is substantially similar to but does not match exactly” the name on the voter registration list, and if the voter also submits an affidavit stating that he or she is the person on the list of registered voters. Though the Secretary of State’s office has adopted an administrative rule to guide poll-workers on how to handle discrepant names, the rule gives poll-workers a great deal of discretion. The state has provided no enforcement guidelines to prevent the vagueness standard from leading to inconsistency or bias in its application.

Even after submitting data that show over 600,000 registered voters do not have either a driver’s license or personal identification card issued by DPS—and that a disproportionate share of those registered voters are Hispanic—the state has failed to propose a much less adopt, any program for individuals who have to travel a significant distance to a DPS office, who have limited access to transportation, or who are unable to get to a DPS office during their hours of operation. This failure is particularly noteworthy given Texas’s geography and demographics, which pose challenges for mitigating measures greater than in other states. The state also has not developed any specific proposals to educate either voters about how to comply with the new identification requirement or poll officials about how to enforce the proposed change.

The state has not met its burden of proving that, when compared to the benchmark, the proposed requirement will not have a retrogressive effect, or that any specific feature of the proposed change will prevent or mitigate that retrogression. Additionally, the state has failed to demonstrate why it could not meet its stated goals of ensuring domestic tranquility, to establish justice, to secure the blessings of liberty—will be found in the 2012 election, and
that because of one’s ethnic or racial background or age or gender or whether you live in the country, meaning in the rural areas of the Nation, that you will not have a stop sign, a red stop sign that will be standing at the door of a courthouse or the place where you vote. You will not have a stop sign that says: Stop, you don’t deserve the blessings of liberty. You deserve to be treated in the ways of yesteryear when people were second-class and third-class citizens.

I pray, as I know my Founding Fathers would offer, prayerful prayers for all of America that we take this red map and turn it to a map of brightness with a big sign: The door is open for legal voting, unoppressed. You are protected and you are given the blessings of liberty.

I thank my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus. I thank all those who are working on this issue, and those in the State of Texas that we work together that you can vote under the old laws and you can vote on Sunday and you can go out and vote and you can have the blessings of liberty that the Constitution has given us.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the name of justice and to protect the right to vote for all citizens. I am joined by fellow members of the Congressional Black Caucus to speak about the need to protect our democracy, to protect the voice of the American people, and to ensure the right to vote continues to be treated as a right unimpeded and not a privilege afforded to the chosen few.

Today I join the CBC to bring additional scrutiny to the significant changes being made to voting laws across our country. We must protect the rights for all eligible citizens to vote. The right to vote is a precious and sacred one in our country. Over the past few decades, minorities in this country have witnessed a pattern of efforts to intimidate and harass minority voters through so-called “Voter ID” requirements. I am sad to report that as we head into the 21st century, these efforts continue.

I am well versed in the arguments both for and against Voter IDs. Often the arguments for Voter IDs include the notion that we must protect against fraud, yet there is little to no real evidence that rampant voter fraud exists or that it would be prevented by Voter ID cards. On balance there is significant evidence that minorities would be negatively impacted by voter ID requirements.

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, I called for an immediate investigation of these instances. Many of these incidents of voter intimidation were occurring in predominately minority neighborhoods and have been directed at African-Americans and Latinos. It is inconceivable to think that anyone would deliberately employ the use of such forceful and intimidating tactics to undermine the fundamental, Constitutional right to vote. However, such conduct has regrettably occurred in Houston, and I urge you to take appropriate action to ensure that it does not recur.

Instances of voter intimidation are not long ago and far away. Just last year I sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to draw his attention to several disturbing instances of voter intimidation that had taken place in Houston. In a single week there were at least 15 reports of abuse of voter rights throughout the city of Houston.

I am here more in the name of freedom, patriotism, and democracy. I am here to demand that the long hard fought right to vote continues to be protected.

**TEXAS LEGISLATION, SB14**

I am a Representative from the State of Texas and as you are all aware, my State has recently adopted a required identification law that is among the most restrictive in the Nation. This law passed both chambers of the Texas legislature after lengthy floor debates. The Texas House approved the measure 101–48 late in the night after more than eleven hours of debate that included some 40 proposed amendments. Although it was evident that this bill had significant opposition, the bill was fast-tracked as a “legislative emergency.”

The Voter ID bill was fast-tracked at a time when there were urgent threats to state services due to a $10 billion budget shortfall. Under SB14, would require Texas voters to show a non-expired: Texas driver’s license, state ID card, military ID, passport or citizenship ID to vote.

Texas concealed handgun license to the list.

SB14, Banned the following forms of identification:
- driver’s licenses from other states,
- college IDs, birth certificates and other identification documents.

Voters over 70 are not exempted from any of these requirements.

Those without the requisite ID would have to cast provisional ballots that would be count only if the voter returned with valid ID within six days after the election.

While similar proposals were defeated in past years, Texas Gov. Rick Perry designated the legislation as an emergency to allow it to bypass procedural hurdles and get fast-tracked through the legislature to avoid the debates that derailed such efforts in previous years.

As a preclearance state under the Voting Rights Act, Texas had to submit any electoral changes for approval by the U.S. Department of Justice for review under the Voting Rights Act.

I hold in my hand a letter from the Department of Justice and I quote from this letter “with regard to Section 9 and 15 of S.B. 14, concerning photographic identification, I cannot conclude that the state has sustained its burden under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Therefore, on the behalf of the Attorney General, I must object to Sections 9 and 14 of S.B. 14.”

In effect, the currently proposed photographic identification requirements and related changes may not be implemented and are not legally enforceable. Texans need to be informed about this turn of events. S.B.14 is not legally binding. The public must be made aware that right now in the state of Texas there is no requirement for a Voter ID card in order to vote! May I remind you that the right is more fundamental than the right to vote.

**THE CONSTITUTION PROTECTS OUR RIGHT TO VOTE**

It is protected by more constitutional amendments—the 1st, 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th and 26th—than any other right we enjoy as Americans. Broad political participation ensures the preservation of all our other rights and freedoms. 3 State laws that impose new restrictions on voting, however, undermine our strong democracy by impeding access to the polls and reducing the number of Americans who vote and whose votes we value.

My State is not the only State undergoing attempts to restrict voting rights. There have been several restrictive voting bills considered and approved by States in the past several years.

**VOTER ID LAWS**

The most commonly advanced initiatives are laws that require voters to present photo identification when voting in person. Additionally, States have proposed or passed laws to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote; to eliminate the right to register to vote and to submit a change of address within the same State on Election Day; to shorten the time allowed for early voting; to make it more difficult for third-party organizations to conduct voter registration; and even to eliminate a State’s ability to call out direct voters who go to the wrong precinct.

These recent changes are on top of the disfranchisement laws in 48 States that deprive an estimated 5.3 million people with criminal convictions—disproportionately African Americans and Latinos—of their political voice.

Voter ID laws are becoming increasingly common across the country. Today, 31 States have laws requiring voters to present some form of identification to vote in Federal and local elections, although some initiatives passed in 2011 have not yet gone into effect. Some must also be pre-cleared under the Voting Rights Act prior to implementation. In 16 of those 31 States, voters must (or will soon be required to) present a photo ID—that in many States must be government-issued—in order to cast a ballot.

Voter ID laws deny the right to vote to thousands of registered voters who do not have, and, in many instances, cannot obtain the limited identification States accept for voting. Most of these Americans cannot afford to pay for the required documents needed to secure a government issued photo ID. As such, these laws impede access to the polls and are at odds with the fundamental right to vote.

In total, more than 21 million Americans of voting age lack documentation that would satisfy photo ID laws, and a disproportionate number of these Americans are low-income, racial and ethnic minorities, and elderly. As many as 25 percent of African Americans of voting age lack government-issued photo ID, compared to only 8 percent of their white counterparts. Eighteen percent of Americans over the age of 65 do not have government-issued photo ID.

Laws requiring photo identification to vote are a “solution” in search of a problem. There is no credible evidence that in-person impersonation is a widespread issue. Several studies and investigations have found that photo ID laws cannot prevent—indeed even a minor problem. Multiple studies have found that almost all cases of alleged in-person impersonation voter “fraud” are actually the result of a voter making an inadvertent mistake about the eligibility to vote. Even these mistakes are extremely infrequent.

It is important, instead, to focus on both expanding the franchise and ending practices
which actually threaten the integrity of the elections, such as improper purges of voters, voter harassment, and distribution of false information about when and where to vote. None of these issues, however, are addressed or can be resolved with a photo ID requirement.

Furthermore, requiring voters to pay for an ID, as well as the background documents necessary to obtain an ID in order to vote, is tantamount to a poll tax. Although some States issue IDs for free, the birth certificates, passports, or other documents required to secure a government-issued ID cost money, and many Americans simply cannot afford to pay for them. In addition, obtaining a government-issued photo ID is not an easy task for all members of the electorate. Low-income individuals who lack the funds to pay for documentation, people with disabilities with limited access to transportation, and elderly Americans who never had a birth certificate and cannot obtain alternate proof of their birth in the U.S., are among those who face significant or insurmountable obstacles to getting the photo ID needed to exercise their right to vote.

Because of Texas’ recently passed voter ID law, an estimated 36,000 people in West Texas’ District 19 are 137 miles from the nearest full service Department of Public Safety office, where those without IDs must travel to preserve their right to vote under the State’s new law.

In addition, women who have changed their names due to marriage or divorce often experience difficulties with identity documentation, as did Andrea, who recently moved from Massachusetts to South Carolina and who, in the span of a month, spent more than 17 hours online and in person trying without success to get a South Carolina driver’s license.

Voter ID laws send not-so-subtle messages about who is and is not encouraged to vote. As States approve laws requiring photo ID to vote, each formulates its own list of acceptable forms of documentation. Another common thread emerging from disparate state approaches is a bias against robust student election participation.

Henceforth, students at Wisconsin colleges and universities will not be able to vote using their student ID cards, unless those cards have issuance dates, expiration dates, and signatures.

Currently, only a handful of Wisconsin colleges and universities are issuing compliant IDs. Nor will South Carolina, Texas, or Tennessee accept student identification at the polls.

Policies that limit students’ electoral participation are particularly suspect appearing on the heels of unprecedented youth turnout in the 2008 election.

Voter ID proposals have a forceful momentum this year not seen in years past, part of broader legislative movements to limit access to the political process for disenfranchised groups at a level not seen since post-reconstruction era laws implementing poll taxes and literacy tests. In just over the first two months of 2011, photo ID proposals have been introduced in 32 States and passed out of one legislative chamber in 11.

Since 2001, more than 700 voter identification bills have been introduced in 46 States, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. A dozen States have passed new voter ID laws since 2003, but only 8 States require photo ID of voters and only two have laws as strict as those being proposed this year.

Lawmakers across the Nation have pinpointed photo ID as a top legislative priority. Just remember that the governor of Texas designed photo ID as a legislative emergency in order to allow it to be procedurally fast-tracked through the legislature, photo ID proposals were pre-filed before legislative sessions began in half a dozen States, and secretaries of state in a number of States have listed photo ID as a priority.

I stand ever ready to fight these attempts to hinder the right to vote for seniors, minorities and low income Americans. I stand ever ready to protect the right to vote and preserve this right for future generations.

MAP OF SHAME: VOTE SUPPRESSION

Election Protection: You Have the Right to Vote

Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

(For more information about registration and voting laws in your state, visit www.mapofshamehome.com)

States with Procedural Protection—AZ, KS, TN, AL, GA.

States with Repressive Election Legislation—OH, FL.

Governor Vetoes Photo Voter ID Law—NH, NC, MO, MN, MT.

TX*, KS*, WI, IN, TN*, MS, AL*, GA, SC—Require Photo Voter ID Only.

(*Law takes effect in 2012 and beyond.)

RI, HI, ID, SD, MI, OK, LA, FL—Photo Voter ID Requested.

WA, CA, NV, AK, MT, CO, NM, NE, MN, IA, MO, IL, AR, OK, NY, PA, WV, VA, NC, AL, GA, NH, MA, CT, NJ, DE, MD—Photo Voter ID Legislation Proposed.

OR, WY, UT, AZ, ND, KY, VT—No Existing Photo Voter ID Law, No Current Legislation.

STATES WHERE VOTING CHANGES WERE PURSUED AND TYPES OF CHANGES ENACTED

Legislation introduced—AK, OR, CA, NV, MT, CO, NM, NE, KS, TX, MN, IA, MO, AR, OK, MS, OH, WV, VA, NC, AL, GA, FL, SC, MD, DE, NJ, CT, RI, MA, NH, ME, NY, PA, HI.

Photo ID requirements passed—KS, TX, WI, TN, AL, SC.

Photo of citizenship requirement passed—KS, TN, AL.

Restrictions on voter registration passed—TX, OH, ME, FL.

Restrictions on early/absentee voting passed—TN, GA, FL, WV, OH.

Executive action making it harder to restore voting rights—IA, FL.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have an article that is dated today, Monday, May 7, 2012, from the Associated Press, Congress’s Intelligence Heads: Taliban Has Grown Stronger under Obama.

Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN and Representative MIKE ROGERS, who I just saw outside, a smart guy, former FBI agent, well respected in the areas of law enforcement and the security of this country, well, as the article points out, and there are other articles as well, I believe Human Events also had one, but this article from the AP says:

The leaders of congressional intelligence committees said Sunday that the Taliban had grown stronger since President Barack Obama sent 33,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan in 2010.

Pessimistic reports from Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich., challenges Obama’s own assessment last week in his visit to Kabul that the “tide has turned” and “we broke the Taliban’s momentum.”

The two recently returned from a fact-finding trip to the region where they met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

“President Karzai believes that the Taliban will not come back. I’m not so sure,” Feinstein said. “The Taliban has a shadow system of governors in many provinces.”

When asked if the Taliban’s capabilities have been degraded since Obama deployed the additional troops two years ago, Feinstein said: “I think we’d both say that what we’ve found is that the Taliban is stronger.”

I was in Afghanistan a couple weeks ago. I was in Afghanistan a couple months before that. As far as the Afghans pointed out, former ally—well, they are still allies, as far as they are concerned. This administration has thrown them under the bus—but they pointed out, you know, from the Taliban’s perspective, they said to us, the Taliban, do not have to win a single battle. All we have to do is be here when the United States leaves.

Now, a couple of weeks ago, of course, the administration, the two Cabinet members, were requesting that my dear friend, DANA ROHRABACHER, not go into Afghanistan for one reason—that President Hamid Karzai didn’t want him to come in. Now, apparently, Karzai, ignorant of what is actually going on in Washington, had said that we, the Taliban, do not have to win a single battle. All we have to do is be here when the United States leaves.

Now, I understand Secretary Clinton inherited a State Department and a situation in Afghanistan that was not of her making. I get that. And, in fact, since my friend, Congressman ROHRABACHER, proposed a bill that would partition or divide up Afghanistan. Well, I worked with Congressman ROHRABACHER on his very good bill, and basically it is a sense of Congress that says we support the Afghans’ right to vote for their leaders.

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Well, when you find out from Afghans that actually the Afghanistan Government has a $12.5 billion budget and all the sources of revenue that Afghanistan can come up with provide $1.5 billion of their $12.5 billion budget, and the rest comes from other countries like the United States, and when one considers the billions of dollars that we are spending for humanitarian projects, training farmers to farm as I’ve met with the teachers, American teachers, to farm, they’re so depressed because the billions we’ve spent, given basically to Afghanistan to create farming projects so the people can maintain themselves when we’re gone, have not made its way to any of those projects in that region of the country. There is a region where apparently some has made it to projects, but certainly not all and probably not most of them.

So it would seem if you’re the President of the United States and you’re in a country whose government has a $12.5 billion budget and they can only come up with $1.5 billion of that and you’re the big force behind all of the other $11 billion, it would seem to me that there shouldn’t be a whole lot of negotiation that has to take place.

What kind of person does not understand living? The President accepted, of course, because it appears that the foreign policy that we’ve run into from President Obama’s administration is we’ve got people around the world that hate us, want to destroy us, so we’re going to give them money. We’re going to buy them an office in Qatar, as we’ve offered the Taliban. We’re going to be releasing their murdering thugs that we’ve got in detention, and then maybe they will like us enough to agree with us. That sounds like we’ve spent too much time community organizing and not enough time studying history. That’s no way to negotiate.

If one wishes to approach an individual, and like in my situation, being a Christian, we’re supposed to help the needy—“blessed are the meek.” The Beatitudes are quite compelling.

The government has a different role. The government is to protect the people. As Romans 13 points out, if you do evil, be afraid, because the government does not bear the sword in vain. The government’s role is to protect people so individually they can live the kind of life that so much of our heritage embraces. The government is supposed to protect the people. It’s supposed to punish evil, and it actually is supposed to encourage good.

We’ve gotten so far off track. Back in the sixties, well-intentioned, we began paying young women to have children out of wedlock, born out of the best of intentions. Now that dads were not helping, so let’s help them out. Instead, what they did is lure young women away from a high school education, in many cases—I’ve had many of them come before my court—and lure them into a rut they couldn’t get out of.

We have senior citizens on Social Security whose religious beliefs embrace marriage as being the ultimate living situation between a man and a woman. Let’s see. This article was from CNN, they reiterate:

The heads of the Senate and House Intelligence Committees Sunday said the Taliban was gaining ground.

The President added, the administration was in direct discussion with the Taliban, saying the group can be a part of the country’s future if it breaks with al Qaeda, renounces violence, and abide by Afghan laws.

We saw that same kind of effort by this administration. There was a Taliban leader who was released with the consent of this administration basically because it was the humanitarian thing to do, to let him die in peace. Well, he was released from detention. As the Afghans, who have buried families and friends while fighting with American troops against the Taliban initially—before this administration threw the under bus—they’ve said, hey, that Taliban leader that you released, the U.S. authorized the release because he was going to go die and this would be the humanitarian thing to do, guess what? He’s back in Afghanistan, and he was on Afghanistan’s biggest television station. He said three things. Two of them were that it is very clear to the world that the United States has lost, and that’s why the United States—as everyone in the world knows who’s paying attention—the United States is begging the Taliban to come just sit down and negotiate with us. Please, we know you murdered thousands of Americans. We give you $1.5 billion a year, that’s enough money for you to come and sit down with us. We’ll keep releasing your murdering thugs if you will just agree to sit down with us and talk. Why, we’ll even buy you a wonderful office in Qatar so you will have international prestige. That’s enough money for you to come and sit down with us. We’ll keep releasing your murdering thugs if you will just agree to sit down with us and talk. Why, we’ll even buy you a wonderful office in Qatar so you will have international prestige. That’s enough money for you to come and sit down with us.

The President’s own proposal, although he’s been out saying he was going after millionaires and billionnaires, when you look at the specific proposals—which he finally put in print so we can see in print what he really believes—as he continues to say we’re going after millionaires and billionnaires, the Buffett tax, that kind of thing; you look at the specific proposal and he’s basically making more than $125,000 a year if you’re married, $250,000 if you’re filing jointly. If you’re single, it can be $200,000 to $225,000. So, once again, the President wants to promote living together rather than being married, as evidenced by what he provides money for.

Now, we know that we’ve been told by this administration repeatedly, look, if we just show the Taliban how good a people we are and how good our motivation will fall into line. I’ve said and will keep saying: You don’t have to pay people to hate you; they’ll do it for free. We are wasting billions. We have wasted trillions of dollars over all these many years. So this administration continues to try to buy the affection of the Taliban.

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What do you want? Do you want more of your murdering thugs released so maybe they can kill more of our Afghan allies or more American troops? Everyone agrees that this is expensive. But who is it expensive for? Do you want to kill more? We hope you won’t; but if you’ll just say, we won’t kill if you’ll let us go, then we’ll let you go.

This reminds me of the naivete of Secretary Madeleine Albright and President Bill Clinton who, in essence, told North Korea, look, we will give you everything you need to make nuclear weapons if you’ll promise us that you will only use it to make nuclear power. Everybody in North Korea basically said, really? All we have to do—you know we’re liars. You’ve caught us in lies repeatedly. But all we have to do is tell...
you’ll never use it for nukes, and you’ll give us all this stuff? Well, sure, yeah. Oh, yeah. Yeah, you’ve caught us in so many lies? What’s one more?

So, guess who has nuclear weapons now that we worry about? The same people the Clinton administration gave nuclear materials and information to, simply on the promise that they wouldn’t use it to make nuclear weapons.

What a lovely world it would be.

Back to the article from Fox News:

We have made it clear that they, the Taliban, can be a part of this future if they break with al Qaeda, renounce violence, and abide by Afghan laws. Many members of the Taliban, from foot soldiers to leaders, have indicated an interest in reconciliation. A path to peace is now set before them, Obama said.

The upcoming NATO Summit in Chicago, the U.S. coalition will set a goal for Afghan forces to take the lead in combat operations across the country next year.

Look, Mr. Speaker, it makes sense that all of us should want peace. All of us, I know in this body, want peace. But just as we’ve seen signs around this Capitol since I’ve been in Congress saying war never brought peace, there is a naivete of some people who think if you individual blessedness, turn the other cheek, those kinds of things, from a government standpoint, that other governments controlled by terrorists, war criminals, mad men, that they will respond to that, when the truth is that’s an individual approach.

The Nation’s government must be about providing for the common defense, number one, against all enemies, foreign and domestic. We should be doing that. And that means when there are murdering thugs in the world who have sworn to do everything they can to destroy the United States of America, we have to take them seriously and take them out, if necessary. We have that obligation to the people we were sent here to protect.

When I took an oath to the United States Army, it was the same kind of oath. We were supposed to serve and protect. And best of intentions, good will does not defeat terrorists who have made clear they will not stop until they’re dead and, they think, in paradise, or we are dead and our government gone.

Now, we know that the term Islamophobia, Islamophobe have come from—been pushed by the Organization of Islamic Conference as a way to further their goals. Anybody stands up to point out that there are radical Islamist jihadists who want to destroy everyone who does not believe as they do—we know that those people were behind 9/11, killing 3,000, over 3,000, innocent people, and that the only regret that those individuals had was that more people were not killed. They’d hoped that perhaps 50,000-55,000 would have been killed in the two World Trade Centers.

You can’t, as the United States Government, just turn the other cheek when there are people coming into this country illegally wanting to destroy us. They’re not just people coming for jobs anymore. There’s the OTM, as they are classified.

So some of us who will call radical Islamic jihad what it is, a policy of annihilation, a small minority of Muslims, they want to call some of us Islamophobes. Islamophobes. Give me a break.

Two weeks ago I was in Afghanistan. Karzai didn’t want our friend, Dana Rohrabacher, to go in. Dana, over the patriot, he was persuaded by Secretary Clinton not to push the issue because talks were in such delicate shape at the time.

Delicate shape? We pull out, don’t give any more money, and Karzai collapses. He’ll either be out of the country with money he’s stowed away, or he’ll be subjugated by the Taliban if we pull out and don’t provide any assistance. And we have to go begging him for talks? Excuse me? Delicate talks?

We know that President Karzai is Pashtun. He can deal with the Taliban. It appears he’s dealing with them somewhat like Malikî is dealing with the Iranians who want to take over Iraq, calling, as necessary, to keep his position.

There are ways to execute foreign policy that don’t cost thousands of American lives, that don’t have to exist on the good intentions of people who are sworn to murder and destroy us.

The enemy of our enemy is our friend. And that was seen, once again, a couple of weeks ago in Afghanistan. Congressman Rohrabacher had hoped to be at the meeting with our Northern Alliance friends. Most of them are part of the National Front now. I would hope that one of them would be elected President of Afghanistan.

My friend, Massoud, his older brother, might have been the one person to create the conditions. But the patriot, he was persuaded by Secretary Clinton not to push the issue because talks were in such delicate shape at the time. We know that President Karzai is Pashtun. He can deal with the Taliban. It appears he’s dealing with them somewhat like Malikî is dealing with the Iranians who want to take over Iraq, calling, as necessary, to keep his position.

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General Dostum, many consider the great hero of late 2001, early 2002, when the Northern Alliance tribes defeated the Taliban on horseback, fearless warriors. And this administration thanks them by publicly calling them war criminals. These were our allies. These are the enemy of our enemy.

Yes, Muslim. No Islamophobe here, because I recognize the enemy of my friend is my enemy.

Those people fought with us and for us. There is something very strong in the bond—or should be—between the people of the United States who fought, buried family or loved ones, and those in the Northern Alliance who fought with us and who fought, those who sacrificed for their friends, there is a bond there. But instead of embracing that bond and utilizing that bond, those who fought for us and with us, who did most of the fighting when the Taliban was initially defeated, have been thrown under the bus.

So when they were gathering on Sunday 2 weeks ago and when they wanted to meet with some Congress, three Members of Congress went. At first, we were told, Well, gee, there’s just not enough security to get you there.

Then I pointed out to the person coordinating the security for our five Members of Congress, didn’t you see that gate out there at the embassy? You’re going to have to take me down before I get out the gate.

He said, Sir, we’re not authorized to take down a Member of Congress.

I said, Well, then, you will not stop me. I’m going to see our friends. Massoud, who is the head of security, has assured me they’re going to have bulletproof vehicles to pick us up, and I’m going with them.

Amazingly, this thirty-or-so minutes after our next meeting, we had American security taking us to the meeting. We were quite safe there. They made sure of that. They didn’t want anything to happen to their American visitors.

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann and Congressman Michael Burgess, we would have had to have taken an additional vehicle had more than three Members gone. So John Carter, being the gentleman, said, Mike Burgess, do you want me to go and Michele Bachmann and I went to see our friends—Mohaqiq and numerous other leaders of the National Front.

Now, it’s interesting. They pointed out—and you’ve probably heard—about Karzai, saying, Gee, he believes so much in our Constitution—and the Constitution says, if you serve two terms, you can’t run for a third term—that he may resign a year early. He said, Your people, your leaders in America seem to be exactly right.

The truth is that the people who are advising Karzai are all trying to figure out—How can we get around that prohibition from running for a third term?—and they think they may have it. They think that, if he resigns a year early and if somebody else takes over Afghanistan for a year, with or without an election, then he could say, Gee, I never served two terms. I resigned before the second term?—and they think they may have it. They think that, if he resigns a year early and if somebody else takes over Afghanistan for a year or two, with or without an election, then he could say, Gee, I never served two terms. I resigned before the second term. Gee, the U.S. is going to have troops out by 2014. Therefore, I could run in 2014. The U.S. will not be around with any strength to enforce such an agreement of my not running. And gee, aren’t you glad that the people really want me to run?

We know there has been corruption in those votes over there, but the system that’s set up in Afghanistan is a system that creates conduits for fraud. We could strengthen Afghanistan if we would simply allow the people to elect their regional-provincial governors, elect their mayors, let them pick their own chiefs of police, not the President...
Karzai cronies. That’s a system that’s fraught with the kind of danger you found, fraud you found in the old Roman Empire, where they would appoint a governor of a region, but of course you had to kick back to the one who appointed you. That’s the kind of system they have right now in Afghanistan.

In talking, there are some who say, well, there are some supplies of the Taliban’s coming through northern Pakistan; most people are saying, we think the Taliban is getting most of their supplies through southern Balochistan. The Baloch have been terrorized for decades by northern Pakistan. Before 1947-48, when lines seemed to be arbitrarily drawn in creating countries, Balochistan had never been a part of Pakistan. For decades now, it has. The people have been terrorized.

After Congressmen ROHRABACHER and STEVE KING also met with Baloch leaders, the idea struck me: since the Baloch are tired of being terrorized by northern Pakistan, by the leaders in Islamabad, they could be quite self-sufficient in having natural resources, which is much of what the nation would need to survive on its own; the USA, perhaps, there may be a lot of Muslims. This non-Islamophobe knows that the enemy of our enemies is our friend. We can support them. We can help each other. So that’s why Congressman ROHRABACHER and I proposed a bill that would support the creation of an independent Balochistan. As one person in the region over there said, Wow, if Balochistan were independent, that would change everything.

Now, I know this President is not gifted on foreign policy—I get that—but it doesn’t mean he can’t learn. Then you look at Pakistan. While this administration is trying to play footsie with Pakistan and while they’re trying to play footsie with China, who let them in to see our stealth helicopter? China. Who was it that they harbored in their country—the greatest enemy, public enemy number one, of the United States—and kept there, supposedly, for years? This administration wants to isolate them, how they can just like it’s trying to do with the Taliban and our other leaders. Maybe we can buy them off. Maybe we can do something to show them how sweet and kind we are.

Those types of people see that as weakness. It’s like blood to a shark. They’re drawn to it, and they will devour us if we don’t show strength rather than weakness.

So an independent Balochistan gave me an interesting idea. Congressman ROHRABACHER and I had done an op-ed that was published, and it was my conviction that we stick in there a line about the potential for an independent Balochistan. Interestingly, after that was published there was an article published in the Pakistan Daily News. I thought I had a copy of it here. I must not. Oh, here it is. It was published back in January. It says this in the article in the Pakistan Daily Times:

In another interesting development, Louie Gohmert, a U.S. Republican Representative, proposed that, in order to beat the Taliban, the U.S. should carve out a new, friendly state, Balochistan, from within Pakistan, to stabilize Afghanistan’s western border.

The article goes on:

Even if Mr. Gohmert does not necessarily speak for Washington, it is logical to assume that he made this observation after picking up the buzz in American political circles. The U.S. wants a consulate in Quetta, but so far, Pakistan has resisted. The geo-strategic location of Balochistan and its potential in minerals, gas and oil is something that interests the world’s sole superpower.

So says the Pakistan Daily Times.

They say the Baloch resistance movement is one of the few, if not the only, good to see them, to see a terrorist movement by the U.S. The U.S.’s soft attitude towards this resistance movement does not necessarily mean that they are enamored of the complaints and aspirations of the Baloch, but that the Americans have the highest interest there. They may now want to snip away at the roots of the Pakistan military’s dual policy in the war on terror by a flanking move in Balochistan.

The Pakistan Daily Times says:

Before this loud thinking is embraced as policy by Washington, for our own territorial integrity, we should do away with our double game in the war on terror and politically settle Balochistan’s issues. By helping the Afghan Taliban and other jihadi groups, we have only weakened our own country. It is time that the military realizes this folly. In discriminate killing of the Baloch by the military and its intelligence agencies cannot and must not be tolerated. The political leadership must talk to the Baloch resistance. Only through negotiations and a dialogue can the Balochistan issue be settled peacefully.

The enemy of our enemy should be our friend. That is why when Congresswoman BACHMANN, Congressman BURGESS, and I got to the home of my friend Massoud, with all these other National Front leaders there waiting, and I got out of the vehicle, they knew my heart. They know we are friends who have the same enemies. And there was embracing all around because it truly was good to see them alive, and to see them in their own country in Massoud’s own home. They fought with us, they fought for us, and they bore the brunt of the battle against the Taliban in late 2001 and early 2002 when they were routed initially. We added over 100,000 troops, got over 100,000 under this President, and things are not going as well as they were when the Northern Alliance was fighting them with simply a matter of hundreds of Americans embedded with our support. It’s not going as well as it was then.

Occupiers in Afghanistan—Russia for example. Going clear back to Alexander the Great, we know he died leaving that area, that things didn’t go as well as he might have hoped. They’ve learned that occupiers don’t do all that well in Afghanistan. Empower the enemy of your enemy. Don’t try to buy the enemy that destroys you. Empower the enemy of your enemy.

I mentioned earlier about the Taliban leader that we released who is back with the Taliban. I mentioned one of the three things he said. He said, It’s apparent to everybody that the U.S. has lost because they’re begging us to come negotiate. Another thing he pointed out, which is consistent with sharia law, is that anyone who has not been supportive of the Taliban in the past needs to first come to the Taliban—and under Karzai they’ve been able to be more public, and they have a public presence. He says, Come to us, ask for forgiveness, ask for our protection, and you may be spared. From my understanding of sharia law, you can avoid being killed under sharia law if you come ask for forgiveness, and ask for just such a way as this Taliban leader—fresh from his U.S. reprieve—is out there saying.

And again, the Taliban position is, we probably can’t defeat the U.S. in a single battle. We don’t have to—we’ve just got to be here when you leave. And the heartbreaking aspect of that, for those of us who have attended too many funerals of Americans who have paid the full measure of devotion, is that we’re going to be in a situation where the Taliban is empowered again, other Americans will have to come down the road in the future and fight the Taliban, and more American lives will be lost. It’s not necessary.

Come to us, ask for forgiveness, and ask for our protection, and you may be spared.
Now this administration seeks to go back to September 10, and it is cleaning its training materials of any reference to Islamic jihad. It is bringing in noncitizens. It is bringing in Members of the Muslim Brotherhood to advise it. And the thing you’ve got to do is eliminate any reference to Islam, any reference to jihad. So this administration, from the Department of Justice, Department of State, Department of Defense, intelligence agencies, has been very compliant. That is ongoing. As one intelligence official said, we’re blinding ourselves from the ability to see our enemy.

What’s going on these days will be the subject of historic articles that will continue to allude to America’s War on Terror. The War on Terror could be so naive and/or stupid that we would be at war and not know it for 30-plus years, and that in the fight of such a war, we would bring in people who support our enemies’ actions to tell us how to fight the war. There will be articles and history books that will repeat the question: How could they not see what they were doing was going to bring either an end to America or devastation to America, one or the other?

Well, we know that in the news this week, we have such people down in Guantanamo, the 9/11 detainees, as they’re referred to. I have got a couple of articles here. The New York Times is talking about the detainees showing defiance, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and the other detainees: “9/11 mastermind, four cohorts to be arraigned.” That was last week. “Mohammed Joined by Four Codefendants in Deferring Pleas,” a couple of days ago. There’s another article: “Outrage as 9/11 Defense Counsel Insists Women Cover Themselves.” What happened to the freedom the people in our military are fighting for? Amazing. “Lawyer Defending 9/11 Suspects Wearing Burqa in Court ‘Out of Respect.’”

Well, there is a great article—and it certainly wasn’t recent—that points out that these detainees are ready to plead guilty. They’re ready to come in and plead guilty. And this is a New York Times article: “Five Charged in 9/11 Attacks Seek to Plead Guilty.” Most people had not seen that title. All they’ve been hearing about is how they’re disrupting the pleadings. This trial could go on for years and years. They’re making a mockery out of it. And the reason people haven’t seen the title of this article, “Five Charged in 9/11 Attacks Seek to Plead Guilty,” by the New York Times is because it was published December 8 and 9 of 2008. In 2008, these detainees indicated they were willing to plead guilty.

These detainees—particularly Khalid Sheikh Mohammed—had been through a lengthy questioning by the judge. He had spelled out his role in different things, not only in the 9/11 plot but his role in other terrorist acts. He had filled out that, if we have terrorized you, then praise be to Allah. He said, in essence, in that pleading, if you are Jewish or American, you deserve to die; you are an infidel. And he prayed that Allah would help them to continue to terrorize America.

But a sad thing happened on the way between those guilty pleas in late 2008 and here, going on 4 years later. Virtually nothing has been accomplished. In fact, we are further back from where we were in December of 2008 because we had the H&O policy—the Holder and Obama policy—of, Gee, we’re going to give you the chance—this isn’t what they said, they were going to give us a way that we can have a show trial. In fact, the Attorney General wants to give us that show trial in downtown New York. Wow. Allah be praised. We’re going to get to go back to the scene of the crime and create all that chaos and all the heartache for the people of Manhattan.

Well, Congress, fortunately, said, that’s not going to happen. They are going to be tried, and you can see and hear could understand that what the Talibain, what al Qaeda, what radical Islamic jihadists would hear is, We’re going to give you a show trial. Why would you want to plead guilty?

So these guys, as of December ‘08 said, Whoa, this guy Eric Holder—hey, he’s represented terrorists. He will identify with us. The President, the community organizer he is, he’s going to help us. So they’re going to give us a way that we can have a show trial. In fact, the Attorney General wants to give us that show trial in downtown New York. Wow. Allah be praised. We’re going to get to go back to the scene of the crime and create all that chaos and all the heartache for the people of Manhattan.

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worth saving and there were free-market principles that could have been followed to get us out of that mess to avoid encouraging further risk taking.

And I would commend, Mr. Speaker, people to Mike Franc’s work at the Heritage Foundation that disclosed that despite the rhetoric of the President, how he’s going after fat cats on Wall Street, the Wall Street executives and their immediate family donated to President Obama four-to-one over Senator McCain. And they’ve done extremely well under this President. It’s almost as if there is a deal: Look, I’ll call you “fat cats,” I’ll call you all kinds of names—millionaires, billionaires—I’ll trash you, but you’ll make more money than ever and then I’ll put taxes on those that make over $125,000, and then I’ll say I’m going after major oil, Big Oil, and probably nobody will read the bills.

I read it. I read the President’s own words. He’s going after independent oil companies. He’s eliminating their deductions. Major oil companies are not going to hurt major oil, from what he’s proposed, but he’ll put the independents out of business. The majors will make more money than ever because 95 percent of all wells drilled in the continental U.S. are drilled by independent oil and gas producers. So he says he’s going after major oil, but they’ll make more money than ever if he gets his way.

One other thing: This is an election year, and my colleague from Texas was really going after Texas over the voter ID. I would point out to my friend from Texas, and any others, Mr. Speaker, that the fact is that bill in Texas says, if you can’t afford a State ID card, we’ll give you one. There are people that volunteer to even get you there to get it done. Let’s avoid fraudulent elections further.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and May 8 on account of personal reasons.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and May 8.

**ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED**

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were the veto reason signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2079. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 Main Street in East Rockaway, New York, as the “John J. Cook Post Office”.

H.R. 2212. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Eastport Street in Iuka, Mississippi, as the “Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office”.

H.R. 2244. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 67 Castle Street in Geneva, New York, as the “Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office”.

H.R. 2660. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 Ector Boulevard in Tomball, Texas, as the “Tomball Veterans Post Office”.

H.R. 2767. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8 West Silver Street in Westfield, Massachusetts, as the “William T. Trant Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3004. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 260 California Drive in Yountville, California, as the “Private First Class Alejandro R. Ruiz Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3246. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the “Corporal Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3247. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Town and Country Commons in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the “Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building”.

H.R. 3248. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 South 5th Street in Saint Charles, Missouri, as the “Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building”.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. GOHMER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o’clock and 53 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 8, 2012, at 10 a.m. 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:

H.R. 298. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Conservation Loan Program (RIN: 0560-AJ84) received April 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

H.R. 3010. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s annual report for fiscal year 2011 on the quality of health care furnished under the health care programs of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

H.R. 3069. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Administration’s annual report to the Committee on Armed Services.

H.R. 3070. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Department is pursuing a Multi-Year Procurement (MYP) contract for Virginia Class Submarines for Fiscal Year 2014 through 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

H.R. 3085. A letter from the Acting Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting Office of Minority and Women Inclusion’s annual report to the Committee on Financial Services.

H.R. 3086. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission’s final rule on the exclusions for Security-Based Swaps Issued by Certain Clearing Agencies (Release Nos.: 33-9308; 34-66328; File No. S7-12-16) received April 13, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.


H.R. 3088. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s report on the expended appropriated funds for the Medicare Integrity Program for Fiscal Year 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 3089. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Water Sources for Long-Term Reactor Coolant Cooling System-Coolant Accident, Regulatory Guide 1.82 received April 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 3090. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Radiological Protection Guidance for Verifying Compliance with Packaging Requirements for Shipping and Receiving of Radioactive Material, Regulatory Guide 7.7 received April 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 3091. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Water Sources for Long-Term Reactor Coolant Cooling System-Cross-Flow Coolant Accident, Regulatory Guide 1.82 received April 2, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 3092. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to Iran and Syria, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 112-105) to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.


H.R. 3094. A letter from the General Counsel, General Services Administration, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

H.R. 3095. A letter from the Executive/Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administrator’s annual report to the Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments (FAC 2005-38; Item IV; Docket 2012-0079; Sequence 2) received April 19, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.
5874. A letter from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish Managed Under the Individual Fishing Quota Program (Docket Nos.: 101126522-0900-02 and 1112113751-2102-02) (RIN: 0648-XB089) received April 16, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5875. A letter from the Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer, Postal Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission’s annual report for FY 2011 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5876. A letter from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Department’s 2010 Annual Report on the Oceans and Human Health, January 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5877. A letter from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator For Reguatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Standard Operating Procedures; and Changes in Provider and Supplier Enrollment, Ordering and Referring, and Documentation Requirements; and Changes in Provider Agreement Terms (CMS-6010-F) (RIN: 0938-AQ01) received April 25, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5878. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska (Docket Nos.: 111207057-2141-02) (RIN: 0648-HB100) received April 16, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5879. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator For Reguatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; High Seas Fisheries Northwest Atlantic; and High Seas Fisheries West Coast States; Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Swordfish Retention Limits (Docket Nos.: 11070371-2136-02 and 111207058-2141-02) (RIN: 0648-BA067) received April 16, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5880. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sabrefish Managed Under the Individual Fishing Quota Program, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department’s 2011 Annual Report of the Ombudsman for the Energy Employees Occupational Compensation Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 7365-15(e); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5881. A letter from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2072; (H. Doc. No. 112-104); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

5882. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department’s “Major” final rule — Standards for Living Organisms in Ships’ Ballast Water Discharged in U.S. Waters (Docket No.: 1112113751-2102-02) (RIN: 0648-AA32) received April 26, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5883. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s “Major” final rule — Medicaid and Medicare Programs; Changes and Supersede Enrollement, Ordering and Referring, and Documention Requirements; and Changes in Provider Agreement Terms (CMS-6010-F) (RIN: 0938-AQ01) received April 25, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

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:

(Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 631 the following reports were filed on May 2, 2012)

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARK of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAHN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MOORE, Mr. POLIS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 5331. A bill to provide protections against violence against immigrant women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as may fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BERKLEY:

H.R. 5332. A bill to prohibit agency restrictions on conference locations; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. BERKLEY:

H.R. 5333. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as may fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BILBRAY (for himself and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 5334. A bill to amend section 206 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to expedite the development and review of breakthrough therapies; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 5335. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain forged ring gear components and certain other parts of crankshafts and connecting rods; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 5336. A bill to reduce temporarily the rate of duty on certain forged ring gear components and certain other parts of crankshafts and connecting rods; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BUERKLE (for herself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 5338. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures comprising poly(methyl methacrylate) and zinc acetate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BUERKLE (for herself and Mr. REED):
H.R. 5339. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures comprising titanium dioxide and dimethyl hydrogen phosphite; to the Committee on Ways and Means.
By Ms. BUERKLE (for herself and Mr. REED): 

H.R. 5340. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on manganese ferrite carrier covered with acrylic resin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.
By Mrs. CAPPS: 

H.R. 5341. A bill to improve postmarket risk identification and analysis with respect to medical devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.
By Mr. CASSIDY: 

H.R. 5342. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 3-[8-Amino-1-(2-phenyl-quinolin-7-yl)-imidazo[1,5-a]pyrazin-3-yl]-1-methyl-butylcarbonyloxy) styrene-4-hydroxystyrene; to the Committee on Ways and Means.
By Mr. DOLD (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana): 

H.R. 5343. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dimethyl hydrogen phosphite; to the Committee on Ways and Means.
By Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. HONDA): 

H.R. 5344. A bill to prevent and respond to hazing incidents involving members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.
By Mr. DOLD: 

H.R. 5345. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 3-(8-Amino-1-(2-phenylquinolin-7-yl)-imidazo[1,5-a]pyrazin-3-yl)-1-methyl-cyclobutanol (OSI-906); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 5346. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Macroporous poly(divinylbenzene); to the Committee on Ways and Means.
By Mr. DOLD (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana): 

H.R. 5347. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain ion-exchange resin powder; to the Committee on Ways and Means.
By Mr. DOLD (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana): 

H.R. 5348. A bill to temporarily suspend the duty on poly(4-(1-isobutoxy ethoxy)styrene-co-hydroxystyrene); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 5349. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Cypermethrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 5350. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Dicofuran; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 5351. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Altuglas®; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 5352. A bill to extend temporarily the duty on dimethylisopropylamine (DMIPA); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 5353. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain reusable grocery bags; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 5354. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixed xylidines; to the Committee on Ways and Means.
By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself and Mr. MANZULLO, Mrs. B LACKBURN, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mrs. ELLMERS): 

H.R. 5355. A bill to extend the temporary duty on Dodecyl aniline, mixed isomers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5356. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on n-Ethyl-n-Benzyl Aniline; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 5357. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4-Sulfo-1,8-naphthalic anhydride potassium salt; to the Committee on Ways and Means.
programs of the United States Government; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5389. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on pyrazol-3-yl]-oxymethyl[phenyl) -N-
(3,4,5-trifluorophenyl-2-yl)]pyrazole-4-
carboxamide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5385. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain wire containing 2 percent or more by weight of gold and with dopants added to control microstructures; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5386. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Methyl N-[[1-(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-
pyrazol-3-yl]-oxymethylphenyl) -N-
methacrylamide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5387. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on Peraclostrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5389. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Topremazone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 5400. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light crystal white rubber, not over 200 mm; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 5413. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on microscopes other than optical microscopes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 5414. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on lead-acid 12-volt batteries; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 5415. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain non-women's footwear; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 5416. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on microscopes and optical instruments and apparata; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 5417. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on insulated cable for a voltage of less than or equal to 1,000 volts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 5418. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain electric storage batteries; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 5419. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on power digestors; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 5420. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dry nickel-metal hydride batteries; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 5421. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain electric storage batteries; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 5422. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Zeta-cypermethrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 5423. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain non-women's footwear; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 5424. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dry nickel-metal hydride batteries; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 5425. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain electric storage batteries; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 5426. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain footwear for girls with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather, or composition leather and uppers not over 200 mm; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HONDA:
H.R. 5427. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics, covering the ankle, other than work footwear; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:
H.R. 5423. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on lightweight digital camera lenses measuring approximately 55 mm or more but not over 200 mm; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:
H.R. 5424. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on lightweight digital camera lenses measuring approximately 70 mm or more; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:
H.R. 5425. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on lightweight digital camera lenses measuring approximately 90 mm or more; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:
H.R. 5426. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on lightweight digital camera lenses measuring approximately 110 mm or more; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP:
H.R. 5427. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on lightweight digital camera lenses measuring approximately 130 mm or more; to the Committee on Ways and Means.
By Mr. MEKETH:  
H.R. 5451. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Methane Sulfinic Acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEKETH:  
H.R. 5452. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 11-Aminoundecanoic acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEKETH:  
H.R. 5453. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain textured rolled glass sheets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEKETH:  
H.R. 5454. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on coarse Pigmented clays; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania:  
H.R. 5455. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Pigment Violet 23; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania:  
H.R. 5456. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on methylated and butylated melamine-formaldehyde polymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEKETH:  
H.R. 5457. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on pigments based on titanium dioxide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania:  
H.R. 5458. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain extrusion presse; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PITTS:  
H.R. 5459. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain smooth nonwoven fiberglass sheets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:  
H.R. 5460. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on copper oxychloride and copper hydroxide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:  
H.R. 5461. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Tetraconazole; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:  
H.R. 5462. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on Isocladifen-Ethyl; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:  
H.R. 5463. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Sethoxydim /Nicobifen; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:  
H.R. 5464. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1-(4,6-dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl)-3-[2-(dimethylcarbamoyl)phenyl]amino]-propyl]-pentamethyl-, trichloride, poly-

By Mr. MEKETH:  
H.R. 5471. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on metal screw type bases designed for high intensity discharge (HID) lamps; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:  
H.R. 5472. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on preformed iodide pellets or powder tamped of indium, thallium, sodium, holmium, thulium and calcium; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEKETH:  
H.R. 5473. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on frit rings composed of dysprosium oxide, dysprosium monoaluminate, and mullite; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:  
H.R. 5474. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on cermet for ceramic discharge lamp; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEKETH:  
H.R. 5475. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on polycrystalline alumina discharge tubes prefilled with metal halide salts and designated for high intensity discharge (HID) lamps; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:  
H.R. 5476. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on ceramic bases designed for high intensity discharge lamp, with metal locking pins to allow passage of an electrical current; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEKETH:  
H.R. 5477. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) cooler modules (LCM); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:  
H.R. 5478. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) Tubular LED (TLED); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEKETH:  
H.R. 5479. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) down light modules (DLM); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:  
H.R. 5480. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) display modules (LDM); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEKETH:  
H.R. 5481. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) line modules; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:  
H.R. 5482. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) twisable down light modules (TDLM); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEKETH:  
H.R. 5483. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) spot light modules (SLM); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:  
H.R. 5484. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on light emitting diode (LED) drivers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEKETH:  
H.R. 5485. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain narrow woven fabrics; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEKETH:  
H.R. 5486. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on outer soles and heels, of rubber or plastic; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEKETH:  
H.R. 5487. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on low expansion laboratory glassware, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REICHERT:  
H.R. 5489. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain power panels specifically designed for wind turbine generators; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania:  
H.R. 5490. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain switchgear assemblies and panel boards specifically designed for wind turbine generators; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:  
H.R. 5491. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to make a technical correction relating to sanitary towels (pads) and tampons, diapers and diaper liners for babies and similar articles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:  
H.R. 5492. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain warp knit open-work fabric to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:  
H.R. 5493. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on plastic laminate sheets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:  
H.R. 5494. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain narrow woven fabrics; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REICHERT:  
H.R. 5495. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-cyclo-hexylidene-2-phenylacetonitrile; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:  
H.R. 5496. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain artificial filament single yarn; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SCHMIDT:  
H.R. 5497. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain narrow woven fabrics; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:  
H.R. 5498. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on low expansion laboratory glassware, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REICHERT:  
H.R. 5499. A bill to modify and extend the suspension of duty on certain cases or containers used for electronic drawing toys, electronic games, or educational toys or devices; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. REED:  
H.R. 5500. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on Methylionone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.
By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:
H.R. 5504. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Dichloroacetyl Chloride; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:
H.R. 5505. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Profenoids; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:
H.R. 5506. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Sedaxane; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:
H.R. 5507. A bill to reduce temporarily the rate of duty on 8-N-ALKYL-ANILIN; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STIVERS:
H.R. 5508. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain electrically operated pencil sharpeners; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STIVERS:
H.R. 5509. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4-Vinylbenzenesulfonic acid, sodium salt hydrate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STIVERS:
H.R. 5510. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain smooth nonwoven fiberglass sheets of a type primarily used as acoustical facing for ceiling panels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STIVERS:
H.R. 5511. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4-Vinylbenzenesulfonic acid, lithium salt; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. HARPER, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. NUNNELEH):
H.R. 5512. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to realign divisions within two judicial districts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Mr. COTY of Colorado, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. GARNDER, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. MURABET):
H.R. 5513. A bill to require the collection of up-to-date information on tariff and non-tariff laws, regulations, and practices of foreign countries affecting exports of United States goods and services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. WALBERG:
H.R. 5514. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Modified Vinylicidole-Hydroxypropylacrylate copolymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALBERG:
H.R. 5515. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Vinyl chloride-Hydroxypropyl acrylate copolymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALBERG:
H.R. 5516. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Vinyl acetate-Alkeneolic acid Copolymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALBERG:
H.R. 5515. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Modified Vinylicidole-Hydroxypropylacrylate copolymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALBERG:
H.R. 5516. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Polyvinylacetate for use in food; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALBERG:
H.R. 5519. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Polyvinylacetate for use in food; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALBERG:
H.R. 5520. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Acrylate Modified Vinyl acetate-Vinyl chloride copolymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALSBY of Illinois:
H.R. 5521. A bill to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to set aside community development block grant funds for the purpose of building or repairing rental housing for manufactured or modular homes for families and for local chapters of veterans service organizations for rehabilitation of their facilities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WALLACE of South Carolina:
H.R. 5522. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 1,4-Benzenedicarboxylic acid copolymer with N,N-Bis(2-aminoethyl)-1,2-ethanediame, cyclized, methosulfate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:
H.R. 5523. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on fuel injectors each functional in a common rail fuel system with a pressure greater than 1200 bar; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:
H.R. 5524. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on cast-iron engine crankcases for marine propulsion engines, each measuring more than 1.1 meters in length; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:
H.R. 5525. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on forged steel crankshafts other than for vehicles of chapter 67, each measuring 1068 millimeters in length; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:
H.R. 5526. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on pistons for marine propulsion engines, each weighing 12 kilograms or more; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:
H.R. 5527. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on fuel injector pumps (for compression-ignition engines) each weighing 60 kilograms or more, and in a common rail fuel system with a pressure greater than 1200 bar; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:
H.R. 5528. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain woolen fabrics of synthetic staple fibers, containing 85 percent or more by weight of polyester staple fibers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:
H.R. 5529. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain synthetic fabrics of cotton, other than those containing more than 1500 grams or more and functional in a common rail fuel system with a pressure greater than 1200 bar; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:
H.R. 5530. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on textile fabrics of man-made fibers impregnated, coated, covered or laminated to polyurethane; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:
H.R. 5531. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain woolen fabrics of synthetic staple fibers containing less than 85 percent by weight of artificial staple fibers, mixed mainly with or solely with man-made filaments, of yarns of different colors; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:
H.R. 5532. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain wood knit fabrics; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:
H.R. 5533. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on "Long pile" fabrics of man-made fibers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:
H.R. 5534. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain smooth nonwoven fiberglass sheets of a type primarily used as acoustical facing for ceiling panels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:
H.R. 5535. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain smooth nonwoven fiberglass sheets of a type primarily used as acoustical facing for ceiling panels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:
H.R. 5536. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on "Long pile" fabrics of man-made fibers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:
H.R. 5537. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain smooth nonwoven fiberglass sheets of a type primarily used as acoustical facing for ceiling panels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE
May 7, 2012

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

195. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Wyoming, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 01 urging Congress to pass legislation to open the section 1002 study of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Refuge; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

196. Also a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Wyoming, relative to Joint Resolution No. 03 urging Congress to propose the Parental Rights Amendment to the states for ratification; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 5325
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse that Congress, through the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. WOLF:

H.R. 5326
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . ." In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: "The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . ." Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse that Congress, through the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. KISSELL:

H.R. 5327
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause I of Section I of the Constitution: All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representives.

By Mr. DINGELL:

H.R. 5328
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 5330
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Ms. SCHAROWSKY:

H.R. 5331
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution

By Ms. BERKLEY:

H.R. 5332
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which states: "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representives."

By Mr. BILBRAY:

H.R. 5334
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution which reads that Congress has power to "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 Mr. BILBRAY:

H.R. 5335
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution states that "Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises . . . ." Furthermore, according to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress has power to "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 Ms. BUERKLE:

H.R. 5336
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution states that "Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises . . . ." Furthermore, according to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress has power to "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 Ms. BUERKLE:

H.R. 5337
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BILBRAY:

H.R. 5338
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution states that "Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises . . . ." Furthermore, according to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress has power to "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 Ms. BUERKLE:

H.R. 5339
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution states that "Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises . . . ." Furthermore, according to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress has power to "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 Ms. BUERKLE:

H.R. 5340
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution states that "Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises . . . ." Furthermore, according to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress has power to "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 Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 5341
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 5342
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: "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 . . . .".

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 5343
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: "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 . . . .".

By Ms. BUERKLE:

H.R. 5344
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 5345
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 5346
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and
collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5356.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises..."

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5357.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises..."

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5358.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5359.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5360.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5361.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5362.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5363.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5364.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5365.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5366.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5367.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5368.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5369.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5370.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5371.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5372.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5373.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5374.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5375.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises...

By Mr. DOLD:
H.R. 5376.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, which states that, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises..."
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. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 5373.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section. 8.

Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5386.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5387.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5390.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5391.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
To regulate commerce with foreign nations.

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5392.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5393.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5394.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign nations as determined in Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5395.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign nations as determined in Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5396.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5397.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5398.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5399.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. FUDGE:
H.R. 5400.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5401.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5399.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8; “To regulate commerce with foreign nations”
The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5399.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8; “To regulate commerce with foreign nations”
The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5399.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8; “To regulate commerce with foreign nations”
The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5399.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8; “To regulate commerce with foreign nations”
The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5399.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8; “To regulate commerce with foreign nations”
The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5399.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8; “To regulate commerce with foreign nations”
The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This legislation is introduced under the authority of Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises"; and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to "regulate Commerce with foreign nations."

By Mr. ISRAEL:
H.R. 5435.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LOEBSACK:
H.R. 5436.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution which grants Congress the power to provide for the general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:
H.R. 5437.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:
H.R. 5438.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:
H.R. 5439.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:
H.R. 5440.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:
H.R. 5441.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:
H.R. 5442.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:
H.R. 5443.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

\begin{itemize}
\item Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.
\end{itemize}

By Mr. McDermott:
H.R. 5445.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

\begin{itemize}
\item Clause 3 of Section 8.
\end{itemize}

By Mr. MEEHAN:
H.R. 5446.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

\begin{itemize}
\item 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.
\item 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.
\item 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.
\item 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.
\item 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.
\item 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.
\item 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.
\end{itemize}
common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States..."

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina: H.R. 5469.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution:

"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. PRICE of North Carolina: H.R. 5470.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5471.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5472.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5473.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5474.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5475.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5476.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5477.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5478.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5479.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5480.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5481.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5482.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5483.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5484.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5485.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5486.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5487.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imports and excises

By Mr. REED: H.R. 5488.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, of the United States Constitution:

"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. ROTHMAN of New Jersey:

H.R. 5490.

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;

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 5507.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically: 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;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 5508.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically: 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;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 5509.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically: 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;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 5510.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically: 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;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 5511.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically: 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;

Clause 9 and clause 18 of section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution; and section 1 of Article III of the Constitution;

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 5513.
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. WALBERG: H.R. 5515.

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.

By Mr. WALBERG: H.R. 5516.

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.

By Mr. WALBERG: H.R. 5517.

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.

By Mr. WALBERG: H.R. 5518.

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.

By Mr. WALBERG: H.R. 5519.

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.

By Mr. WALBERG: H.R. 5520.

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.

By Mr. WALSH of Illinois: H.R. 5521.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, which states that** "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...."

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina: H.R. 5522.

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. WILSON of South Carolina: H.R. 5523.
H.R. 5326
OFFERED BY: MR. GOWDY
AMENDMENT NO. 1: Page 21, line 23, insert "(reduced by $1,000,000)" after the dollar amount.
Page 101, line 10, insert "(increased by $1,000,000)" after the dollar amount.
H.R. 5326
OFFERED BY: MR. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS
AMENDMENT NO. 2: Page 44, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by $10,000,000)".
H.R. 5326
OFFERED BY: MR. POMPEO
AMENDMENT NO. 3: Page 5, lines 17 through 21, after each dollar amount, insert "(reduced to $0)".
Page 6, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced to $0)"
Page 101, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $219,500,000)"
H.R. 5326
OFFERED BY: MR. LYNCH
AMENDMENT NO. 4: Page 7, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $4,000,000)"
Page 43, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $1,000,000)"
Page 44, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $4,000,000)"
H.R. 5326
OFFERED BY: MR. SESSIONS
AMENDMENT NO. 5: Page 78, beginning on line 17, strike "(6)" and all that follows through "(7)" and insert (6). Page 78, line 23, strike "(8)" and insert "(7)".
H.R. 5326
OFFERED BY: MR. LEWIS OF GEORGIA
AMENDMENT NO. 6: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: SEC. 541. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order 13547 (75 Fed. Reg. 43023, relating to the stewardship of oceans, coasts, and the Great Lakes).
H.R. 5326
OFFERED BY: MR. WESTMORELAND
AMENDMENT NO. 7: Page 74, line 13, insert "(reduced by $128,000,000)" after the first dollar amount.
Page 74, line 13, insert "(reduced by $128,000,000)" after the second dollar amount.
Page 101, line 10, insert "(increased by $542,000)"
H.R. 5326
OFFERED BY: MR. HARRIS
AMENDMENT NO. 8: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following: SEC. 541. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order 13547 (75 Fed. Reg. 43023, relating to the stewardship of oceans, coasts, and the Great Lakes).
H.R. 5326
OFFERED BY: MR. LEWIS OF GEORGIA
AMENDMENT NO. 9: Page 78, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $10,000,000)".
H.R. 5326
OFFERED BY: MR. CRAYVAACK
AMENDMENT NO. 10: Page 3, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $5,000,000)"
H.R. 5326
OFFERED BY: MR. DUNCAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA
AMENDMENT NO. 11: Page 32, line 4, after the dollar figure insert "(decreased by $30,000,000)"
Page 46, Line 8, after the dollar figure insert "(increased by $30,000,000)"
Page 46, Line 10, after the dollar figure insert "(increased by $25,000,000)"
H.R. 5326
OFFERED BY: MS. RICHARDSON
AMENDMENT NO. 12: Page 32, Line 4, after the dollar figure insert "(increased by $35,000,000)"
Page 43, line 15, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by $30,000,000)"
Page 43, line 17, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by $30,000,000)".
The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was
called to order by the Honorable RICH-
ARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the
State of Connecticut.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:
I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-
lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon as-
tumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY
LEADER

The Acting President pro tempore. The majority leader is recog-
nized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are now
considering the motion to proceed to the Stop Student Loan Interest Rate
Hike Act.

At 4:30 p.m. today, the Senate will pro-
cceed to executive session to con-
sider three judicial nominations: the
Nguyen nomination, a ninth circuit
nominee, and the Baker and Lee nomi-
nations, which are two U.S. district
court nominations from Arkansas and
Illinois, respectively. At 5:30 p.m.,
there will be up to three rolcall votes
on confirmation of the nominations.

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a woman
from Nevada by the name of Amy—

Like many resourceful Americans
who lost their jobs after the financial
and housing markets collapsed, Amy
took the opportunity to return to
school. She enrolled in classes at the
College of Southern Nevada and com-
pleted her associate's degree at the age of
33. Going back to school transformed
her life. She got involved in the polit-
cal process for the first time. During
her whole time at school she main-
tained straight A's—a 4.0 grade point
average—and was elected student body
president. But she also racked up
$20,000 in student loan debt.

Amy doesn't regret the decision to go
to the university. Not only has she got-
ten a second chance at college; she has
shown her 14-year-old son the power of
education. Still, working three part-
time jobs and living on a few thousand
dollars a year hasn't been easy. That is
an understatement. It would have been
impossible for her to get her education
if she hadn't gotten her federal student
loans. But Amy will need more
loans to complete her bachelor's degree
at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas,
where she starts classes this fall.

For most students, taking on debt is
the only way to turn dreams of higher
education into a reality. The average
student graduates with $25,000 in loan
debt. On July 1, the interest rates on
Federal loans are set to double for
more than 7 million students. Unless
Congress acts quickly, rates will jump
from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. That
will cost Amy and millions of other
students at least $1,000. For a single
mom working three part-time jobs,
$1,000 is the difference between com-
pleting her bachelor's degree and sim-
ply dropping out of school. In Nevada,
higher interest rates will affect 26,000
students. College is already
unaffordable for far too many Ameri-
cans, and we cannot afford to put high-
er education any further out of reach.

So Senate Democrats have introduced
a proposal to freeze student loan inter-
est rates at current levels for a year,
without adding a single penny to the
deficit. Democrats will vote to advance
that proposal tomorrow, before noon,
and, hopefully, the Republicans will
join us.

This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.
The Republicans claim they share Democrats' goal of protecting these 7 million students I have talked about from these interest rate increases. We will see. But they insist we should pay for this proposal with unreasonable cuts, which cost health care services for millions of Americans. This is a program that is so vitally important to the health care delivery system in this country. Senators Mikulski, Harkin, and others have worked very hard to maintain this program. It is so essential. The program proposals they would never pass the Senate—never—and President Obama has said he would veto more cuts to crucial preventive health care. But there is already a compromise on the table. Our legislation closes a loophole that allows the rich to avoid paying taxes they already owe. Our proposal is not a new tax. It would simply stop wealthy Americans from dodging the taxes they are required to pay. If Senate Republicans are truly serious about protecting 7 million students they will work with us to pass this reasonable proposal.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATIONS OF AJIT VARADARAJ PAI AND JESSICA ROSENWORCEL TO BE MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 512 and 513; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be made in order to any of the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore, is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Ajit Varadaraj Pai, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2011.

Jessica Rosenworcel, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2010.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise today to say a few words about the nomination of Ajit Pai to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission. I have supported his nomination and that of his fellow nominee, Jessica Rosenworcel, and am pleased that unrelated matters have finally been resolved and that the Senate has confirmed both nominees.

Ajit is somebody whom many of us have come to know from his years of public service, whether on the Senate Judiciary Committee, at the Department of Justice, where Ajit worked on both antitrust and legal policy matters, or in the general counsel's office of the FCC. I especially appreciate his service at the Department of Justice, and Alto Supreme Court nominations during the 100th Congress, as well as his careful attention to national security matters while at the Department of Justice.

Ajit is the son of immigrants who came to this country seeking opportunity, as did the ancestors of so many of our fellow Americans. They settled in the small town of Parsons, KS, population of 10,000. During his testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee, Ajit shared his memories of the sense of community and the Midwestern values that he learned in Parsons. He worked hard in school, excelled at both Harvard College and the University of Chicago Law School, and built a career in law and policy. Today, Ajit finds himself being confirmed to this position of honor and receiving a unique opportunity to serve his Nation. I am certain that his parents, having come to this country just 40 years ago, are immensely proud of him.

We should all be grateful that individuals like Ajit choose to serve in these important positions, especially in fields where there are also opportunities in private life. He will be a member of the FCC for more than 4 years. I am grateful for his service and appreciate that he and his wife Jane have agreed to make this sacrifice for the good of our Nation.

I am very disappointed that these nominations have been delayed for so long for nongermane reasons. Good men and women simply will not volunteer to serve if they are arbitrarily forced to spend months in limbo, uncertain as to their future. As an FCC Commissioner, Ajit will be one of five individuals overseeing an agency with 2,000 employees and a budget of $350 million. The Commission has broad regulatory authority over the Nation's communications industry.

The communications landscape has evolved dramatically, not just during my lifetime but since I entered the Senate in 1995 and even in the past few years. It is sometimes difficult to remember how we functioned before we had the Internet, where people on cell phones, to access the Internet from computers in any corner of the globe, or to watch videos of our children and grandchildren on mobile devices. Most Americans were raised in a world in which the television offered just a few channels, there were no cable news, and telephones had rotary dials.

Policymakers should be reminded that many of the technologies that we take for granted today will soon be gone, and we do not really know which technologies will become obsolete and in which direction the Nation's innovators and consumers will take us.

Congress and the FCC do not make those decisions, or at least they should not. These decisions should be made by the American people in their capacity as consumers, businessmen, entrepreneurs, investors, and citizens.

Government does not create innovation, it does not create entrepreneurs, and it should not be in the business of picking winners or losers or trying to shape private investment. The government's proper role in communications, as in other sectors of our economy, is to establish clear and stable rules that encourage competition, that give consumers choice and allow markets to thrive, and that keep bureaucratic preferences and politics to a minimum.

Ajit has made clear that he shares this understanding of his role. I think that we can expect good things from him as a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

I congratulate Ajit on this honor and am proud to have supported his nomination.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate resumes legislative session.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce the business of the day? The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

STOP THE STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE HIKE ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2343, which the clerk will now read into the Record.

The legislative clerk reads as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 2343, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: We are now on the Stop The Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act of 2012, is that not correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate is on the motion to proceed to that measure.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I can't emphasize strongly enough the importance and the urgency of the legislation before the student interest rate hike Act of 2012—which the majority leader spoke about. On July 1, unless Congress intervenes, the interest rate on Federal student loans...
Congressional Record — Senate

May 7, 2012

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
S2893

loan debt is set to double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. More than 7.4 million American students, including an estimated 255,000 students enrolled in Iowa colleges and universities, will be required to pay an average of $1,000 more in interest for each year they borrow. The bill before us is straightforward and it is fully paid for. It keeps the interest rate at 3.4 percent, and the cost is offset by closing a tax loophole that benefits certain high-income professionals and corporate shareholders.

I wish to thank Senator Reid for his leadership in advancing this critical legislation. I also thank President Obama for making this legislation an urgent priority and for visiting college campuses across the country to speak out on this urgent problem facing our Nation’s students and their families.

In today’s global knowledge-based economy, an education beyond high school is no longer an option but a necessity. A worker with a bachelor’s degree earns 85 percent more, on average, than a high school graduate. Almost two-thirds of the job vacancies between now and 2018 will require postsecondary education, and more than half of those jobs will require at least a bachelor’s degree.

You can see by this chart, as I said, 63 percent of the jobs will require at least some college education—either some college, an associate’s degree or bachelor’s degree more. And that is by 2018. The demand is going to grow even beyond that. These statistics convey a very clear message: Higher education is the key to entry not only to the middle class but to a middle-class life.

Another message is equally clear, and that is America’s economic competitiveness and growth depends on a highly educated and highly skilled workforce. That is why the ever-growing mountain of student loan debt is a major concern, as the chair of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, and also a major concern for families all across America who are struggling to get by. It is a shocking fact that total student loan debt has now surpassed total credit card debt for the first time ever, with $697 billion right now in student loans, auto loans at $734 billion, and credit cards at $704 billion. So for the first time ever, American families now owe more on school loans than they do on their car loans or credit cards.

I want to bring this closer to my own home. It affects Iowans profoundly. Nearly 72 percent of Iowa’s college graduates have debt—the fourth highest percentage in the Nation. And those borrowers have an average of $30,000 in student loan debt, which is the third highest level in the Nation.

Over the past 3 years, President Obama and Congress have taken important steps to improve college affordability and help our students succeed. From the Recovery Act and its unprecedented support for our education systems, to the student loan reforms that enabled us to help more students through larger Pell grants, and most recently our efforts to make it easier for students to repay their loans—this all happened in the last few years—we haven’t even effectively addressed the President’s goal—and I hope it would be our shared goal—of reclaiming America’s standing by 2020 as the country with the highest proportion of college graduates. Needless to say, it will take much more than this goal to prevent the interest rate from doubling on July 1.

As I said, more than 7.4 million American students will be required to pay an average of $1,000 over the lifetime of their loan for each year they borrow. Again, if you look at this chart, it shows what is happening. If the interest rate is paid at 3.4 percent, we are looking at about $883 in interest over the life of the average loan. Doubling that rate goes to $1,876. That is at 6.8 percent. So the average savings to the average student would be almost $1,000 a year.

I might add that the 255,404 borrowers in Iowa will save an estimated total of $254 million with this bill in front of us.

With today’s tough economy, and given the very high unemployment rate among young Americans, it is absolutely unacceptable to ask middle-class families to shoulder sharply higher student loan interest payments. We must not allow this to happen.

If we look closer at the characteristics of student who will be impacted by this interest rate hike, we see that it affects middle-class families and vulnerable students from disadvantaged backgrounds at the very time when they are under enormous financial strain. If we look at who gets the subsidized loans, from this chart we can see, by family income, dependent students, their family income is less than $60,000 a year. We look at independent students and we see, by family income, dependent students, their family income is less than $50,000 a year. We look at independent student loan borrowers, their income is less than $50,000 a year, and 89 percent of them earn less than $50,000. Of the dependent student loan borrowers, 60 percent are from families who earn less than $60,000. I might also add that 7 out of 10 of those independent students here reported under $30,000 a year in income.

So allowing the interest rate to double would also disproportionately affect borrowers who will account for 40 percent of these borrowers. So 40 percent of these borrowers are minority students. This bill, again, would prevent the interest rate from doubling on July 1 for those borrowers.

So with that in mind, we are considering a pragmatic and fiscally responsible solution to this problem that will keep interest rates low for more than 7.4 million students. Again, the bill is fully paid for, and we offset the cost by raising revenues in a way that will provide a solution to a longstanding problem in the Tax Code that has been subject to widespread abuse.

Now, let me just define how this measure is paid for. For many years we have seen avoidance of properly owed Social Security and Medicare taxes by some subchapter S stockholders who can declare that a portion of their income is not subject to Social Security or Medicare taxes. This is not supposed to be a choice that is made at the whim of the taxpayer. It should be based on objective facts. The offset in this legislation provides just that. It creates a bright-line test for a small share of subchapter S shareholders—basically, those engaged in professions such as doctors, lawyers, accountants, consultants and lobbyists—whose financial gains they have come from, not work they do.

It is narrowly tailored to cover only those subchapter S organizations in which there are three or fewer stockholders, and only for those earning $250,000 on joint filings. With this bill, the Medicare and Social Security trust fund will receive the funds that are properly owed, which are not received today because they are counted not as income but as profits.

My friends on the other side of the aisle have proposed a different offset to pay for keeping the interest rate at 3.4 percent. The bill that passed the House of Representatives and the legislation proposed by Senator Alexander of Tennessee would offset the cost of this bill by eliminating the Prevention and Public Health Fund which was created by the Patient Protection and Affordability Care Act.

In short, rather than put an end to a widespread abuse of the Tax Code, my friends on the other side of the aisle are proposing that we eliminate the sole dedicated source of Federal funding for critical investments in prevention, disease management, and health care for women and children and elderly families healthy. They want to eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

Many of my Republican colleagues have acknowledged the critical importance of investing in health care and wellness, which makes the use of this offset that is eliminating it all the more troubling. Preventing disease, expanding access to screenings, encouraging people to stop using tobacco, these used to be bipartisan goals strongly supported by a vast majority of Republicans and Democrats alike. So in the affordable care act we created the prevention fund, with the express goal of ramping up our investments in these prevention and wellness initiatives, again, with Republican support.

Here are quotes from two Republican leaders. Senator Kyl, on July 12, 2010, just a few months after we passed the affordable care act, said:

"One of the things we wanted in the health care legislation was to provide a lot of different incentives for preventive care, for screening to try to help people avoid illnesses on the front end. It is cheaper if we didn’t do a lot of treatment that was unnecessary."

I couldn’t agree more.
The Republican leader, Senator McConnell, said in an op-ed the same year, 2010:

Congress should be able to work together on our practical ideas that the American people support, such as... encouraging well-being, and prevention programs that have proven to be effective in cutting costs and improving care.

That was less than 2 years ago, right after passage of the health reform law. But now Republicans are making outrageous partisan attacks on the prevention fund. I find this deeply disturbing and disappointing. It is not hard to imagine the message gurus, those who hone messages, telling Republicans: Here is all you have to do. Just smear the prevention fund by calling it a slush fund.

How many times have I heard that: the prevention fund is a slush fund? I have heard it in committee, I have heard it on the floor, I have seen it in print. Republicans calling the prevention fund a slush fund. Well, this is shameful. That term “slush fund” is a malicious untruth. Nothing could be further from the truth. The truth is the prevention fund has been a giant step forward for public health in our Nation.

Typically, prevention and public health initiatives are an afterthought. This means important community-based interventions to prevent obesity and inactivity are not supported. The prevention fund is making it possible for us to make national investments in evidence-based programs that promote physical activity, improved nutrition, and reduced tobacco use. Well, these are the investments we make.

This prevention fund, which Republicans want to eliminate, invests $226 million to reduce chronic diseases, including diabetes and heart disease. That amount realizes the $440 billion a year in health care costs from heart disease alone. It invests $93 million for antitobacco education and support campaigns to minimize the fact that over 6 million kids will die from smoking if the current rates persist. It invests $37 million for childhood immunization programs, again, to minimize the $3 billion a year in unnecessary health care costs right now. I might just add the lead editorial in today’s New York Times said, “No Longer Just ‘Adult-Onset’.” That is the head of it. I will not read it all, but I think there are a few pertinent paragraphs in the Times editorial. It starts off by saying:

A study of diabetes in overweight and obese youngsters bears an ominous warning to all about future health care trends in this country. It found that Type 2 diabetes, a new scourge among young people, progresses faster and is harder to treat in youngsters than in adults. As people, as they grow older could be devastating.

These findings provide more evidence of why the country must get the obesity epidemic under control to improve health and to curb soaring health care costs.

Only two decades ago Type 2 diabetes was called “adult-onset diabetes” because it was seldom found in young people, who suffered primarily from Type 1, in which the patient’s immune system destroys cells that make insulin, a hormone needed to control blood sugar levels. Type 2—thought to be brought on by obesity and inactivity in many people—has increased alarmingly and accounts for almost half of newly diagnosed cases in young people.

Obesity increases the risk of many chronic diseases. And some 17 percent of American children are now considered obese, roughly half the rate of obesity among adults.

The new study, published in The New England Journal of Medicine, tested three ways to attain durable control of blood sugar in youngsters between the ages of 10 and 17. None worked very well. Almost half of the children who received shots of insulin within a few years to lower their blood sugar. Metformin, the standard drug used to treat Type 2 diabetes in children, failed to control blood sugar in half of the children. When lifestyle changes, including one-on-one counseling on how to lead a healthy life, were added to metformin, the results were only marginally better.

When a second drug was added, the results were significantly better. But the two-drug treatment still failed in 30 percent of the recipients, and the added drug, Avandia, has been linked to heart attacks and strokes in adults.

The findings are especially ominous because poorly controlled diabetes can lead to heart disease, stroke, blindness, amputations and kidney failure. The longer one has the disease, the more likely he or she will become disabled. The prevention fund has been a giant step forward for public health in our Nation.

Typically, prevention and public health initiatives are an afterthought. This means important community-based interventions to prevent obesity and inactivity are not supported. The prevention fund is making it possible for us to make national investments in evidence-based programs that promote physical activity, improved nutrition, and reduced tobacco use. Well, these are the investments we make.

This prevention fund, which Republicans want to eliminate, invests $226 million to reduce chronic diseases, including diabetes and heart disease. That amount realizes the $440 billion a year in health care costs from heart disease alone. It invests $93 million for antitobacco education and support campaigns to minimize the fact that over 6 million kids will die from smoking if the current rates persist. It invests $37 million for childhood immunization programs, again, to minimize the $3 billion a year in unnecessary health care costs right now.

Some experts suggest that young patients at risk of diabetes need to be detected earlier and treated more aggressively. But the long-term goal should be prevention of obesity and diabetes.

Congressional Republicans, meanwhile, are bent on dismantling health care reforms that could greatly assist in curbing the obesity epidemic. The Republican-dominated House last month narrowly passed a bill that would eliminate a Prevention and Public Health Fund, established under the reform law, in part to pay for lowering the interest rate on subsidized student loans for this year.

The fund is already providing grants to state and local governments to help pay for programs to fight obesity and prevent chronic diseases, including diabetes, in the community, the workplace and among minority groups that have high rates of obesity and diabetes. Killing off this program would be hugely costly to Americans’ health and future health care costs. There is no explanation for this move, except for the usual anti-health care reform demagoguery.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the full editorial.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

A Virginia statute of limitations against child sexual abuse last month narrowly passed a bill that would have again vowed to stop it. Cardinal Tim Dolan has made defeating statute of limitations against child sexual abuse last month. Cardinals are blocking because the church’s covering up for pedophile priests made it hard for victims to come forward.

Like similar laws in California and Delaware, the Hawai’i measure recognizes some wrenching realities. It can take many years, even decades, before child abuse victims are emotionally ready to come forward and tell their stories in court. But by then, they may be barred from suing by the statute of limitations.

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May 7, 2012

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

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limitations reform one of his top legislative priorities. Mr. Cuomo’s strong leadership will be needed if New York is to match Hawaii’s accomplishment any time soon.

Mr. HARKIN. I don’t know that I can make it any clearer than the New York Times editorial, and there is not the time to mention all of the ways this fund is already making Americans healthier. But I want to mention several representative investments that are happening, again, right now.

I might just go back to that first on the heart disease because heart disease disproportionately affects women. Most people don’t know that. I think most people would say the first cause of death in women today might be breast cancer. Not so. The No. 1 cause of death for women in this country is heart disease. Some 42 million women in America are currently living with some form of heart disease, and the World Health Organization estimates that a staggering 80 percent of heart deaths could be prevented just from changes in smoking, nutrition, and physical activity alone. That is what this prevention fund is doing right now.

Moreover, this investment by the prevention fund is not only saving lives, but it is saving money. Right now, heart disease costs our Nation about $440 billion a year. We can reduce those costs.

I might also mention smoking. Cigarette smoking also kills an estimated 173,000 women every year. If current smoking rates persist, more than 6 million kids will die from smoking.

The new national antitobacco ad campaign called Tips From a Former Smoker is being supported by this prevention fund, and I think many of you probably have seen these ads. They are extremely powerful and effective ads, and they are going to save lives. In fact, this ad campaign is expected to inspire 2 million calls to quit-smoking lines alone. That is what this investment is returning, the return on investment for public health care spending. For every $1 spent on childhood immunizations, we save $16.50—proven; tobacco control programs, $5; for chronic disease prevention, for every $1 we save $6; for workplace wellness programs, $3.27. If we look at it just in terms of dollars and not just in terms of lives, we are saving money also.

The prevention fund’s investments in cancer prevention also provide an opportunity to save lives and money. In 2007, the direct and indirect costs of cancer, which account for nearly one out of every four deaths in the United States, totaled about $233 billion. Earlier this year, researchers found nearly half of U.S. cancer deaths could be prevented—again, through the kinds of programs the prevention fund is funding today. Preventable U.S. cancer deaths, about 50 percent; preventable deaths from heart disease, diabetes, and stroke, about 80 percent. This is what the prevention fund is bringing after. For the life of me, I have never understood those who want to get rid of this funding and thereby pay to pump untold billions, trillions of dollars into patching, fixing, mending surgery and health care costs down the line. Perhaps my friends on the other side of the aisle never learned the old axiom of being rich: an ounce of prevention in health is worth a pound of cure. Here, an ounce of prevention is worth about 10 pounds of cure or more.

The list goes on. Recently, the Trust for America’s Health released a study showing that a 5 percent reduction in the obesity rate would yield more than $900 billion in savings on health care costs over a 20-year period of time—a 5 percent reduction. Studies such as this one confirm what common sense tells us, prevention is the best medicine for our bodies and for our budgets. That is why nearly 800 organizations have spoken out against these misguided efforts to slash or eliminate the prevention fund. Organizations such as the Young Invincibles, the U.S. Student Association, the American Diabetes Association, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; all have said: No, don’t cut, don’t eliminate the prevention fund.

Despite misguided efforts to cut or eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund, most Americans understand what is at stake. Prior to the prevention fund, for every $1 spent on public health, 75 cents went to treating people with chronic illnesses and only about 4 cents went to prevention: 75 cents taking care of people later on with chronic diseases that are preventable, only 4 cents out of every $1 went to prevention. This underinvestment has had devastating consequences. Nearly half of American adults have at least one chronic condition. Yes, you heard me right. Nearly half of American adults have at least one chronic condition and one-third of all cancer deaths and two-thirds of the increase in health care spending between 1987 and 2000 was due to the increased prevalence of chronic diseases. So two-thirds of our budget, of the increase in spending, is on chronic diseases. Yet since we can reduce chronic diseases through prevention, one would think we would want to increase that 4 cents a little bit—4 cents on the $1 we are spending right now. This prevention fund gives us an unprecedented opportunity to bend the cost curve.

How many times have I heard about bending the cost curve in medicine? The best way to do it is to prevent chronic diseases. The transformation of America into a true wellness society, a society that focuses on preventing disease, saving lives and thereby money is the most cost-effective way to proceed. As we can see, to slander the prevention fund as a so-called slush fund is a shameful mischaracterization. This fund is saving lives and saving money. Eliminating this fund—as proposed by one of my friends from Tennessee—would be bad public policy, a serious case of misplaced priorities. The very idea that Republicans would slash prevention in public health care so a small group of high-income taxpayers can continue to abuse the Tax Code I find simply unacceptable.

Before I close my remarks, I would like to address an egregious mischaracterization that I have heard from the other side of the aisle. Some Republicans claim Democrats, in our historic reform of the student loan program, took money that had been going to students and used it to pay for the health care bill. I have heard that a lot of times. Again, that is simply not so.

The reforms passed—Democrats in Congress—I might add over vehement Republican opposition—did not take a single dime from students. Instead, the
The policy. It is bad priorities. We need to investing in initiatives to fight cancer and heart disease and to protect the health of our children, our women, and our elderly.

What they are proposing is bad public policy. It is bad priorities. We need to be putting the middle class first. We need to be putting students struggling to pay for college first. We need to be putting public health care and prevention first—and put all those out there. To make these things possible, we should ask a small group of wealthy Americans to put their country first and stop abusing this provision, this loophole in the Tax Code. I urge my colleagues to support the Stop The Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act and to support the offset currently in the bill.

Five years ago, the original law that reduced the student loan interest rate to 3.4 percent passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and was signed by a Republican President. I hope we can find common ground to pass this new legislation with that same kind of broad and bipartisan support.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am glad I had an opportunity to hear the distinguished Senator from Iowa, who is my friend and the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pen- ducation Committee, address the same subject he did, but I want to hasten to summarize it at the beginning to say that we agree. By we, I mean Gover- nor Romney, the likely Republican nominee for President, President Obama, the likely Democratic nominee, and others agree that for the next year we should keep the interest rate on 40 percent of new student loans at 3.4 per- cent. There is no difference of opinion on that.

What is different is how we propose to pay for it. The distinguished Senator from Iowa has actually outlined the difference of opinion very well. What we are saying, what the Repub- licans are saying, is that in order to pay for the $6 billion it will cost taxpayers to keep the interest rate the same for the next year, we want to give to students—give them back their own money, the money the Democrats are overcharging them on their student loans. The Senator from Iowa went through a very careful ex- planation on that which was largely correct. He pointed out that at the time the majority decided it would make the Secretary of Education the Nation's leading banker and put him in charge of what is becoming to be nearly $1 trillion worth of student debt—in other words, take it away from banks and make the govern- ment the banker—that there was about $61 billion in "savings." That is from the Congressional Budget Office.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle argued those were unnecessary subsidies to banks. Let's say, for the moment, for the sake of argument, they are correct about that. That $61 billion is money students were paying to banks on their student loans. Wouldn't the logical thing to do be to let the students keep the money? If we truly cared about college tuition going up and student loans rising, wouldn't the thing to do be to say: We have done a big favor to you students—the gov- ernment has been overcharging you on your student loans, all 18 or 19 million of you who have student loans—so in- stead of the rate of which it is for most students, we are going to lower that rate to 5.3 percent.

That is not my number. That is the number the Congressional Budget Of- fice said. We could give $4 billion to our friends on the other side the government is overcharging students and we could reduce the average loan of about $25,000 to a 5.3 percent rate in- stead of 6.8 percent and that would save the average student on the all aver- age loan about $2,200 over 10 years. But they didn't do that. They spent it on more government; $10 billion to reduce the debt and $8.7 billion to pay for the health care bill. So what we are saying is in order to freeze this rate at 3.4 per- cent, let's give to students the money they were paying. Instead of paying for the health care bill, let's reduce the student rates. That is the difference of opinion here.

Of course, our friends on the other side of the aisle have a better way, in their opinion. Not only do they want the students to continue to pay for other government programs, and some money for the health care bill, they want to raise taxpayers in the middle of the longest recession we have had since the Great Depression.

Let me go back to the beginning point here. We are talking about some- thing that was not talked about in the New York Times yesterday. I noticed the Senator from Iowa talked about the New York Times. Here is the national section from yesterday talking about what is going on in Cali- fornia.

Angry about tuition increases and cuts in courses and enrollment, a dozen students at California State University have taken their grievances beyond marches . . . and declared a hunger strike.

The fasting protest was the latest display of anger at the 23 California public university campuses. The system has lost roughly $90 million in state financing since 2008.

The University of California is prob- ably the best public university in the world. It has lost nearly $1 billion in State funding since 2008 and the stu- dents are fasting. They are upset about the tuition increases. Why is the tuition increasing? Well, the administra- tors say if we lose $1 billion from the State, the money has to come from somewhere to pay for excellence in our universities, so we increased the tuition. That story has been going on all over the country. Why is that happening?

The President pro tempore. I think that is the million dollar question. I want to at least acknowledge this issue on the table. I think we need to discuss it. Why are they fasting in California, pro- testing tuition increases? In the last year why did State funding for the Uni- versity of Tennessee and Tennessee's community colleges and Tennessee Tech go down 15 percent last year? The main reason is the Federal Govern- ment's health care policies and its
Medicaid mandates on States that are soaking up State dollars on Medicaid that would otherwise go to pay for public universities.

President Obama did not start this policy—it has been going on for 30 years. And now it is rising in expense with his health care law. And when it takes effect next year, the Kaiser Family Foundation says that States, which are already spending one out of four of their State tax revenues on Medicaid, will increase their expense by 30 percent, spending on Medicaid. What will that do? What will that do is force California, Tennessee, Connecticut, and Iowa to look in their State budgets, to take the money that most likely would have gone for the colleges and community colleges and public universities and instead spend it on Medicaid.

Those Federal Medicaid mandates are soaking up money that would otherwise go to public colleges and universities, and as a result of that, universities are raising tuition.

Half of the students who go to colleges and universities in America—there are 6,000 of them—have a Federal grant or loan to help pay for college. Two-thirds of those loans are, students are, and the President is on the campaign trail promising to fix it.

Let’s talk about his fix. First, it is the political season, so Senators, and all of us want to hear something very pleasing when someone begins to stir the crowd about a popular issue, and surely being able to pay for college is a popular issue. We hope all American students who want to have a college degree will be able to afford to go to college. Our Federal Government goes to great efforts to make that possible.

Half of the students who go to colleges and universities in America—there are 6,000 of them—have a Federal grant or loan to help pay for college. We have more than $100 billion in new loans going out this year from the American taxpayer. That is from people out there working and paying taxes—the UAW member, the teacher, their income to loans, to get to college. Our Federal Government goes to great efforts to make that possible.

The University of Tennessee in Knoxville is a fine campus where the tuition is about $7,400 a year, which is a good bargain at a great university. Almost all the students show up with a $4,000 State scholarship called the HOPE scholarship. For a quarter of the students who are low income, they have Pell grants that carry them through the amount of tuition. And we have made a great effort to try to make it easier for our young people and older people to continue their education, and we want to continue to do that. There is a bipartisan effort on that.

Now the specific issue at play here, and the one we are likely to vote on tomorrow, has to do with one type of those student loans, and let’s try to put that in perspective.

The Democrats have a version and the Republicans have a version. I offered a version which would pay for it by giving back to students the money the government is overcharging them. The Democrats have one that would raise taxes on people who create jobs. But whatever one passes—if one were to pass—would save average students on new loans about $7 a month in interest payments on the average loan, and about 10 percent of the new loans.

President Obama has agreed on this—at least we agree on this. We are talking about $383 billion in new loans, and half of those loans will have Federal support. We save $7 a month, and in other years—earlier next year—when we pay for it. The President has agreed on this—or the composition of it. For the next year we wish to take 40 percent of new loans and keep them at the 3.4 percent rate, and then later in the year—earlier next year—when we look at our entire budget, how much money we have to spend, the size of the debt, which is of great concern to all of us, on both sides of the aisle, we will see what we can afford to do. That is the first question.

But I am glad the President has been going to college campuses. I am glad he has raised the issue of student loans and college tuition because as a former Governor of Tennessee who cares deeply about education and as someone who was also U.S. Education Secretary Secretary of Education and Governor of California. For the next year we wish to take 40 percent of new loans and keep them at the 3.4 percent rate, and then later in the year—earlier next year—when we look at our entire budget, how much money we have to spend, the size of the debt, which is of great concern to all of us, on both sides of the aisle, we will see what we can afford to do. That is the first question.

President Obama did not start this policy, but the policies over the last number of years have gradually soaked up money that would make the University of California a great university and left it no recourse but to become more efficient, which it should, and to raise tuition, which it is doing.

But I am glad the President has been going to college campuses. I am glad he has raised the issue of student loans and college tuition because as a former Governor of Tennessee who cares deeply about education and as someone who was also U.S. Education Secretary Secretary of Education and Governor of California. For the next year we wish to take 40 percent of new loans and keep them at the 3.4 percent rate, and then later in the year—earlier next year—when we look at our entire budget, how much money we have to spend, the size of the debt, which is of great concern to all of us, on both sides of the aisle, we will see what we can afford to do. That is the first question.

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I went to see President Reagan. I had made an appointment. I saw him in the Oval Office. I said: Mr. President, let me propose a grand swap. He said: What do you mean, a grand swap? I said: We will take all of K 12 education in the States and you take all of Medicaid. He thought for a moment, and he said that sounds like a pretty good idea. My reasoning was that instead of Medicaid having two masters—one in Washington and the other among all the different Governors—if it had one, it would be managed better. If Washington ran Medicaid, Washington would have to pay for it all and make sure that it didn’t happen.
had made that grand swap 30 years ago, the Medicaid Program would run better today and our public schools would be performing better today.

We could argue about that, but the one thing we could not argue about is the choice of our children. If we had made the swap, the States would have come out ahead by about $4.5 billion. In other words, the Federal Government would have taken over Medicaid and the States would have taken over K-12. The States would have given back to the Federal Government the Federal aid for education and keep their Medicaid money. Four-and-a-half billion dollars was the difference in 1981 or 1982.

What would the difference be today if we made such a grand swap? It would be $92 billion. It would be $92 billion of extra money the States would have if today the Federal Government took over all of Medicaid and the States took over all of the responsibility funding for K-12.

That would mean in a State such as California where the students are fastig, California would probably have an extra $12 billion or $13 billion. Do you think much of that would go to the University of California to continue its excellence? Sure it would. Would much of it go to Tennessee Tech, the University of Tennessee, and the community colleges? It absolutely would.

What has happened over the years is that these well-intentioned Federal health care Medicaid mandates have put a stranglehold on Governors, which is why I said when we were debating the health care law that I thought any Senator who voted for it ought to be sentenced to serve in Tennessee as Governor for 8 years and try to implement it.

I mentioned that last year Tennessee's State funding for higher education went down 15 percent. Guess what. State funding for Medicaid went up 16 percent. So there is a direct relationship: Medicaid up, State funding for public universities down, tuition and loans go up, and that is the real problem we have today.

I am glad the President has put this issue on the table. I am glad he is talking about it, and I hope Governor Romney talks about it. I hope what they agree to do is either to repeal the health care law or to repeal the Medicaid mandates and give States more flexibility. We can't pass a law in Washington, as we did 3 or 4 years ago with the stimulus, and say we are going to give you more Medicaid money, but, Mr. Governor and Ms. Legislator, you can't reduce State funding on Medicaid.

Lieutenant Governor Ravitch of New York, a Democrat, wrote an excellent article in the Wall Street Journal. At the time it said: If you tell New York at that time when we are reducing revenue, we have to keep spending on Medicaid, we have to cut something else, and the State University of New York gets cut. So New York cuts the State University of New York, tuition goes up, loans go up, and students are protesting.

It is not just the student protests that I worry about. We are at a time in our history when we are in a serious brain-power competition around the world. Workplaces and universities go from American universities home to their universities. In a bipartisan way—and the Senator from Iowa and I were part of it—we passed something called the America Competes Act a few years ago and reauthorized it so that we could properly fund science and our innovation. Government-sponsored research has been an important part of our job growth over the last 30 or 40 years. Where is that done? It is done in our national laboratories or our great research universities. Well, at least half of our great research universities are public universities, such as the University of California, the University of Michigan, the University of Tennessee, the University of Connecticut. Much of the much work that is going on in medical-research-sponsored research and the quality of those universities, our job growth won't be nearly as good in the future.

Here is another example of how much that has changed over the years. Thirty years ago in Tennessee, the State paid 70 percent of the cost of a student to attend a State university and the student paid 30 percent. We had an implicit agreement between the government and the student, and we said: If you increase your tuition, we will increase the State contribution by the same percentage. So we kept it at about 70 and 30, and it made it possible for a lot of students to go to college. What is it today? It is 30 and 70. It is upside down. Thirty percent of the support for colleges and universities comes from the State government and nearly 70 percent comes from the students. Why is that? The main reason is Federal health care mandates that put an unrealistic amount of money on top of States, and it is about to get worse.

I mentioned earlier the Kaiser Family Foundation, which estimates that next year States that are already spending $1 out of every $4 for Medicaid will see a 29-percent increase in Medicaid funding. This fast will have to go on a lot longer in California if that is going to happen. We can't cut $1 billion out of the University of California every 3 years and have it remain the best university in the world. It is just not going to happen. And we can't raise tuition 6 percent or 8 percent every year and make college available to the large number of students that would like to go.

So I am glad the President and our friends on the other side in this political year have raised the issue of rising tuition and student loans. We agree on the little issue before us. We would all like to take that 3.4 percent interest rate cut away from the student. That costs $6 billion. That would affect new loans and only 40 percent of the students. But we agree on that, the President agrees, and Governor Romney agrees. That is not an issue. The issue is, do we raise taxes on job creators or do we give back to students some of the money we are continuing to overcharge them on student loans? That is the issue. The larger question—and one that I hope we all address this year in our public colleges and universities, and Governor Romney address in their debates—is, What about the future of our public colleges and universities, where three out of four American college students go? How are we going to maintain the quality and make the opportunity for access to them if we continue to impose Medicaid mandates on States that soak up the money that ought to be going for excellence in higher education and the greatest amount of opportunity for students by keeping tuition rates low? That is the real issue.

While President Obama is not responsible for what went on before he became President, he has made that conclusion in his statements. So much wrong is going to bring this up on the campaign trail, I hope he tells the rest of the story, which is that he and his health care and Medicaid mandate policies are a principal part of the reason and I would say the main reason going back for the 30 years as to why California students are fasting, Tennessee students saw an 8-percent increase in tuition, and all across the country college presidents know very well that the reason they have these reductions is because of Federal Medicaid mandates.

I hope we have an opportunity tomorrow to vote not only on the Democratic proposal to keep student loan rates at 3.4 percent but also on the Republican interest rate reduction act that I have proposed, which would also keep the rates at 3.4 percent but pay for it by stopping the overcharging of students to help pay for the health care law.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, first let me say that I very much appreciate the comments of the Senator from Tennessee and his leadership on this issue. I join him in hoping we will be able to vote for the alternative he has provided, which is a more sensible way to ensure that this increase in student loan interest fees does not continue.

Many students who entered college 4 or 5 years ago believing that higher education would improve their prospects for getting a good job are now, sadly, very disappointed. The Obama economy is going to let them down. According to a recent Associated Press story, one out of two recent graduates is either unemployed or underemployed. The article cites a new analysis based on government data which found that young college graduates "that is either unable or unwilling to require a high school diploma or less...that's confounding their hopes a degree would pay off despite higher tuition and mounting student loans."
At this time, most of us agree that Congress should extend the lower interest rate on certain Stafford loans. Unless we do, interest rates will double to 6.8 percent this July. There are competing proposals to accomplish this extension, and Senator Alexander pointed out. Unfortunately, the majority leader’s proposal is going to make the underlying jobs problem worse by burdening job-creating businesses with new taxes and compliance costs. Let me explain how this occurs.

In order to pay for the $6 billion cost of extending the 3.4-percent interest rates for 1 year, the Reid bill attempts to do what nearly every bill proposed by Senate Democrats this session has done: It permanently raises taxes on job creators in order to pay for temporary spending. Worse, the majority is attempting to divert dollars that are supposed to go to Medicare or Social Security in order to fund completely unrelated spending.

In this case, the legislation singles out certain professional service businesses for a punitive tax hike, including those of health professions, engineering, accounting, actuarial science, performing arts, and athletics. Ironically, these are some of the fields in which there is actually demand for new employees, according to the AP story I referenced earlier.

The tax hike would hit business owners who perform services for their businesses and make $200,000 or, if they are married, $250,000. If the IRS determines that 4 percent or more of the business’s gross income is what this bill describes as “attributable” to the services of three or fewer owners, then this bill would make the owners pay payroll taxes on 100 percent of their share of the business profits even if some of that profit had nothing to do with the owner’s work. In addition, if family members also own a piece of the business, then the working owner will owe additional payroll taxes on the family members’ share of the business even if that family member provides no services.

Obviously, there are several problems with this approach. Let’s start with the most obvious: It takes more money from the private sector and gives it to the government at the very time when we want the private sector to have enough to create new jobs. Second, it rewrites the laws of income from labor and income from capital investment. This is not done lightly, especially since confiscating more from small businesses means they will be less able to expand and create more jobs.

Underscoring that this proposal is a tax increase and not a mere compliance measure, a coalition of 37 organizations that represents small businesses wrote a letter explaining that it “could increase the payroll tax burden on business owners who are already fully complying with the law.” For those businesses, this provision represents a tax increase rather than a clarification of existing tax burdens.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of this letter be printed in the Record at the conclusion of my remarks.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KYL. I thank the Chair.

So a bill that is intended to help students would actually make their job prospects even bleaker when they graduate. The American Institute of Architects said of the Reid proposal:

If we’re trying to make it easier for our college graduates to get started in their career and become contributing members of society, increasing taxes on those who would most likely hire them is simply bad public policy.

Payroll taxes are already scheduled to become more punitive for the small business owners targeted by this bill. Under ObamaCare, the Medicare portion of their payroll tax will rise from 2.9 percent to 3.8 percent, and another 3.8 percent will be assessed on their investment income.

To add insult to injury, this bill exposes family-owned businesses to double taxation. In a business with three family member shareholders in which only two provide substantial services, those two family members would be responsible for payroll taxes on their own incomes and then both would have to pay payroll taxes on the income of their third family member.

Applying this rising payroll tax to even more small business income is a terrible recipe in a time of a weak economy. At a time when businesses are struggling to hire, the last thing Congress should do is make a bad situation worse.

Now, the other side will argue that their bill is intended to prevent cases of tax abuse, so let’s look into that. According to the IRS, 4.5 million S corporation tax returns were filed in 2009. Data from the Treasury Department shows that S corporations account for nearly 40 percent of small businesses with employees. As these numbers showed, doing business as an S corporation is popular because it allows a business to avoid the double taxation of income to labor income, and they should only be applied once. That is current IRS policy and it is good policy.

As one commentator noted last week, this proposal would impose a local program for tax lawyers defending clients before the IRS.” To determine what percentage of business income is “attributable” to services performed by certain shareholders of an S corporation will be a boon for lawyers and CPAs but not for the professional service businesses that wish to expand and hire.

Those of us who were here in 2010 argued against ObamaCare, among other reasons because it would extend student loans to pay for part of its costs. A more prudent way to extend the 34-percent interest rate on student loans is to cut at least $6 billion in ObamaCare spending, which is exactly what the House of Representatives recently voted to do. The House bill would cut spending from an accountable ObamaCare slush fund, formerly known as the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

The bottom line, which our colleague Senator Alexander spoke to a moment ago, and of which I am a cosponsor, fully offsets the cost of a 1-year extension of the subsidized interest rate and...
directs an additional $6 billion toward debt reduction. This ensures that job-creating capital will not be diverted from small businesses to fund a temporary unrelated spending program.

Notably, President Obama’s own budget, recommended last week, this very same Obamacare slush fund, and he has already signed into law legislation that cut $5 billion from it.

Finally, I want to express my dismay at the lack of urgency from the majority about the most pressing issue facing small businesses and those college graduates seeking work; that is, the automatic tax increase for all Americans on January 1 of next year—the largest tax increase in the history of our country. The legislation on the floor today will not become law. The majority knows that. It is another political showboat. We know this because this Chamber rejected a similar tax hike 2 years ago when the majority had 59 Senate seats, and we know the House of Representatives would not pass the legislation.

As the senior Senator from Utah noted last month: Senate Democrats are fiddling while Rome burns.

That is, because, in 8 months, as I said, the largest tax increase in American history will take effect on individuals, families, and businesses. Taxes on income, capital gains, dividends, family-owned farms and estates will skyrocket. As previously mentioned, new taxes and an increase in payroll from ObamaCare will also take effect.

Even without the tax increase in this Reid bill, small business owners are facing a marginal tax rate increase to nearly 41 percent, a regular payroll tax rising to 16.2 percent, and an additional 3.8 percent payroll tax on investment income. And we want these people to hire more, to create more jobs?

Instead of wasting valuable time on a bill that will become law, I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will end their obsession with class warfare and start focusing on the most pressing issue at hand: stopping policies that will do further damage to our already weak economy. Defeating the majority leader’s latest tax hike proposal will be a good place to start.


eXhibit 1


Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, there is no reason we should be having this debate today. Freezing student loan interest rates for 1 year during tough economic times is something I believe we all agree on, so it should be relatively simple to accomplish. The President supports it, Governor Romney supports it, and a bipartisan majority in both the House and the Senate supports it. Given this kind of agreement, I see no reason why both sides could not have a good-faith discussion on where to find the $6 billion in savings in a government with a budget that spends nearly $3 trillion annually. If we spend more than $2 trillion annually.

I would mention, this bill has not been to committee. I hope the American people have noticed that bills that go to committee and then come to the floor are usually successful. I hope they also notice that bills that do not go to committee and come to the floor are usually not successful; they are usually a political statement. That is what we have here again today.

This is how it works: You bring a bill that you know the other side—well, in fact, this body has already voted on the concept of this tax before and defeated it. They know with that provision in there, this common interest will fail. So why do they voted for it? Well, you notice this is a motion to proceed and requires a cloture vote. So 40 of us can stop this bill, and will stop this bill in the condition it is in without having gone to committee. But when we stop things, it seems those Republicans think that students ought to be paying more interest. That is the part that is wrong. The part we are disagreeing about is how to pay for it.

Pay for it? We have an economic judgment day coming in this country because of the debt going up on a daily basis. That is what put the world into kind of this funk anyway. I am not sure what is going to happen now that France has decided they are not going to have austerity and Greece has decided they are not going to have austerity. Now they have leaders who say they are going to fight kind of austerity. It could put the world in a real crisis.

But what we are talking about is whether to keep the interest rate at the low rate that it is right now, and we are going to have to vote on a bill that we are going to have to defeat because of the pay-for in,
which will make it look as though Republi-
cans want to raise the rates on
students, and that is not true.

But the majority prefers to pick a
fight rather than help students during
these tough economic times. What do I
mean by that? I mean we actually ini-
tially refrained from putting the offsets
to my staff, indicating their will-
ingness to work toward a bipartisan so-
lution, they leaked their proposal be-
tween the new Medicare patients. Well, we
are now hearing that these payroll tax offsets
that might have been used and use it in
Medicare to keep the Medicare system
running. No. We put it into new pro-
grams so we could say this health care
plan was paid for.

Now we are saying we are going to
use those payroll taxes and we are
going to use them to subsidize the stu-
dent loans. When does Medicare ever
get the money to pay for Medicare? Oh,
that is right, we have a new board
now—an unelected board—and this
unelected board will tell us each and
every year where we have to cut in
Medicare in order to pay for Medicare,
even though we stripped all this other
money out that could have paid for
Medicare. What a deal.

Well, here’s the twist. Again, this tax
would end the payroll taxes by shifting
them into the student loans. When we
are talking about pay-fors, we do all
creates rather wide possibilities,
and a fund that can be designated by
the Secretary. This is not the first
offset they have in here.

Our President signed legislation that
cut $5 billion from the fund to offset
the payroll tax bill. Now we are talking
about payroll taxes again, but our side
is talking about using the same fund
for the Medicare plan, instead of the
offset for a payroll tax cut earlier this year.
The President also proposed to cut an
additional $4.5 billion out of the same
fund when he submitted his budget for
this year.

I had to go and look and see what
some of the uses are for this fund that
we would be cutting into because it is
spent at the discretion of the Secretary
of Health and Human Services, and
there are not a lot of guidelines. Many
of the programs funded by this Preven-
tion and Public Health Fund—often
called a slush fund—duplicate existing
health programs or waste taxpayer
money on some frivolous programs.

The fund has wasted millions of tax-
payer dollars and even supported po-
tentially unlawful lobbying activity.
For instance, a public health clinic in
Nashville, TN, used money to offer free
healthy food; $8.4 million to the New
York Fund for Public Health to imple-
ment a local tax on sugar-sweetened
beverages; $3.3 million to the Wash-
ington State Department of Health to
lobby lawmakers in New York for legisla-
tion requiring chain restaurants to publicly
post the amounts of the calories they
serve; $7 million to Jefferson County,
AL, to urge Alabama lawmakers to raise tobacco taxes; $16 million to the County of Los Angeles to help secure a ban on new fast food restaurants around Los Angeles. A lot of that is lobbying activity. Yes, I suppose the end results could be prevention of health problems.

This country is coming up on an economic judgment day. We do not have extra money lying around. In fact, when we are talking about pay-fors, we are really talking about paying for whatever new is put in. We do not talk about how we are going to cover the $15 trillion in debt we have out there, the $49,000 every man, woman, and child in the United States owes. It is a heavy burden.

I talked earlier about Greece. Greece only owes $39,000 per person. They are just not trusted as much as the United States. If we keep running up that debt, we are not going to be trusted either. Unfortunately, President Obama and the Democratic Congress said that the Democrats would rather play election-year politics than find a solution that focuses on the immediate need of America's students and their families.

Neither bill is ideal. Each spends 10 years of savings in 1 year and neither produces a long-term, sustainable solution. However, the Republican proposal has the benefit of using an offset previously used by the Democrats, as I mentioned. The $5 billion from that fund was used earlier this year to help pay for the extension of the payroll tax holiday, and in this year's budget, the President proposed cutting an additional $4.5 billion.

The Democratic bill raises taxes on small businesses at a time when the Nation needs those businesses to be creating jobs so college students have employment opportunities when they graduate. It is discriminating against small businesses because it does not take into account individuals that are not corporations. Those are the dividends they eventually are able to take out of the business. But a big corporation pays dividends to investors and those do not have payroll taxes taken out either.

So no sincere attempt was made by the Democrats to find a bipartisan solution. Both Senator Reid and Senator Harkin reached out to my staff to inquire about the possibility of funding a solution and expressed a willingness to discuss possible offsets, but the Democrats released the details of their proposed S corporation tax prior to any meeting.

When my staff did meet with Senator Harkin’s office, his staff indicated the S corporation offset was the only offset the Democrats were willing to consider. That makes compromise pretty difficult. Senator Reid has filed for cloture on S. 2943, the Democrats’ bill we are to debate now, and a vote will be held tomorrow afternoon. At this point, we have been told we are not going to have a vote on the Republican bill at all.

So cloture tomorrow will fail because there will be no opportunity to put any amendments on this bill, and this is not a perfectly drafted bill. This is something that was put together in a bit of a hurry without having bipartisan input. The reason we have 535 people and there are a whole bunch of different viewpoints. The reason we have 22 people on a committee is that there are 22 viewpoints that go into the bill and we can see what unintended consequences there are that didn’t happen on this bill.

This has been put together by two or three people or half a dozen staff members or whatever, I am not sure. But it has not had the input from both sides. So our side had to come up with a bill that follows the same procedure. I can tell you neither bill is ideal, and a solution has to be reached for these young people. We are all agreed on that. We are just not agreed on how we pay for it, and we do have a problem with pay-fors.

I urge the majority leader to pull the bill from the floor, sit down with us, and find a solution we all can agree to. This is not an issue over which election-year politics should prevent us from reaching a bipartisan agreement. I am aware of anybody is opposed to the extension of the reduction in the interest rate. Incidentally, that is not an interest rate reduction to everybody; it is only to those who have subsidized loans.

If someone is a student who has regular loans, they are not able to participate in this. That would require a lot more money. Again, I urge the majority leader to pull this bill, sit down, come up with a solution both sides can agree on. It is getting tougher and tougher to find pay-fors because we are getting further and further in the hole.

We are not going to stop digging, so we better start digging together.

I yield the floor.

**THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.** The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, how much time is remaining on our side?

**THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.** There is no allocation of time. Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, am I correct the time for debate under this bill will expire at 4 p.m.?

**THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.** At 4:30.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Chair. Mr. President, after listening to the previous three speakers, it is hard to know where to begin to correct the record with all the misstatements. Maybe I will kind of work backward. My good friend, the Senator from Wyoming, gave a whole list of different things about where this money was spent. He mentioned something about California and fast food construction. I did not get it all. But I am informed there was $16 million to provide free pet spaying and neutering. You put that out there and the radio talk shows pick up on that and all that kind of stuff. Then they have this around the country every- one upset. My God, we are using tax money now to neuter dog and cats in Nashville, TN. Who would not be opposed to that? I heard it said by the previous three speakers we all agree the interest rate should not go up. OK. We have before us, as I understand, two choices right now. The Republican plan is the one passed by the House of Representatives a couple weeks ago, which would eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund and cut that money in to keep the interest rate down at 3.4 percent rather than letting it go up to 6.8 percent.

So they would eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund, about which I spoke at length a little while ago. Our bill would close a loophole in the tax code that allows certain small chapter S corporations to avoid paying their FICA taxes, their Social Security and Medicare taxes, because of the way they are arranged.
I am going to get into that in a minute and try to explain exactly how that is set up. We are not going after small businesses at all. We are simply providing more of a bright line on what are legitimate dividends from a corporation. It may seem odd to the FICA taxes, and what are wages and salaries that they do have to pay FICA taxes on.

Right now, in certain subchapter S corporations, it is kind of cloudy. It is kind of cloudy. As someone on the other side said, we have seen this big increase in subchapter S corporations. Well, of course. People who have had partnerships before or sole proprietorships all of a sudden are rushing to establish subchapter S corporations, with very few stockholders, to get away from paying their legitimate taxes on Social Security and Medicare.

Our bill would close that loophole. We have the two choices in front of us. Which do we want? If those are the only two, do we want to eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund or do we want to put a bright line on subchapter S corporations and say if they cross that line we have to pay those Social Security and Medicare taxes? Maybe we can have that vote. Maybe we have to actually have that vote here.

I would like to see if my Republican friends want to eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Earlier this year, from our committee I passed out to every Member of the Senate how much money went to the individual States and what it went for in preventive services, strengthening of public health infrastructure, tobacco prevention programs, some to East Tennessee State University for the training and preparing of a public health workforce, Vanderbilt University Medical Center for clinical preventive services.

I get right down to the dollar, where it all went. I am not trying to hide anything. I say to my friend from Tennessee, ask these people where did this money go. We know where it went. Does my friend propose that we cut out all of the States, what it went for. It was made available to Tennessee in this Prevention and Wellness Fund for fiscal year 2011. I listed all the things it went to: community programs to promote healthy living, detection and prevention of infectious diseases, clinical preventive services, strengthening of public health infrastructure, tobacco prevention programs, some to East Tennessee State University for the training and preparing of a public health workforce.

A recent case where the tax payer was an S corporation, an accounting practice owned by a CPA and his wife. The CPA served as the corporation’s president, treasurer, director, and only full-time accountant but received no salary. Imagine that. He received no salary. He reported to the CPA “donated” his services to the corporation and withdrew earnings from the entity in the form of dividend distribution. During the years under audit, the CPA worked for the corporation approximately 36 hours a week. In addition to testifying that his work was crucial to the continued success of the corporation’s business, the CPA also indicated that dividends were drawn in lieu of salary to reduce employment taxes. I imagine that. The corporation asserted that the CPA was not an employee, and even if he was an employee, dividend distributions cannot be taxed as wages.

What does our bill do? Right now, if you are in a subchapter S corporation, you, the person, get to say whether what you are making is income or dividends. I heard mentioned something about Warren Buffett. I don’t know his whole deal, but it seems to me that most of his income is from dividends and capital gains. We are not talking about that. We are talking about this would be—if we took the subchapter S situation and applied it to C corporations, which Mr. Buffett would be in, then Mr. Buffett would face a board with independent people making a decision on officers’ salary. With subchapter S corporations with only one, two or three stockholders, they are making their own decisions on their personal taxes, whether they are dividends or salary. What do you think people decide?

Again, an accountant tells a subchapter S corporation it can do 40 percent and it would not get audited, they do 40 percent and don’t get audited, and they don’t have to pay Social Security or Medicare taxes on what is reported gain.

What do we do in this bill? We say: Look, if you are a professional subchapter S corporation and you have three or fewer shareholders, then we don’t do a bright line. If you income is over $250,000 a year for joint filing, and if in fact there was earned income, then it would be subject to FICA taxes. That is the bright line that we are drawing. In fact, what it will do is give subchapter S corporations a better idea of what their profits are earning money or dividends.

Quite frankly, not only are we helping to raise money for the Medicare
and Social Security trust funds, we are actually making it better for people out there who may not know where they fall. Is it dividends or is it earned income? Our bill only covers a very narrow share of S corporations. It deals only with professional corporations. It doesn’t touch manufacturing or retail activities. It doesn’t touch real estate activities. It covers the area where the abuse is most prevalent right now.

I want to speak for a minute on what Senator Alexander was talking about earlier about the money that came from students and whether it was given back to students. He said that instead of 6.8 percent, it would have been 5.3 percent. We voted on that and it failed. So we did speak on that.

Again, what I point out is that most of this money—most of the money that we had in that $61 billion, most of that indeed went for students. I think I had it here—of that $61 billion, $36 billion went to help students. Pell Grants; $750 million went to bolster college access for students through the College Access Challenge Grant Program; $2.55 billion went to Historically Black Colleges and Universities and minority institutions. The $2.55 billion went to community colleges; about $10 billion was used for deficit reduction; $9.2 billion, as I said, went to certain health care activities.

Guess what one of those was that was paid for? Requiring dependent coverage—saying that a young person can stay on his or her parents’ health care policy until age 26. Does that help students? Of course it helps students. How many young people who go off to college, and they are in college and maybe drop out a little while to make some money and then go back to college and maybe even graduate, but they don’t have a full-time job—they can stay on their parents’ policy until they are age 26.

I cannot tell you how many people I have heard from in my State of Iowa who have said what a godsend this is to them and their kids who are students. I make no apologies for the fact that some of this money out of that $61 billion that went to subsidize banks went to help students stay on their parents’ health care policy.

When they say some of the money came from students, it didn’t. The $61 billion came from cutting the subsidies to banks. The great bulk of it, all but about—well, $10 million went to pay the deficit down, and $9.2 billion went to things such as banning lifetime limits, requiring dependent coverage, expanding community health centers, that type of thing. So none of it actually came from students themselves. It all came from closing the loophole where banks were making on that money.

The next thing that was said I wanted to correct was that the Medicaid expansion in the affordable care act—100 percent of that expansion is paid for in the Federal side, not the stateside. Senator Alexander talked about this and was saying we are expanding Medicaid, which is a burden on the States. That would be true, but for the fact that 100 percent of this expansion is paid for by the Federal Government. It only phases down to 90 percent in the future, but it never comes below 90 percent.

If the Senate would like to debate whether Medicaid should be all Federal, or Federal and State, we can do that and maybe even find some common ground. But that is not the case before us. I didn’t think the debate on this bill to keep student interest rates low would now morph into a debate on health care. But if you want to have a debate on health care, I will be more than happy to do so, and whether or not we should use money from the Prevention and Public Health Fund to pay for it.

So, again, I would say no money—no money—comes out of the Medicare trust fund; $9.2 billion, as I said, went to help students. Pell Grants; $750 million went to bolster college access for students through the College Access Challenge Grant Program; $2.55 billion went to Historically Black Colleges and Universities and minority institutions. The $2.55 billion went to community colleges; about $10 billion was used for deficit reduction; $9.2 billion, as I said, went to certain health care activities.

Under the budget rules we are operating under, money raised can be used as an offset even though that money is raised for Medicare. I want to make it crystal clear that the money we are raising from closing this loophole in subchapter S corporations, none of it—none of it—actually comes out of the trust fund for student loans or to keep the interest rate low. It goes to the Medicare and Social Security trust funds.

Under the Republican proposal, we would not get any more money into Medicare or Social Security. They would just do away with the Prevention and Public Health Fund and take that money off the table and raise the interest rates low, but not one nickel of that would go to Medicare or Social Security. Our bill would help those trust funds.

So our bill really has three benefits: First, it closes a tax loophole, provides for more definitive application of what is subchapter S income or dividends for a narrow class of companies—earned income or unearned income; second, it provides money to the Social Security trust fund and Medicare trust fund, which looks like one-third and third, it allows the student interest rate loans, Federal subsidized loans, to stay at 3.4 percent for the next year.

Sometime in the next year, obviously, we are going to have to figure out a long-term fix for this or what we want to do on these subsidized loans in the future and how we are going to pay for this down the road. In the meantime, as everyone has said on both sides, we both agree it ought to stay at 3.4 percent for the next year.

So I guess the debate does revolve around how we pay for it. Again, from my viewpoint—not my viewpoint; the House already voted last week to kill the Prevention and Public Health Fund, and that is what the Republicans are proposing here.

Again, to refer back to where I started earlier this afternoon, I think the editorial that ran in the Times today was quite clear in talking about the findings in the New England Journal of Medicine about what is happening with type 2 diabetes and how devastating that is going to be in the future. They said, that long-term goal should be the prevention of obesity and diabetes. The editorial said:

Congressional Republicans, meanwhile, are bent on dismantling health care reforms that could greatly assist in curbing the obesity epidemic. The Republican-dominated House last month narrowly passed a bill that would eliminate a Prevention and Public Health Fund, established under the reform law in part to pay for lowering the interest rate on subsidized student loans for a year.

The editorial noted that there is no explanation for this move except for the usual anti-health care reform demagoguery and noted that it is already providing grants to state and local governments to help pay for programs to fight obesity and prevent chronic diseases, including diabetes, in the community, the workplace, and among minority groups.

So I guess that is really the argument—how do we pay for it? It comes as no surprise, I am sure, when I say that I think closing this loophole is much better than doing away with the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I said it before and I will say it again: Neither option is ideal. These ought to be the options we are voting on, but actually we are not going to get to vote on the two options, we are going to get to vote on one option because this is a cloture vote and this cloture vote will fail because it is not a good enough bill to pass. It is not a good enough bill to get 60 votes, so it will fail. And the only purpose of it failing is to say: Look at those Republicans who killed that bill.

There could be a solution, but it isn’t a solution by bringing a bill directly to the floor and saying: Take it or leave it. It has to be a solution by sending it to committee and having the people that work there work out a way that it can be done. We have done that in our committee a number of times, and the bills that go to our committee and then come to the floor are pretty successful. But this one did not go to committee.

So it isn’t really two choices we are getting, it is one choice: We can take it the way the Democrats wrote it or we can forget it.

They say this closes a loophole because of the wording regarding there being three or fewer shareholders. Now, I can already hear how people’s minds are working. They are saying: OK, if I want to cheat on that—and you have
now taught me how I can—I will add a fourth person. Now your bill doesn't cover it. So it is not written properly. We are not going to stop them by doing what is written in the bill, so it is not going to generate any revenue. If it doesn't generate any revenue, it will not cover the cost for keeping the health care down.

Besides that, the IRS has guidelines that say how much one should be taking out of their business as wages, and they are going to add a payroll tax on that or they will be taken to tax court. That is the case to which the Senator from Iowa referred. It was a case of an accountant who got caught and was taken to tax court and told he couldn't cheat on his taxes. Now, we ought to have more enforcement like that. It should be pretty easy for the IRS to check and see if there are some S corporations out there that aren't paying any wages. That should be a little computer check since every return gets turned into a digital return now. Some of us help the IRS by sending our forms in digitally to begin with, which saves a lot of input on someone's part. But they can check in a matter of seconds the S corporations that have no wages, and there are no wages, if they ought to have a much lower limit than what the other side is suggesting.

If we are going to do tax reform, let's do tax reform. To do it this way is the wrong way.

I am aware of the comment that this money is not being taken from Medicare and Social Security. Well, the way we do Federal accounting—and we should be ashamed of the way we do Federal accounting—that can be a true statement, but, in fact, it is not true. Here is how we do it. Here is how we cook the books as a Federal Government. We will collect this tax that should go to Medicare and Social Security and we will put bonds in a drawer and force the money down in interest rates for the students. That is spending it twice because we are still showing it over here as owing it to the Social Security and Medicare folks. But we do this all the time. Do you know how much money there actually is in the drawer called Social Security? Nothing. There are bonds in there.

I used to listen to Senator Hollings, Democrat from South Carolina, talking about "lootin' Social Security—lootin' it"—because all we do is put bonds in a drawer and we spend the money. And we have been doing that for decades. So the deficit we are talking about is probably considerably greater than what we are willing to admit. But that is exactly what we are going to be doing here once again. We are going to be lootin' Social Security and Medicare and providing some loopholes for them to keep on doing the same thing they have been doing. We are going to have to get the IRS on that and get it going better.

There ought to be a lot more options. But that is not what we are doing here.

What we should be doing is getting together and figuring out more options, more ways to take care of all of the problems students are having. And they are going to be demanding a whole lot more than what we are doing.

We are not going to stop them by doing what is written in the bill. The President did take $5 million from this prevention fund, and I heard him say that was enough. Well, if that was enough, how come his new budget includes taking another $4.5 billion out of that fund? So I guess he doesn't think there is still more that can be taken—$4.5 billion. This is a $6 billion project we are talking about here, so $1.5 billion another way.

We are just talking past each other, and that is what happens any time a bill comes to the floor if this is the only place we get to debate it. Notice how many of my colleagues are listening to me right now. If there are two people on the floor, it usually means one of them is not listening to what is being said. That is not a debate. That is not a way to come up with solutions. What we have to do is send these things to committee.

Senator HARKIN and I have a way of working the Senate and the committees, and that is to have people turn in their amendments a couple days ahead of time and we look at those. It is surprising how many times an amendment by a Republican is almost the same as an amendment by a Democrat. The trick is to get the two of them to sit down together and figure out which words need to be changed so that they can both take credit for it.

So this is a frustrating process. It is the wrong way to do it. But I have to answer one more thing yet; that is, I cited some cases where funds were being used from that prevention fund that I thought were wrong and I do think are wrong. The Senator said that after I mentioned that and after we said we would give it to him, he would make sure the Department of Justice gets on it. Well, now we not only need to have the IRS working, we have to have the Department of Justice working a little bit because there is some pretty good evidence, I think, that some money has been spent for lobbying. In some cases it is called advocacy, but it is by people working the legislators over, and that, in my opinion, is lobbying.

I do hope this bill will be referred to committee, which is where it deserves to be, so that a solution can be worked out. I would hope that if we do have that cloture vote tomorrow, instead of having the bill pulled, that both sides will join in saying “send it to committee” and vote against cloture. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore, The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. I say to my good friend from Wyoming—and he is my good friend, and we do a lot of good work together—I wish we could have this bill in our committee. I think we could work it out. But the fact is, to raise the money, it has to come from the Finance Committee, and we don't have jurisdiction over that. If we had jurisdiction over that, we could probably work it out. We have a good way of working with the Finance Committee. But we don't have jurisdiction over finance on this darned thing. If we did, we could probably figure it out.

Mr. ENZI. Could I amend my comments to have the Finance Committee take the bill and work out a solution?

Mr. HARKIN. The Senator from Wyoming, because I was listening to him, I think it is fair, if we are going to have a vote on ours, that we ought to have a vote on yours. I think that if we are going to have a vote, we ought to have a vote on ours, which is the subchapter S corporation, and see how that fails, and have a vote on whether we want to end the Prevention and Public Health Fund. That money. I would like to have that vote. I would love to have that vote. I would love to see how my friends on the other side of the aisle want to vote on whether they want to kill the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

I would also say that on this subchapter S corporation issue, the IRS right now audits about one-half of 1 percent of the returns from subchapter S corporations. So they have to think, why do the odds they are ever going to catch me, and if they do, they pay a fine and that is it. The IRS doesn't have the personnel to do everyone. What we are doing, I wish to say again, just to make it very clear, that because of the sort of fog that surrounds subchapter S corporations right now, the IRS simply can't audit them all. They don't have the personnel to do that, and some claim that there is a lot of questions about whether some one is income or dividends. But let me repeat again what our bill does.

We create a bright-line test that affects only a narrow class of subchapter S corporations. It affects only professional subchapter S corporations, those engaged in professions such as doctors, lawyers, accountants, consultants, lobbyists, where the gain is due to the professional work. This provision does not include subchapter S gains from unrelated retail, wholesale or manufacturing activities.

The provision only covers subchapter S corporations where there are three or fewer stockholders. It only covers those earning more than $250,000 a year as a joint filer, and it only covers gains when 75% or more are attributable to 3 or fewer stockholders. So if a subchapter S company has income that is partially from professional activities, such as lobbying, and partially from other activities, such as real estate investments, the investment income does not fall under the rule.

The joint Committee on Taxation and the Treasury Inspector General for
Mr. President, I wanted to try to paint a personal face on some of the students whom I have met this past week on how it is going to impact them. But let me just set the table by saying we voted on this back in 2007 in order to give some relief to students, and we cut the interest rate from 6.8 to 3.4 for undergraduate Stafford loans.

The whole idea was, in this time of economic trial, that we would give some little break to students. Indeed, it is and has been a break. It is something on the average of $1,000 a year we are looking at a student saving in extra interest payments on these loans. When it comes right down to the personal stories, they are wrenching.

At the University of Florida, meeting with a group of students this past week, a young woman—I will not use her name because she just broke down in tears—pointed out how not only did she have Stafford loans but that her mom—who had gone through school as an adult raising a family—had gotten a degree in computer science and could not get a job, was going back to school because she had an LPN associate degree where she can get a job. So the mom and the daughter both had a considerable number of loans. This young woman absolutely broke down as to what it was going to be in the way of financial burden.

Over at the University of South Florida in Tampa, student body president Matthew Diaz said: You are cutting down the dreams of an entire generation.

Another student at USF, Emmanuel Catalan, a political science major, said he is the first in his family to attend college. He questions, if we don't give this break on interest, whether his brother and other members in his family are going to be able to pursue higher education.

Another student, Austin Prince, a sophomore microbiology and Chinese major, wondered how in the world students are going to make it in this kind of economy if they are mired in debt. He said: It reduces consumer buying power if we are paying off loans for 20 years.

At the University of Florida, Madison Todd, a political science major, said she took out the maximum amount of loans available to attend the University of Florida, and her family has been scraping together everything they could in order that she could continue her education.

Why is this important? Can we remember back to World War II, when we defeated two enemies on either side of the globe and all those GIs came home, and for the first time we had a major part of American youth under the GI Bill in college. What did that do? America was at the pinnacle of her power and influence in the world. Then, with that generation of young people getting educated as they never had before, all of a sudden we had an expanding middle class as we went into the 1950s and the 1960s.

We will also remember that was a time of attention to high technology because we suddenly found ourselves behind the Soviets in the space race, with Sputnik and then Gagarin going up. All the more kids went into math and science and technology and look what that spawned in the generations because of education. A lot of that came directly out of the GI bill. Are we now to adopt policies that are going to reverse that trend?

We tried to take care of it in a diminishing economy, as we slipped into the recession back in 2007, by saying it is a matter of policy that we should lower interest rates for students who want to get their education. Here we are. What is this boils down to is how are we going to pay for it? It costs $6 billion for 1 year.

The House of Representatives has taken a position and that has been discussed here. Their position is take it out of the health care bill. When we take it out of health care, we are taking it out of diabetes screening, heart disease screening, cancer screening for breast and cervical cancer. Do we want to do that? I don’t think so.

Do we want to take it out of antitobacco programs to try to keep kids from getting hooked on tobacco? I don’t think so.

Do we want to take it out of childhood immunizations, where the spending of $1 on childhood immunizations by the Federal Government saves the American government $16 in the long run? That is a ratio of 1 to 16 because of children not getting the diseases they were immunized against. Do we want to take it out of that? I don’t think so.

What have we come up with in the Senate? We came up with a narrow part of the tax-paying public, subchapter S corporation individuals who pay individual tax—not corporate tax—and only those in a joint return above $250,000 gross income. They would do what? They would pay the payroll tax, Medicare, and Social Security that they do not pay under the existing law because they are treated as if they were a corporation instead of a partner which, in effect, they are, save for the tax laws.

That is the choice. If this motion does not get 60 votes in order to break the filibuster or even if it does, we have to reconcile the pay-for for the $6 billion this student loan interest bill will cost. It is my hope that common sense, that bipartisanship, that nonideological rigidity would rule the day and that we would simply ask what is best for our people and for our country.
nomination of a long-time nominee, Judge Jacqueline Nguyen to the Ninth Circuit, was the first of the 22 nominations considered today. The Senate confirmed Judge Nguyen to the Ninth Circuit on June 8, with a vote of 93-6. The confirmation came after 10 months of delay, and it was considered a major victory for the Senate and the judicial branch.

Judge Nguyen was nominated by President Obama on July 23, 2010, but her nomination was held up by Senate Republicans who feared she would be too liberal. After months of inaction, the Senate finally confirmed her nomination in June, just as the court's term was about to begin.

The confirmation of Judge Nguyen was a rare victory for the Senate and the judicial branch, as the confirmation process for federal judges has become increasingly contentious in recent years. The Senate has confirmed only 11 of President Obama's judicial nominees in 2011, compared to 63 confirmed by President George W. Bush in his first two years in office.

The confirmation of Judge Nguyen also came as the Senate was facing pressure from both sides of the aisle to reduce the backlog of judicial vacancies. The Senate has confirmed only 11 of President Obama's judicial nominees in 2011, compared to 63 confirmed by President George W. Bush in his first two years in office.

The confirmation of Judge Nguyen was a rare victory for the Senate and the judicial branch, as the confirmation process for federal judges has become increasingly contentious in recent years. The Senate has confirmed only 11 of President Obama's judicial nominees in 2011, compared to 63 confirmed by President George W. Bush in his first two years in office.
nomination has the strong support of both his Republican home State Senators, Senator John McCain and Senator Jon Kyl.

We have much more work to do to help resolve the judicial vacancy crisis that has continued for more than 2 years. Today the Senate finally votes on 3 of the 22 judicial nominations that have been reported by the Judiciary Committee after a thorough review. Despite nearly 1 out of every 10 Federal judgeships, Senate Republicans continue to delay votes and are stalling action on nearly 20 current judicial nominations on which the Senate could be taking final action. If confirmed those judges would serve 150 million Americans.

When the majority leader and the Republican leader came to their interim understanding in March, it resulted in votes on 14 of the 22 judicial nominations then awaiting final consideration. Because the arrangement took months to implement what the Senate could have done in hours, the backlog of judicial vacancies and judicial nominees it should not require us to overcome the partisan and political standoffs for the Senate to do its job of promptly considering judicial nominations, especially when so many of them have bipartisan support and are consensus nominees.

The backlog of nominations ready for final action is not necessary or typical. It is an artificial backlog created by the refusal of Senate Republicans to consider judicial nominees at the end of each of the last 2 years and their insistence of delays of months before confirmation of consensus nominees. These practices have meant that the Senate’s confirmations have barely kept up with attrition on the Federal bench. Senate Republicans refused to give consent to consider 19 judicial nominations at the end of 2010, it took us until June of last year to work through those nominations. When they did so again at the end of last year, it took us until today, a week into May, to catch up with last year’s nominations. That is not how to reduce judicial vacancies.

The Senate needs to continue working and continue consideration of judicial nominees recommended by the Judiciary Committee if we are to make real progress in reducing the burden of judicial vacancies. That is what we did in the most recent presidential election years of 2004 and 2008 and what we should be doing for the next year. Before we hear any more talk of slowing down or shutting off judicial confirmations, we have a long way to go. We need to work to reduce the vacancies that are burdening the Federal judiciary and the millions who rely on our Federal courts to seek justice.

At this same point in the Bush administration, we had reduced judicial vacancies around the country to under 50. Today they stand at nearly 80. And by August 2004, we reduced judicial vacancies to just 28 vacancies. Despite 2004 being a presidential election year, we were able to reduce vacancies to the lowest level in the last 20 years. At a time of real political confrontation, despite the attack on 9/11, the anthrax letters shutting down Senate offices, and the ideologically driven judicial selections of President Bush, we worked together to promptly confirm consensus nominees to significantly reduce judicial vacancies.

In 2008, another presidential election year, we again worked to reduce judicial vacancies and by October we were able to reduce judicial vacancies back down to 34 vacancies. I accommodated Senate Republicans and continued holding expedited hearings and votes on judicial nominations into September 2008.

We lowered vacancy rates more than twice as quickly during President Bush’s first term as Senate Republicans have allowed during President Obama’s first term. The vacancy rate remains nearly twice what it was at this point in the first term of President Bush. The Senate is 20 behind the number of circuit and district court confirmations at this point in President Bush’s fourth year in office. We are 63 confirmations from the total of 205 that we reached by the end of President Bush’s fourth year.

Today’s consensus nominees are examples of those who have been unnecessarily stalled for months. Kristine Baker, nominated to fill a judicial emergency vacancy on the Eastern District of Arkansas, has spent nearly 15 years in private practice after graduating with honors from the University of Arkansas School of Law and clerking for Judge Susan Wright in the court to which she has been nominated. Her nomination has the bipartisan support of her home State Senators. Her nomination was favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee with the support of nearly every Senator on February 16.

John Lee, nominated to fill one of three judicial emergency vacancies on the Northern District of Illinois, has worked in private practice for almost 20 years. His personal story is remarkable. Born to a coal miner and a nurse in Korea, he moved to the United States when he was 5 years old and went on to graduate from Harvard College and Harvard Law School. If confirmed, he will become the second Korean-American to serve as a Federal district court judge, and the second Asian-American to serve as a Federal judge in the courts encompassed by the Seventh Circuit. Mr. Lee’s nomination has the bipartisan support of his home State Senators. They both also support the confirmation of J ohn Tharp, a former nominee of President George W. Bush, to another judicial emergency vacancy in that district. With Republican consent we could also be voting on the Tharp nomination. Both Illinois nominations were favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee with only one Senator dissenting on February 16.

Today’s votes must be a starting point. We must continue to consider judicial nominations if we want to bring down judicial vacancies and hope to match the progress we were able to make in 2004 and 2008, both Presidential election years in which we considered the nominations of a Republican President and continued to reduce judicial vacancies. I hope that Senate Republicans will stop blocking prompt confirmation of consensus nominees. That is a destructive developmental and new practice that has contributed to keeping the Senate behind the curve, keeping Federal judicial vacancies unfilled, overburdening the Federal courts, and keeping Americans from securing prompt justice. The American people deserve better.

I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask unanimous consent the time be divided equally.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. 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. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Kristine Baker’s nomination as United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. Kris Baker is a great lawyer recognized by her peers as well as legal organizations for her dedication to litigation on a wide range of issues, from deceptive trade practices to first amendment matters.

I had the opportunity to introduce her during her confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. After reviewing her record and meeting with her personally, as well as meeting with those who know her, looking at her reputation, looking at her abilities, I am confident that Kris’s experience makes her qualified to be the next eastern district judge of Arkansas.

Kris moved to Arkansas in 1994 to pursue a J.D. from the University of Arkansas School of Law. During law school, she established herself as a hard worker committed to success. She graduated with high honors, was articles editor for the Arkansas Law Review, a member of the board of advocates, and a member of the University of Arkansas first amendment national moot court team.

Kris began her legal career after graduation as a law clerk for Judge Susan Wright, then chief judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. In 2000 she joined her current law firm, Quattlebaum, Grooms, Tull, and Burrow, and became a partner 2 years later.
May 7, 2012

Kris has earned the respect of the legal community across Arkansas, and I believe her litigation experience has given her the knowledge, the skills, and the temperament needed to successfully serve on the Federal bench. I am recommending that the Senate confirm Kristine Baker to serve the people of America as a judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

I note the absence of a quorum and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. 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. President, is it appropriate in the Senate schedule to start debate on the judges?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The judges are pending.

Mr. President. Mr. President, today the Senate is expected to confirm three additional judicial nominees. With the confirmation of Judge Nguyen to the Ninth Circuit, Ms. Baker to the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Ms. Wright to the Northern District of Illinois, we will have confirmed 83 judicial nominees during this Congress.

It is somewhat ironic that today, according to press accounts, the White House is holding a forum and strategy session where 200 senators or supporters from across the country concerned about the judicial vacancy rate. I wonder if at this strategy session the White House took a look in the mirror when addressing the vacancy rate. Only the President can make nominations to the Senate. While we have a responsibility to advise and consent on those nominations, Senators cannot fill vacancies unless people are nominated for those positions. I would note the President has failed to do this in 47 of the 76 remaining vacancies, including 21 of 35 seats designated as judicial emergencies. That is more than 60 percent of the current vacancies with no nominee.

The White House and the Senate majority are fond of their claim that millions of Americans are living in districts with vacancies. Of course, what the other side fails to tell you is that 88 million Americans live in judicial districts with vacancies, the President has failed to nominate judges. Most of those seats have been vacant for more than a whole year. Once again, if the White House is serious about judicial vacancies, it holds the key to nominating and filling those vacancies. It has failed in too many instances to use that key.

Furthermore, according to the press accounts, in its invitation, the White House accused Republicans of subjecting nominees to “unprecedented delays and filibusters.” This is a statement without factual basis, and it ignores the record of judicial nominations.

I would note that after today’s confirmation, there are 12 nominees on the Executive Calendar that might fall into the category of consensus nominees. Seven nominees on the calendar had significant opposition in the Committee, but consensus nominees. The substantial majority of those 12 nominees were reported out of committee less than 10 legislative days ago. Not only is there no filibuster against any of the consensus nominees, but it is clear how there can be an accusation of delay and particularly partisan delay.

Let me remind my colleagues on the other side of the aisle of the obstructionism, delay, and filibusters which they perfected. The history of President Bush’s nominees to the Ninth Circuit provides some examples. President Bush nominated nine individuals to the Ninth Circuit. Three of those nominations were filibustered. Two of those filibusters were successful. The nominee, William Gerhard, was confirmed after 390 days. Gerry Myers languished for years before being returned to the President. A fourth nominee, Randy Smith, waited over 14 months before finally being confirmed after his nomination was recommenced by the President and confirmed with a majority vote. After being renominated, he was finally confirmed unanimously.

President Obama, on the other hand, has nominated six individuals to the Ninth Circuit. Only one of those nominees was subject to a cloture vote. After the vote failed, the nominee withdrew. Today we confirm the third nominee of this President to the Ninth Circuit. Those three confirmations took an average of about 8 months from the date of nomination. For all of President Obama’s circuit nominees, the average time from nomination to confirmation is about 242 days. For President Bush’s circuit nominees, the average wait for confirmation was 350 days. One might ask why President Bush was treated so differently, with so much more delay than this President has been treated or his nominees have been treated.

Another example of past Democratic obstruction and delay is in Arkansas. Today we confirm President Obama’s nominee to the Eastern District of Arkansas within about 6 months of her nomination. I would note that President Bush’s nominee, Jay Leon Holmes, sat on the Executive Calendar for more than 14 months awaiting confirmation. From nomination, his confirmation took over 17 months. Again, why were President Bush’s nominees treated worse than this President’s nominees?

I can only conclude that the White House has selective memory, or different definitions when it accuses Republicans of unprecedented delay and obstructionism. I am disappointed that the President continues to blame Republicans for vacancies that have no nominee and chooses to follow the political strategy of blaming rather than working with the Senate to nominate consensus nominees. In other words, why isn’t the President, instead of having a conference on why there are judicial vacancies, taking the same amount of time to get the names up here so we can work on them?

Judge Nguyen, presently serving as a U.S. district judge, is nominated to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Ninth Circuit. Judge Nguyen received her A.B. from Occidental College in 1987 and her J.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law, in 1993. She began her legal career as an associate in the Litigation Department at the Los Angeles law firm of Musick, Peeler & Garrett where she handled litigation matters involving commercial disputes, intellectual property, and construction defects. From 1995 until 2002, Judge Nguyen was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California. There, she handled the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking fraud, mail and tax fraud, and money laundering cases. In 2003, Judge Nguyen became deputy chief of the General Crimes Section. In that position, she handled the training and supervision of all new Assistant U.S. Attorneys and various types of criminal cases involving violent crimes, drug trafficking, firearms violations, and fraud.

In 2002, Governor Gray Davis appointed Judge Nguyen to the Superior Court for the County of Los Angeles. In 2009, she was nominated by President Obama to be U.S. district judge for the Central District of California. The Senate approved her nomination on December 1, 2009 by a vote of 97-0. In her capacity as a judge, she has presided over thousands of cases.

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated her as “qualified” for this position.

Kristine Gerhard Baker is nominated to be U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. Ms. Baker received her B.A. from St. Louis University in 1993 and her J.D. from University of Arkansas School of Law in 1996. She served as a law clerk for the Honorable Susan Webber Wright, then the chief judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. In 1998 she became an associate in the law firm Williams & Anderson, L.L.P. where she handled commercial litigation cases involving breach of contract and fraud. In 2000, Ms. Baker joined the law firm Quattlebaum, Grooms, Tull & Burrow, P.L.C. Her focus at the firm has been devoted to complex commercial litigation cases, including cases involving employment discrimination, securities violations, unfair competition, and products liability, Fair Housing Act claims, and Freedom of Information Act claims. She has handled administrative proceedings and in Federal and State court claims for discrimination, harassment, and wrongful termination as well as claims arising under
the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary gave her a substantial majority rating of "well qualified" and a minority "qualified."

John Z. Lee is nominated to be U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Lee received his A.B. from Harvard College in 1989 and his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1992. He began his legal career as an attorney for the United States Department of Justice, Environment & Natural Resources Division. There he represented the United States in Federal courts on issues primarily involving environmental statutes. He also served as special assistant to the counsel to former Attorney General Janet Reno.

In 1994, he left the public sector to take a job as an associate at Mayer Brown. In 1996, he joined a new firm, Grippo & Elden, as an associate. In 1999, he moved to his current firm, Freeborn & Peters. There he made income partner in 2001 and equity partner in 2004. In private practice, Mr. Lee has focused almost entirely on litigation, and his expertise to complex commercial disputes, including cases involving antitrust, intellectual property, employment, and business tort issues. Most of these cases were in Federal courts, particularly the Seventh and Ninth Circuits. He has represented clients in criminal investigations of antitrust and financial regulations violations. In private practice, he represents public and private companies, individual businesspersons and low-income clients pro bono. He has an ABA rating of substantial majority "qualified," minority "not qualified."

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of the nominations of John Lee and Jay Tharp to serve on the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

I have listened carefully to the statement made by the ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee. I would note several things.

First, at this point in President George W. Bush's first term, the Democratic Senate had approved 30 more judicial nominees. I have been approved under the current situation with this divided Senate. Second, it would take 60 judicial nominations to be filled by the end of the year for President Obama to have received the same treatment as President George W. Bush in his first term—60. We could get a lot of that done today. Right here are 22 nominations for the judiciary that have cleared the committee. If the Senator from Iowa would like to come to the floor and join me, we could make this joint unanimous request to bring up all 22 immediately—every one of them—all of whom have cleared the committee. Those Senators who want to vote against those nominations may do so. They can vote no. But, unfortunately, as we can see from this calendar, the names of the nominees languished on this calendar for months—literally for months—and many times passed unopposed by a unanimous vote. It really does not speak well of this process that we have reached this point, this slowdown.

What many Republicans are awaiting is the so-called Thurmond rule. It is not a rule; it is not a rulebook; it refers to Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, who kind of announced at one point in his career: We are going to stop considering judges as of a certain point in an election year. I have been in the Senate a few years and have heard so many different explanations about what the Thurmond rule really means, although I am not sure anyone really knows. All we know is that in a political campaign year, politics rule, and in this situation many Republicans are being reminded of nominees approved by Democrats and Republicans in committee for another reason but the hope that they can win back the White House in November and fill the nominees with their favorites. I think that there are nominees who have gone through the process, of whom many have been cleared by a bipartisan vote and should be confirmed in a timely fashion.

Let me speak to this particular issue that the Senator raised. We have two nominees from Illinois to fill vacancies: John Lee and Jay Tharp. The chief judge of the Northern District, Judge Jim Holderman, sent a letter to me and Senator KIRK in February calling for Mr. Lee and Mr. Tharp to be confirmed without delay because of the heavy caseload in this court. Senator KIRK and I decided to work together on a bipartisan basis, and we did. We had a process that was bipartisan. A group to come up with his nominee and I did the same on my side. But the understanding was that at the end of the day, neither of our nominees would move forward without the approval of the other Senator. So, in fact, they were bipartisan choices, both of them. John Lee is my choice. Jay Tharp is Senator KIRK's choice. We both support one another's choice. We believe both of these nominees have the experience, qualifications, temperament, and integrity necessary to serve in the Federal judiciary.

Mr. Lee and Mr. Tharp were both nominated on November 10, 2011—6 months ago. They appeared together in a hearing before the Judiciary Committee in January. They were both reported out of committee in February on a bipartisan voice vote.

There was an agreement reached between Senator McCONNELL and Senator KIRK. Harmon Reed, the majority leader, about the nominees we brought forward for a vote. I was surprised when it was announced in March that the Lee and Tharp nominations, which had been together all through the process, were separated. The deal or arrangement called for John Lee to be scheduled for a confirmation vote by May 7, but at the insistence of the Republican leader, Senator McCONNELL, the deal did not hold to allow all of the nominees on the Senate calendar and it did not schedule a vote for Mr. Jay Tharp, Senator KIRK's nominee. I believe they should be confirmed together, just as they were nominated together and went through the committee together.

When I read about this so-called arrangement, I went first to Senator KYL and then to Senator McCONNELL and said: Don't do this. Don't hold up Senator KIRK's nominee. He is in the hospital—now he is home, thank goodness—recovering from a stroke. We did this together. We are working together. Don't separate these two fine men. There is no reason to do it.

But I understand that this was the arrangement and they didn't want to change it—even to help Senator KIRK under these circumstances. They wanted to do only two nominees a week over a 7-week period of time, and the cutoff—the line they drew—was, unfortunately, between Mr. Lee and Mr. Tharp.

Well, I was going to propose a unanimous consent request today to include Mr. Tharp along with Mr. Lee on the vote we are about to take. There is an understanding reached as I am not. We have received an ironclad assurance from the Senate Republican floor staff that Mr. Tharp is going to be called on a timely basis during this work period. I am going to hold them to it. I don't want to embarrass anyone, but it bothers me that the nominee of Senator KIRK is being held up by the Republican side of the aisle when it should be voted on today. There is no reason why it should not be voted on today. We should vote on both of them. The word has been given to me by a staff member whom I respect very much, I won't make this unanimous consent request. However, let me say this: If something happens—I don't know what it might be, and I hope it doesn't—I am prepared to come to the floor and propose that unanimous consent request not only on behalf of Senator KIRK but on behalf of my State and on behalf of my own interests in making sure that our Federal judiciary has a complement of qualified people.

Let me say a few words about each nominee—extraordinarily good nominees.

John Lee has been nominated to fill the judicial vacancy held by Judge David Coar. Mr. Lee is currently a partner at the law firm of Freeborn & Peters in Chicago, where he practices primarily in commercial litigation.

He is the son of a coal miner and a nurse. He immigrated to this country, at a very young age. From humble beginnings, he attended Harvard College, where he graduated magna cum laude and then earned his
Jay Tharp has been nominated to fill the Chicago district court judgeship that opened as a result of the senior status of Judge Blanche Manning. Mr. Tharp is currently a partner in the Chicago district court judgeship.

He was born into a military family as the son of a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps. Jay Tharp served in Active Duty in the Marines for 6 years, achieving the rank of captain and earning the Navy Achievement Medal and the Navy Distinguished Midshipman Award.

After his military service, Mr. Tharp attended Northwestern University School of Law, graduating magna cum laude, and served on the Northwestern University Law Review. Upon graduation, he served as a judicial clerk for Judge Joel Flaum on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and then was named as an assistant U.S. attorney for 6 years in Chicago.

After his tenure as a Federal prosecutor, he joined Mayer Brown, where his practice specializes in complex commercial litigation and criminal investigations. He has received numerous recognitions.

Mr. Tharp has served as an adjunct professor of trial advocacy at Northwestern University Law School, and he also serves as a member of the Law Fund Board at Northwestern, which oversees fundraising efforts by law school alumni.

These are two extraordinarily good nominees. On behalf of Senator Kink, I will do everything to make sure this happens in the days ahead.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. Pryor. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of a friend of mine who is going to be voted on by the Senate shortly to be a U.S. district court judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. But before I do, I need to offer a few comments so that the Senator from Iowa and the Senator from Illinois said a few moments ago that I agree with.

It is taking too long to get these nominees to this point in the process. There are too many games that are being played. From my stand, both sides are at fault. I would hope my colleagues would stop playing games and stop even the blame game, but let's get to work and let's help clear up the backlog in the Federal judiciary.

Right now, it is underresourced. We do have a judicial emergency in this particular district I am about to talk about. As they say, justice delayed is justice denied. We need these judges on the bench, and I would hope the partisanship would stop.

In Arkansas we are very fortunate to have very strong Federal judges. We have a history of that. Part of the reason we do is because our judges are, for the most part, nonpolitical. Sure, they come from various backgrounds, but there is a consensus on these judges that they are going to be good judges, and that is the tradition we have in our State.

We have a total of eight district court judges in our State, and Kris Baker fits perfectly in that line. She has a true record of distinguished service in the legal community. She is well known and well respected, and she will be a great U.S. district court judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

The court right now, nationwide, is about 20 percent understaffed. That is why it is great to have someone who has an ABA “well-qualified” recommendation to go along with her nomination.

She came out of the judiciary Committee on a very large bipartisan vote. The reason she has been with a midsized law firm in Little Rock since 2000, she regularly has accepted prisoner and other appointment cases from the Federal courts, she has played a leadership role not just in the legal community but in other organizations in the larger community, and she is going to be a fantastic addition to the Federal bench, not just for Arkansas but nationwide.

Whenever I look at these nominees, I ask myself three questions: First, can they be fair and impartial? I think for Kris, absolutely the answer is yes.

Second, do they bring to the bench credentials that represent the best and the brightest in the legal community? In her case, the answer is yes.

Third—this is especially important for trial court judges—do they have the proper judicial temperament? For Kris Baker, the answer to all three of these questions is a resounding yes.

So I would ask my colleagues to give her a favorable voice vote, as I understand it, in a few moments. But that tells us how noncontroversial she is and what a great credit she has been to the legal community and how excited we have to have her as a member of the Federal judiciary.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. Feinstein. Mr. President, I rise to speak in strong support of Judge Jacqueline Nguyen’s nomination, which was unanimously approved by the Judiciary Committee. She is an outstanding jurist with a 10-year track record of success as a trial judge in my State.

I recommended Judge Nguyen to President Obama to the district court in 2009 after my bipartisan judicial selection committee recommended to have her as a member of the Federal judiciary.

Judge Nguyen earned her bachelor's degree from Occidental College and her law degree from the UCLA School of Law.

After law school, she practiced commercial law for 4 years with the law firm of Musick, Peeler & Garrett. She then moved into public service, becoming an assistant U.S. attorney in Los Angeles. During her 7 years there, she prosecuted a broad array of crimes, including violent crimes, narcotics trafficking, organized crime, gun cases, and all kinds of fraud.

In 2000 she received a special commendation from FBI Director Louis Freeh for obtaining the first conviction ever in the United States against a defendant for providing material support to a designated terrorist organization.

The Justice Department recognized her with numerous other awards and commendations for superior performance, and she was promoted to Deputy Chief of the General Crimes Section.
In 2002 Governor Gray Davis appointed Judge Nguyen to the Los Angeles superior court, where she established a track record of success as a distinguished jurist.

In 2009 President Obama nominated her to the district court on my recommendation, and she was confirmed unanimously.

Over nearly 10 years, as a State and Federal judge, Judge Nguyen has presided over thousands of cases, including 20 jury trials and 12 bench trials. She prizes fairness and integrity, and treats all parties fairly and with respect.

Those who know Judge Nguyen—including two former U.S. attorneys appointed by President George W. Bush—have praised Judge Nguyen for her first-rate legal mind and judicial temperament.

Debra Yang, who led the U.S. Attorney’s Office from 2002 to 2006, after being appointed by President George W. Bush, testified before the Judiciary Committee in support of Judge Nguyen’s nomination. Yang says that she “would make an excellent Federal court judge.” She also reports that her “reputation among colleagues is tremendous.”

Thomas O’Brien, who was appointed U.S. attorney by President Bush in 2007, has also submitted a letter endorsing Judge Nguyen’s nomination. O’Brien says Judge Nguyen “handled complex and controversial cases with technical finesse and grace” and that Judge Nguyen is a “highly qualified nominee who is intelligent, skilled, and exercises sound judgment.”

But she also has an inspiring life story. She was born in South Vietnam in the midst of the Vietnam war. She came to America at the age of 10. Her family lived in a tent in a San Diego refugee camp for 3 months before moving to Los Angeles, where her parents worked for three jobs at a time.

Judge Nguyen and her five siblings helped their parents after school and on weekends. They helped to clean dental offices and to peel and cut apples. They helped run a small doughnut shop, which their parents scrimped and saved to open.

Judge Nguyen worked her way up—through school, as a lawyer and prosecutor, and as a trial judge. If she is confirmed today, she will be the first Asian-American female Federal appeals court judge, and I am proud to express my very strong support for her nomination.

I would like to conclude by expressing my view that it is absolutely critical that cooperation on judicial nominations continue.

Nearly 10 percent of judicial positions are currently vacant, Mr. President, as you well know—twice as many as when President Bush left office. This high vacancy rate is today being felt more than anywhere else by States in the Ninth Circuit. California and Arizona are home to some of the busiest Federal trial courts in the Nation. This means businesses, individuals, and prosecutors already are struggling with severely overburdened Federal courts.

The Ninth Circuit is also the busiest Federal appellate court in the country. It has over 1,400 appeals pending per three-judge panel of any circuit by a wide margin, and over twice the average of the other circuits.

The Judicial Conference of the United States has declared each Ninth Circuit vacancy a judicial emergency. Today’s confirmation on Judge Nguyen’s nomination will help ease the burden, but it will not do enough. Paul Watford is another outstanding Ninth Circuit nominee from California. He was approved by the Judiciary Committee 3 months ago. Based on the calendar, he should be the next circuit court nominee to receive a confirmation vote in this body.

He has sterling qualifications. He has worked as a Federal prosecutor and an appellate attorney at a prestigious law firm. He clerked for Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the Central District of California, and for Justice Bader Ginsburg. He is a moderate nominee, well schooled in the law. He has support on both sides of the aisle, including from two former presidents of the Los Angeles chapter of the Federalist Society.

So I hope the Senate will consider Mr. Watford’s nomination very soon. It is a judicial emergency.

So, once again, I thank the leaders on both sides for agreeing to bring Judge Nguyen’s nomination to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support this nomination. I hope we will continue to confirm highly qualified nominees to our Federal courts, which is especially important to the Ninth Circuit.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to express my strong support for California District Court Judge Jacqueline Nguyen, who has been nominated for a seat on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. For the second time, Judge Nguyen will make history as the first Asian-American woman to serve on the Federal courts of appeals.

Judge Nguyen has had a distinguished career. She is a former Federal prosecutor who secured the first-ever conviction of a defendant for providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist group. She served as a California Superior Court judge from 2002 until 2009, when she was nominated for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. She was confirmed by a vote of 97 to 0.

I congratulate Judge Nguyen and her family on this important and historic day and urge my colleagues to vote to confirm this well-qualified nominee to the Ninth Circuit.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DeMINT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Indiana (Ms. LUGAR), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DeMINT) would have voted “nay.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote? The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 88 Ex.]

YEAS—91

Akaka                  Feinstein        Moran
Alexander             Franken         Murray
Ayotte                 Gillibrand        Nelson (NE)
Barrasso              Grassley         Nelson (FL)
Baucus                 Hagan            Paul
Begich                 Harkin           Portman
Bennet                 Hatch            Pryor
Bingaman              Heller           Reed
Blumenthal            Hoeven           Reid
Boozman               Hutchinson       Risch
Boxer                  Isakson          Roberts
Brown (MA)            Johnson (CT)     Rockefeller
Brown (OH)            Johnson (SD)     Rubio
Burr                   Johnson (WV)     Sanders
Carwell               Klobuchar       Schumer
Cardin                 Kohl             Sessions
Carper                 Kyle             Shaheen
Casey                  Ky   Shelby
Chambliss             Landrieu        Snowe
Coats                  Lautenberg       Stabenow
Coburn                 Leahy           Tester
Cochran                Levin            Thune
Collins                Lieberman        Udall (CO)
Conrad                 Manchin          Udall (NM)
Coons                  McCain          Warner
Collins                McCaskill       Webb
Coryn                 McConnell       Whitehouse
Crapo                  Menendez         Wicker
Harkin                 Mentor          Wyden
End                   Mikulski

NAYS—3

Lee                   Toomey           Vitter
DeMINT                Inouye           Lugar
Graham                Kirk            Murkowski

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jacqueline H. Nguyen, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Ninth Circuit?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) is necessarily absent.
The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John Z. Lee, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid on the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President. I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, earlier today, Senator Durbin and the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights held a hearing in Cleveland to examine efforts that could hinder the ability of Ohioans to exercise one of their fundamental constitutional rights, the right to vote. These efforts, in the guise of preventing fraud, are part of a cynical effort to impede access to the ballot. Specifically, H.B. 194 in Ohio repeals a number of commonsense measures that assist people with voting.

For 8 years I served as secretary of state of Ohio, charged with administering elections, so I understand what goes into ensuring the fundamental right to vote. Inherent in that responsibility is ensuring that voting is accessible, free of intimidation and roadblocks.

As a State, over a period of decades, Ohio legislators undertook a bipartisan—and I underscore that word “bipartisan”—effort to help Ohioans get access to the polls. When I was secretary of state, we had significant input and assistance from Republicans as we made voting laws work for huge numbers of people. We understood Ohioans had many priorities pulling at their time, and so we went into enacting the requirements that made voting more accessible.

But in spite of that, in spite of the consensus in Ohio about voting, now there is an effort to undercut that consensus. First, the law significantly reduces the early voting window. It takes away Saturday, Sunday, and Monday voting before the election, when over 100,000 people voted in Ohio that year, which was a record. This was made despite the fact that evidence overwhelmingly indicates that limiting early voting will actually cost the taxpayers, boards of elections, money. Make no mistake, cutting Sunday voting was intended to suppress voting.

On the Sunday before election, Ohioans, who work long hours during the week, often go to the polls after church, fulfilling their civic and spiritual obligations on the same day. By eliminating early voting, the lines outside polling stations on election day will only get longer. The costs will only increase. This increases frustration and limits voting.

Another burden posed by H.R. 194 is that it bars poll workers from performing one of their most basic functions, helping voters find their right precinct. This law no longer requires that poll workers assist a confused, elderly, disabled or young voter in getting to their correct precinct. Here is how it works. We have tried to save money. As more people voted earlier, relieving some of the pressure on election day, the boards of elections have combined voting precincts. Instead, we will have fewer precincts in the same county and have to hire fewer poll workers. What that also means is sometimes they fall on one of these precincts in these voting stations into one building so people might walk into a polling station and go to the wrong table. Under the law now, the poll worker is not required to help that person and say: No, you can't vote here, but you can vote across in the room next door, at this church or at this school. Someone today might walk in and the poll worker will simply say you are not eligible to vote in this precinct and they will walk home and not vote. This law discourages in many ways. Because these poll workers are people who live in the neighborhoods it discourages neighbors helping neighbors.

This is a solution in search of a problem. It is not something we need to do. The people who are attacking our voting rights are claiming individuals want, but it is not what the people of Ohio want. Ohio deserves better when it comes to protecting our most fundamental constitutional rights.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
RECOGNIZING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

Mr. REID. Madam President, today I rise to honor and commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Las Vegas News Bureau. Since its inception in 1947, the News Bureau has captured photos and videos of the colorful history of Las Vegas. Community leaders started the News Bureau as a way to generate publicity for Las Vegas through the use of photography and film, and in doing so, they preserved the history of the city.

The News Bureau has been at the forefront of documenting and publishing Las Vegas as the world’s leading destination for decades. Over the years, they have captured memorable moments of some of Vegas’s most famous entertainers, illustrated the growth of the iconic skyline, and archived the scenic imagery of the surrounding Las Vegas landscape.

Amidst their archives, the News Bureau captured unforgettable moments of show biz legends and Las Vegas regulars, like Elvis, Liberace, Wayne Newton, and Frank Sinatra, among others. The archive also houses historical moments such as President Kennedy’s visit to the Nevada Test Site, where the atomic bomb was detonated during the 1950s and 1960s. And alongside these photos, there are millions of photos documenting the various parades, events, and tourists that helped make Las Vegas the thriving destination that it remains today.

The Las Vegas News Bureau plays a unique role in marketing southern Nevada as a one-of-a-kind destination. Their iconic images of Las Vegas provide a competitive advantage that helps distinguish Las Vegas from other destinations, while also acting as an invaluable resource to journalists and historians alike. The unforgettable pictures of the neon lights of historic Fremont Street and glamorous images of Las Vegas show biz are more than just pieces of Las Vegas history; they represent what made Las Vegas the universally renowned city that it is today.

For the past 65 years, the News Bureau has chronicled the rise of Las Vegas into the Entertainment Capital of the World, and I am proud to recognize their accomplishments before the Senate today, and I know that they will continue to tell the story of Las Vegas for years to come.

FOOD EMERGENCY

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, today I wish to submit for the Record my remarks and a speech by Taiwan’s top diplomat in Washington, Jason C. Yuan, of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office, who announced on April 25, 2012, the donation by his government of 1,150 metric tons of rice to Kenya through Feed the Children, a well-known and respected charity based in my home State of Oklahoma.

The food emergency in the Horn of Africa is a stark reminder of the world’s vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change. The United Nations has estimated that over 12 million people are facing a food crisis, and the situation is expected to worsen in the coming months.

To help address this crisis, Taiwan has decided to form an alliance to donate rice to several countries suffering from famine. In 2011, Taiwan donated 100 metric tons of rice to international organizations in Guatemala, Cambodia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine, and Germany. In 2010, Taiwan donated 5,000 metric tons of rice to international organizations.

The rice will be distributed to those in need, and the people of Taiwan are providing the necessary support to help alleviate the suffering of millions of people around the world.

The donation of rice from Taiwan is not only a gesture of goodwill, but also a demonstration of the country’s commitment to alleviating hunger and poverty. Taiwan’s contribution is a reminder that every action, no matter how small, can make a difference in the lives of those in need.
attention to troubling events that currently pose one of the gravest threats to freedom of expression in this hemisphere. I am speaking about the actions of Ecuador's President Rafael Correa and officials in his government to silence independent, brave journalists and publishers and watchdog organizations, undermining the fundamental right of free expression in ways that resemble what we have come to expect in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela.

The situation poses a fundamental threat to democracy than a free and independent press. A free press helps protect the rule of law, to ensure that no person or group is above the rules and procedures that govern a democratic society. A free press helps ensure transparency to prod governments to be honest and accountable to their citizens.

Unfortunately, recent events in Ecuador suggest a deliberate shift away from these democratic traditions, and this could pose severe consequences for democracy in Ecuador.

Although wavering at times, Ecuador has a history of democratic government of which its citizens can be proud. Ecuador's 1830 Constitution, written in 1830, stipulated that "every citizen can express their thoughts and publish them freely through the press." Ecuador's 1998 Constitution guarantees the right of journalists and social communication to "seek, receive, learn and disseminate" events of general interest, with the goal of "preserving the values of the community." Even Ecuador's latest constitution, ratified just four years ago, protects each citizen's right to voice one's opinion and express one's thinking freely and in all of its forms and manifestations." However, it appears that these protections—a vital part of Ecuador's history of democratically elected, representative government—now only apply at the discretion of President Correa.

During President Correa's term in office, the number of state-owned media organizations has exploded—growing more than a dozen times, undermining the fundamental right of free expression in this hemisphere. I am speaking about the ac-

Mr. President, I would like to remind my colleagues that it was approximately 20 years ago that the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina began. While seeking to find a peaceful path out of Yugoslavia which was collapsing around it, Bosnia and its people instead became chief victims of the criminal, senseless violence associated with that collapse.

The ethnic cleansing of villages and the shelling of Sarajevo which we first saw in April 1992 were horrific, and little did we know how much worse things would get in subsequent months and years. It was in July and August of 1992 that we first saw the shocking pictures of the detainees in Omarska and other camps run by nationalist, military Serbs, in northeastern Bosnia. The next year, we saw Croat militants destroy the famous bridge in Mostar for which the city got its name. In 1995, we saw Srebrenica before and after the genocide in which 8,000 people, mostly women and boys, perished.

While the United States and its friends and allies brought the conflict in Bosnia to an end with the Dayton Agreement in 1995, the action we took came too late for those who were ethnically cleansed and displaced, those who were tortured or raped, and those who were injured or killed. It is never too late, however, to provide justice. I am glad that people like Slobodan Milosevic, Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic are all on trial for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide were apprehended and transferred to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. I am also glad that the United States and other countries persevered to make this happen despite the resistance to cooperation and the protection afforded these individuals. I want to thank my colleagues who joined me in supporting justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I think it is important not only to remember the victims and culprits of the conflict in Bosnia but also to remember the heroes. There were those who opposed extreme nationalism and aggression against neighbors. I particularly want to note the small group of human rights advocates and democratic forces in Serbia who opposed what Milosevic was doing allegedly in his own country and even wanted to see them get away with it. I have met some of these courageous individuals over the years, including last July when I visited Belgrade, and they are truly inspiring people.

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strong in the entity of Republika Srpska created by the Dayton Agreement, and at the same time encourage practical reforms so that Bosnia can function more effectively as a European partner. When one talks to the young people with the ingenuity much in the future, as several of us have, it is clear they do not want to forget the past but they certainly do not want to repeat it. They want a future in Europe, and their political leaders need to give them that future. I hope the United States invested so much in Bosnia thus far, will be there as necessary to help.

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICES

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I have introduced the Diagnostic Imaging Services Access Protection Act of 2012, joined by my colleague from Louisiana, Senator VITTER. Our goal is to preserve Medicare beneficiaries’ access to life-saving advanced diagnostic imaging services, such as magnetic resonance imaging, MRI, computed tomography, CT, and ultrasound.

Let me explain why this legislation is needed. The reimbursement system for radiology services is based on two components: technical and professional. The technical component comprises the cost of equipment, nonphysician personnel, and medical supplies associated with the imaging procedure. The professional component is calculated by factoring in the radiologist’s time, effort, and skill involved in interpreting images, rendering patient diagnoses, and reporting the findings in the patient’s medical record. In recent years, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services sought to control imaging growth by cutting reimbursement for the technical component—reducing payment for multiple imaging services administered by the same physician to the same patient during a single office visit. This policy is referred to as the multiple procedure payment reduction, or MPPR. It is designed to take into account the efficiencies achieved by doing same-day procedures on the same patient, and for the technical component of radiology, it makes sense.

However this year, CMS decided to apply the MPPR to the professional component as well. The 2012 fee schedule rule, which took effect on January 1, cut the professional component reimbursement for radiologists by 25 percent for additional images. This payment reduction ignores the realities of medical practice. It is not supported by sound data, nor was it developed with the affable young man, Dick participated in A.B. Davis High School’s drama club and was elected class president.

After graduating from Syracuse University with a degree in business administration, Dick began working on “Bandstand” at Philadelphia’s WFIL Radio. The popularity of this program led WFIL TV to begin broadcasting it as an afternoon television show, which Dick started hosting in 1956. The following year, he pitched the idea to the American Broadcasting Company, and it became nationally broadcast as “American Bandstand.”

“American Bandstand” became a phenomenon, a trendsetting show that touched people around the world across lines of race, culture, and ethnicity. “Bandstand’s” integration of African Americans as musicians and dancers played a role breaking down racial barriers at a time when the civil rights movement was coming to the forefront. Over the next three decades, while the show moved from weekdays to Saturdays and from Philadelphia to Los Angeles, Dick Clark introduced American tradition that his as one of the most hard-working people in show business. With Dick Clark Productions, founded in 1956, Clark produced television shows, movies, award shows, and beauty pageants. Unistar, which he cofounded and owned, distributed Clark’s radio shows including “Countdown America” and “Dick Clark’s Rock, Roll & Remember.”

In 1972 “Rockin’ Eve” premiered, and since then generations of Americans have welcomed in the New Year with Dick Clark and watched with him as the ball dropped in New York City—a tradition that continued for 40 years. Throughout his time as host, Dick Clark only missed one New Year’s Eve celebration in 2005 due to a stroke. The following year he was once again on the air welcoming the New Year with his beloved wife Kari and showing all of us that with tenacity, anything is possible.

Throughout his career, Clark left an indelible mark on the landscape of American music and television, from his 1974 creation of the American Music Awards to his productions of the Academy of Country Music Awards, Golden Globe Awards, Emmy Awards, Live Aid, and Farm Aid. For his successful career and tireless work ethic, Dick Clark was honored with Daytime and Primetime Emmy Awards, Daytime and Primetime Lifetime Achievement Awards, and inductions into the Radio Hall of Fame, the Rock ‘n Roll Hall of Fame, the American Television Arts & Sciences Hall of Fame, and the Philadelphia Walk of Fame.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Dick’s wife Kari, his sons Richard and David, his daughter Cindy, and his grandchildren. He will be missed by the millions of people worldwide who were touched by his work.
REMEMBERING DEPUTY ROBERT PARIS

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Deputy Robert “Bob” Paris, a dedicated public servant in the Stanislaus County Sheriff’s Office and a kind and loyal colleague, friend, and family man. On the morning of April 12, 2012, Deputy Paris was tragically killed in the line of duty while serving an eviction notice in north Modesto.

A graduate of Tracy High School and the Ray Simon Criminal Justice Training Center in Modesto, Bob Paris joined the Stanislaus Sheriff’s Department as a reserve deputy in May 1996 and became a full-time employee in 1998. During his tenure with the department, he served the community as a court bailiff, a patrol deputy, and as a member of the sheriff’s water enforcement team. He was also the department’s first-aid and CPR instructor at the sheriff’s academy.

For the past 16 years, Deputy Paris dutifully served the citizens and community of Stanislaus County with great pride, integrity, and valor. His devotion to helping others, along with his passion for law enforcement, helped him become a respected member of the Stanislaus County Sheriff’s Department.

Deputy Paris served Stanislaus County with honor and bravery, and I send my heartfelt sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues.

HONOR FLIGHT NORTHERN COLORADO

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, today I wish to speak on behalf of my colleagues and a grateful Nation as we welcome to the Nation’s capital the 122 men and women of Honor Flight Northern Colorado. Together, they represent soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. These heroes embody the dedication, honor, and selfless service that make this country great. We owe them and all servicemembers a debt that can never be repaid.

Throughout the history of our great Republic, our men and women in uniform have shielded this country from the harm that others wish to inflict on it. We have always asked a great deal from these individuals; that they leave their families to fight in an unknown land against a deadly enemy. They have always bravely answered the call, placing themselves between this country and harm’s way.

On this flight, World War II veterans from every branch of service.

From the Army we have:
- Robert Barnd, Loveland
- Frank Brown, Fort Collins
- William Castor, Loveland
- Lowell Dart, Berthoud
- Donald Drexler, Loveland
- Jase Duran, Longmont
- William Edwards, Scottsdale
- George Emerick, Fort Morgan
- Warren Garst, Fort Collins
- Joseph Graham, Palo Alto
- Roland Kaiser, Longmont
- Victor Lazar, Sandy
- David Leon, Alliance
- Russell Malm, Greeley
- W. Dennis McHenry, Estes Park
- Raymond Mega, Longmont
- Gerald Monroe, LaSalle
- Bernard Nettesheim, Loveland
- Richard Porter, Longmont
- James Rauenbuehler, Fort Collins
- Frederick Reber, Julesburg
- Sapp, Fort Collins
- Alan Shultes, Longmont
- Theodore Wahler, Loveland
- Evans Woodhouse, Mead

Army Air Corps veterans include:
- Carson Bright, Ft. Collins
- Wayne Bullock, Fort Collins
- Robert Duntsch, Bozeman
- Marvin Fowler, Lamar
- Donald Morrison, Limon
- Homer Phillips, Jf., Fort Collins
- Gilbert Rohde, Longmont
- Charles Smoot, Loveland
- Gene Thorsen, Strasburg
- Crowell Werter, Fort Collins

From the Navy are:
- Charles Agnew, Wheat Ridge
- Eugene Bonkiewicz, Greeley
- Jack Endacott, Estes Park
- Robert Gillham, Peetz
- William Hampton, Gering
- Willis Kraemer, Greeley
- Harry Livingston, Estes Park
- Robert Lopez, Denver
- Armin Moser, Loveland
- Raymond Olson, Estes Park
- Marline Raines, Limon
- Henry Schmitt, Jf., Longmont
- Waldo Smith, Highlands Ranch
- Fredrick Stein, Fort Collins
- William Stromberg, Loveland
- Clyde Treadway, Brush
- Arthur Wartburg, Boulder
- James White, Estes Park
- Robert Williams, Johnstown

We welcome WWII veteran Lewis Ashcraft, Littleton.

And finally, from the Women’s Auxiliary Corps, we have Mary Livingston, Estes Park.

Also on the flight are veterans from the Korean War.

Help me welcome Army veterans:
- Darryl Anderson, Fort Morgan
- Raymond Anderson, Gill
- Donald Armagost, Greeley
- Eugene Ball, Windsor
- Harry Bell, Fort Collins
- Ornis Charboneau, Pierce
- Robert Cupp, Loveland
- Samuel Ehrlich, Longmont
- Alvin Eurchik, Simla
- John Hess, Loveland
- Donald Hoffner, Eaton
- Robert Kramer, Fort Lupton
- Robert Kruger, Plateville
- Lindy Leffheit, Irvine
- Chester McCoy, Brush
- William Miller, Fort Collins
- James Ochsner, Windsor
- Arnold Piel, Stoneham
- Wayne Pimple, Greeley
- Richard Reagan, Wellington
- Gerald Rice, Fort Collins
- Joseph Sellers, Ault
- William Shirey, Estes Park
- Norris Slechta, Berthoud

Air Force veterans include:
- James Ball, Denver
- Dale Crist, Frederick
- Bobbie Desmond, Loveland
- Francis Fleming, Jf., Berthoud
- Virgil Hanson, Greeley
- Margarette Ingram, Evans
- Harry Rieger, Brush
- Edward Roeck, Greeley
- Robert Stanley, Greeley
- Darrell Sieg, Loveland

From the Army we have:
- Emil Badjar, Longmont
- Leslie Brumley, Greeley
- Edward Eson, Greeley
- James Hambrecht, Fort Collins
- Leslie Faley, Jf., Fort Collins
- George Fryinger III, Fort Collins
- John Goad, Severance
- Roman Herrmann, Longmont
- Chester McGuire, Loveland
- Raymond Nuss, Greeley
- Louis Peterson, Longmont
- Marshall Petring, Fort Collins
- Gerald Ross, Fort Collins
- Alan Seaman, Longmont
- Clarence Strahan, Jf., Fort Collins
- William Striffler, Fort Collins
- Irvin Tregoning, Johnstown
- Jimmie Tregoning, Greeley
- Marvin Tregoning, Windsor
- Sam Warner, Loveland

Representing the Marine Corps are:
- Timothy Daley, Fort Collins
- Richard Gero, Loveland
- Billy Hettinger, Fort Collins

And from the Women’s Auxiliary Corps is Elizabeth Strahan, Fort Collins.

Veterans from the Vietnam War are on this flight as well.

From the Army we have:
- Dennis Henneberg, Loveland
- Donald Hess, Greeley
- Jack Roberts, Greeley

Representing the Navy are:
- Edward Fast, Fort Collins
- Daniel Menzies, Loveland

And finally, Marine Corps veterans include:
- Doyle Biggs, Loveland
- Paul Delgado, Greeley
- Steven White, Greeley

Join me in thanking these Colorado veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight Northern Colorado for their tremendous service to this great Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE WILLIAM J. MOTTO BIOSCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the establishment of the William J. Motto Annual Bioscience Scholarship at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College.

To commemorate the 35th anniversary of its founding, Meridian Bioscience, Inc., is funding a $5,000 annual scholarship to support a deserving student each year at Cincinnati State.

The scholarship is named in honor of Meridian bioscience executive chairman and Founder, William “Bill” Motto, who has a passion for creating opportunities for hard-working individuals who wish to improve their lives and our community.

Bill Motto founded Meridian in 1977 in the basement of his home, not far from the company’s headquarters in Newtown, just outside of Cincinnati. Today, Meridian is a fully integrated life science company that manufactures, markets, and distributes a broad range of diagnostic test kits, purified reagents, and biopharmaceutical enabling technologies. In addition to products used in the early diagnosis and treatment of common medical conditions, Meridian develops and manufactures a variety of biological and nonbiological materials used in proficiency testing programs.

The scholarship will be geared toward students majoring in biosciences, as the college prepares to open a new bioscience lab in its Health Professions Building. In addition, the college has expanded its curriculum to help students become lab technicians or to pursue bachelor’s or other specialized degrees.
Cincinnati State offers more than 75 associate degree and certificate programs in business technologies, health and public safety, engineering technologies, humanities and sciences, and information technologies. Cincinnati State also has one of the largest cooperative education programs in the United States, including a full slate of outstanding workforce training programs and courses. Cincinnati State’s Workforce Development Center provides practical, hands-on learning experiences delivering both the professional and educational expertise so critical to effective, efficient workforce training.

Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Cincinnati State and commend Meridian Bioscience and its founder, Bill Motto for giving back to southwest Ohio and the future leaders of bioscience fields in our State.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD AND TIM SMUCKER

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, today I wish to congratulate Richard and Tim Smucker for being awarded the Harvard Business School Club of Northeastern Ohio’s 2012 Leadership Award. These two brothers carry the legacy of a company created by Jerome Monroe Smucker over a century ago in 1897. Today, Smucker’s employs more than 4,000 people and manages 29 domestic and 5 international brands, including Jif, Folgers, and Crisco. I have visited the company’s headquarters and manufacturing facilities and seen firsthand how they have kept this great Ohio company at the forefront.

Richard Smucker has been a Smucker’s director, having also served as president, co-chief executive, and executive chairman. In August of 2011, Richard was named chief executive officer of the company and continues to serve in this role.

Tim Smucker became a company director in 1973. He has also served as the company’s chairman, as well as its co-chief executive. Since August of 2011, Timothy has served as the company’s chairman of the board.

Mr. President, Richard and Tim Smucker received the 2012 Leadership Award for their continued and steadfast commitment to the J.M. Smucker Company, its brands, and its employees. I wish them both continued success in the future and commend them for their outstanding leadership in our State.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MAYOR MIKE WOOLSTON

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, on May 22, 2011, the city of Joplin, MO, was struck by an EF5 tornado. The path of devastation was an incredible 6 miles long and almost 1 mile wide. The destruction was beyond words. Too many homes, schools, and businesses were destroyed. Joplin’s mayor that terrible day was Mike Woolston. Mayor Woolston showed the world that Joplin was up to the challenge of not only surviving but rebuilding.

Mayor Woolston grew up in Joplin. Mike graduated from Joplin’s Parkwood High School and Missouri Southern State University. After graduation from MSSI, Mike served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps at a time when the U.S. was in the midst of a war which has left a very real scar on our national psyche. In 1988 Mike returned to Joplin and embarked on a career in real estate. For nearly 25 years Mike has been active in the Joplin community, serving on a number of community organizations such as United Way of Southwest Missouri, Community Blood Center of the Ozarks, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Joplin public schools’ Bright Futures Program.

Mike was elected to the Joplin City Council in 2000 and in 2010 his peers elected him mayor. Mike was serving in that position when the most destructive tornado of the last 60 years struck the city of Joplin. Mayor Mike Woolston spent countless hours guiding the city through rescue, recovery, and eventually the beginning of the rebuilding process. Mayor Woolston’s calm demeanor, positive attitude, and recognition of the thousands of others who were involved in every stage of post-tornado actions gave the citizens of Joplin hope for the future. As the face and voice of the city, Mayor Woolston gave the nation and the world a shining example of the spirit of cooperation and can-do work ethic which exemplifies Joplin, MO.

I hereby recognize and thank Michael R. Woolston for his leadership of the city of Joplin in the wake of the May 22, 2011, tornado and for his commitment to the citizens of his community.

RECOGNIZING THE JONES BAR-B-Q DINER

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the owners of one of the oldest African-American-owned restaurants in America, the Jones Bar-B-Q Diner in Marianna, AR, which has been honored by the James Beard Foundation. The Foundation recognized Jones Bar-B-Q as one of five restaurants from across the country in the “America’s Classics” category at the 2012 annual awards ceremony taking place today at the Lincoln Center in New York City.

Foodies will tell you this honor is a big one. Arkansas writer Rex Nelson calls the Beard award the equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize for journalism—certainly high praise for a small operation that began as a back porch, but this is no ordinary run-of-the-mill barbecue.

This honor is a long time in the making. Jones Bar-B-Q Diner has been in operation, in some form, since at least the 1910s. Walter J. Jones, the founder and first pitmaster, lived in a bare wood dogtrot house and first served barbecue from the screened-in back porch on Fridays and Saturdays. The family recalls that original cooking setup as a “hole in the ground, some meat in a pit, a little lid of fence wire and two pieces of tin.”

Eventually, Walter moved from selling the meal on the back porch to a small place in town called the Hole in the Wall. It was literally a window in a former chicken coop from which he would cook meat from a washtub. The modern incarnation, the J Jones Bar-B-Q Diner, opened in 1964.

The business today remains true to its smalltown, family roots. Hubert Jones, Walter’s son, is the present day proprietor and his son, James, tends the pits. The pork shoulder is still smoked with a simple setup over the pit. They still serve a very limited menu that centers around smoked pork butt, pulled pork, brisket, and served on white bread with the J Jones’ vinegary sauce.

The James Beard Foundation—which is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to celebrating, preserving, and nurturing America’s culinary heritage—only awards its “America Classics” distinction to restaurants with “timeless appeal . . . that are beloved for quality food that reflects the character of their community.”

To qualify for the “America’s Classics” award, establishments must have been in existence at 10 years and they must be locally owned. The honorees are selected each year by the James Beard Foundation’s Restaurant Committee, which is comprised of 17 people throughout the country, many of whom are notable food critics and culinary writers. The foundation is acutely aware of how special Jones Bar-B-Q Diner is to Marianna, the State of Arkansas, and southern cuisine.

I will leave you with one piece of advice. If you want some of J Jones’ famous smoke pork, it is best to arrive early. The diner usually opens around 7:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday and then closes by early afternoons when all the meat runs out. So get there early, bring your appetite, and be sure to congratulate the J Jones family for being recognized by the James Beard Foundation. Their restaurant is definitely an integral part of the community and of Arkansas’s culture. I am proud of J Jones family’s contribution to the Natural State’s heritage and commend them for receiving this honor. The J Jones Bar-B-Q Diner in Marianna truly is an American classic.

RECOGNIZING THE ALASKA QUARTERLY REVIEW

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the Mabel Murple’s literary magazine, the Alaska Quarterly Review. This quiet giant in the Alaska arts scene has earned numerous accolades and high praise. Today I
I commend it and its contributors for its many achievements, as well as the University of Alaska board of regents and the leadership of the University of Alaska Anchorage for its support of the publication. It has taken a tremendous commitment to academic artistic excellence to continue publication these 30 years. Again, congratulations to the Alaska Quarterly Review for reaching 30 years of continued literary excellence.

RECOGNIZING THE CITIZENS’ HOSE COMPANY NO. 1

- Mr. CARPER. Mr. President on behalf of Senator Chris Coons, Congresman John Carney, and myself, I wish to offer my congratulations to fire chief Isaac Willis, president S. Christopher Hudson, and the entire Citizens’ Hose Company No. 1 as they celebrate the Company’s 125th anniversary of service to Smyrna, Delaware. The success of the Citizens’ Hose Company is a tribute to the many dedicated men and women who not only have served in this company but have served this community in a number of ways.

In 1886, the town of Smyrna installed water mains and fire hydrants throughout the town in preparation of the founding of the Citizens’ Hose Company. Since that time, the members of this company have shaped the property and residents throughout this historic community. The company has reached many milestones throughout the last 125 years—initially fighting fires with a man-drawn hose tender and ladder cart to now answering fire calls using a 100-foot KME Kovatch ladder truck which, in 1999, was the first ladder truck the company purchased new. Additional milestones included the formation of the Ladies Auxiliary in 1950, as well as the expansion of the station in 1985 to accommodate office space and future growth. With over 440 members today, the Citizens’ Hose Company No. 1 maintains the highest level of excellence. Over the last several years, the Citizens’ Hose Company has answered an average of 475 calls per year and are on pace to keep that record in 2012.

The Citizens’ Hose Company serves as a great neighbor to all in the Smyrna area. The company participates in community activities throughout the year and has a renowned company band. Since 1947, the Citizens’ Hose Company Band has provided music for the marching unit of the company during parades and other community gatherings. An annual participant in the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter’s Association Parade, the Citizens’ Hose Company has won the prestigious Governor’s Cup Award a record 31 times. The company band has been the lead player of playing music throughout Delaware as well as in Dublin, Ireland, New York City, and even represented the First State at the inaugural parades of both President Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama in Washington, DC.

Delaware’s firefighters are dedicated and caring professionals who willingly put themselves at risk—day and night, in all kinds of weather. As their congressional delegation, we are all sincerely grateful for the continued service of the men and women of Citizens’ Hose Company. The hard work and commitment of these devoted volunteers is an inspiration to us all. Moreover, the Citizens’ Hose Company No. 1 has crafted a tradition of superior and selfless service.

Today, we send our warmest congratulations to the members, volunteers, and families of Citizens’ Hose Company No. 1 on this momentous anniversary, and we look forward to hearing of their continued success and exemplary service for another 125 years and beyond.

RECOGNIZING 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF NUMBERSUSA

- Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 15th anniversary of NumbersUSA, a national grassroots organization that advocates for immigration policies that seek to serve the national interest.

NumbersUSA was formed in 1997 by Roy Beck, a former journalist who has been recognized by the Houston Chronicle as “one of the five leading thinkers in the national immigration debate.” Under his leadership, NumbersUSA has grown from a mostly Internet-based organization of about 30,000 members to nearly 1.3 million activists, giving a voice to American citizens on the important issue of immigration and securing our border.

Those who were in Congress during the 2006 and 2007 debates on comprehensive immigration reform will confirm just how effective NumbersUSA is. NumbersUSA was an active leader in an outgunned coalition that succeeded in reining in unauthorized immigrants in Washington. The big lobbies pulled out all the stops, spent millions of dollars, and bore down hard in their push for mass amnesty. But Goliath fell to the grassroots David, whose faxes, e-mails, rallies, visits to our offices, and phone calls registered the clear message that the American people would not accept Washington rewarding lawbreaking. The overwhelming grassroots response acted in part by the NumbersUSA coalition was evident when citizens called Capitol Hill in such volume that it shut down the Senate’s telephone system.

NumbersUSA approaches the important and sensitive issue of immigration by emphasizing the number of immigrants that are lawfully admitted to the United States. Their approach is captured in a statement prominently placed on their website: “To talk about changing immigration numbers is to talk about changing America.” Their approach is particularly important when we talk about changing immigration numbers.

NumbersUSA is an active leader in an outgunned coalition that succeeded in reining in unauthorized immigrants in Washington. The big lobbies pulled out all the stops, spent millions of dollars, and bore down hard in their push for mass amnesty. But Goliath fell to the grassroots David, whose faxes, e-mails, rallies, visits to our offices, and phone calls registered the clear message that the American people would not accept Washington rewarding lawbreaking. The overwhelming grassroots response acted in part by the NumbersUSA coalition was evident when citizens called Capitol Hill in such volume that it shut down the Senate’s telephone system.
now should be allowed to immigrate in the future’’ and ‘‘about protecting and enhancing the United States’ unique experiment in democracy for all Americans, including recent immigrants, regardless of their particular ethnicity.’’

I congratulate the MembersUSA for speaking out effectively on these important issues for America. Their voice has added a valuable perspective to the discussion. I congratulate them on a successful first 15 years and wish them even greater success over its next 15 years.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on April 27, 2012, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

5. Con. Res. 43. Concurrent resolution providing for the adjournment of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2050. An act to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2059. An act to advance cybersecurity research, development, and technical standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2240. An act to authorize the exchange of cyber threat intelligence and cyber threat information between the intelligence community and cybersecurity entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2069. An act to advance cybersecurity research, development, and technical standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3253. An act to provide for the sharing of certain cyber threat intelligence and cyber threat information between the intelligence community and cybersecurity entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence.

H.R. 3834. An act to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research, and for other purposes: to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4257. An act to amend section 305 of title 44, United States Code, to require requirements relating to Federal information security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 2050. An act to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2240. An act to authorize the exchange of land or interest in land between Lowell National Historical Park and the city of Lowell in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3523. An act to provide for the sharing of certain cyber threat intelligence and cyber threat information between the intelligence community and cybersecurity entities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3534. An act to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4257. An act to amend section 305 of title 44, United States Code, to require requirements relating to Federal information security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4258. An act to extend student loan interest rates for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans.

H.R. 4849. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue commercial use authorizations to commercial stock operators for operations in designated wilderness within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431 note) as amended, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Speaker appoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on International Religious Freedom for a term ending May 14, 2014: Mr. Samuel Gejdenson of Branford, Connecticut.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC 5924. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Carfentrazone-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances’’ (FRL No. 9346 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC 5926. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Dimethomorph; Pesticide Tolerances’’ (FRL No. 9346 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC 5927. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Floxastrobin; Pesticide Tolerances’’ (FRL No. 9345 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC 5928. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Thiamethoxam; Pesticide Tolerances; Technical Correction’’ (FRL No. 9345 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC 5929. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Acquinocyl; Pesticide Tolerances’’ (FRL No. 9346 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC 5930. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Division of Market Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Commodity Options’’ (RIN3038 ADG2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC 5931. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC 5932. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Brazil; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC 5933. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to South Korea; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC 5934. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Chile; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC 5935. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ‘‘The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Produced in Countries Other Than Iran’’; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
EC 5936. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval of Application for a Nonresident Alien Deposit Interest Regulations” (Rev. Proc. 2012 24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC 5937. A communication from the Director of the Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Effluent Limitations Guidelines and New Source Performance Standards for the Airport Deicing Category” (F.R.L No. 9667 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC 5938. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation and Emission Trading System Final Rule for Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Approval of 2011 Consent Decree to Control Emissions From the GenOn Chalk Point Generating Station in Maryland; and Approval of 2011 Consent Orders” (F.R.L No. 9666 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC 5939. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval of Application for a Nonresident Alien Deposit Interest Regulations” (Rev. Proc. 2012 24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC 5940. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment to the Export Control Act, the certification of the export of various calibers of center and rim bolt action rifles to the Country of Korea in the amount of $500,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5941. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, or defense services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5942. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, or defense services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5943. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, or defense services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5944. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Application of Federal Rates—May 2012” (Rev. Rul. 2012 13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC 5945. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of the export of various calibers of center and rim bolt action rifles to the Country of Korea in the amount of $500,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5946. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, or defense services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5947. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, or defense services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5948. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, or defense services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5949. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, or defense services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5950. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, or defense services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5951. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, or defense services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC 5952. A communication from the Deputy Director for Policy, Legislative and Regulations, Department of Homeland Security, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Final Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits” (RIN 1212 AB04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 26, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

EC 5953. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reaching the Support for the Thrift Saves Plan and Miscellaneous Uniformed Services Account Amendments” (5 CFR Parts 1600, 1601, 1604, 1605, 1650, 1651, 1653, 1655, and 1690) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC 5954. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 19 345 “Raising the Expectations for Education Outcomes Omnibus Act of 2012” to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC 5955. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA 3335 EM in the State of Maryland having exceeded the $5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC 5956. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General’s Semiannual Report for the six-month period from October 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC 5957. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on applications made by the Attorney General for authority to conduct electronic surveillance and physical searches during calendar year 2011 to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC 5958. A communication from the Chair, U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines that were proposed by the Commission during the 2011 amendment cycle; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 2668. A bill to designate the station of the United States Border Patrol located at 2136 South Naco Highway in Bisbee, Arizona, as the “Brian A. Terry Border Patrol Station”.

By Mr. KERRY, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

A resolution calling for democratic change in Syria, and for other purposes.
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. BLUMENTHAL:
S. 2516. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, to establish user-fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars, and for other purposes. To the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:
S. 2505. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on arobinic dihydrazide; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2503. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on programmable controllers certified by the importer as designed for use in agricultural and off-road construction vehicles to connect and control auxiliary functions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:
S. 2510. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain forged ring gear components and certain other parts of crankshafts and connecting rods; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2512. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on certain parts of cranckshafts and connecting rods; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):
S. 2516. An original bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to promote the use of clean cookstoves and fuels to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat harmful pollution by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
S. 2515. An original bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reduce the duty on off-road construction loaders and backhoes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:
S. 2517. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on rubberized mastic; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KOHL:
S. 2520. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain parts and accessories of antique and vintage automobiles; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN:
S. 2521. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain portable personal area mosquito repellants; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2522. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on specially designed vehicles, not elsewhere provided for; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:
S. 2519. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Solvent Yellow 131, Fluorescent Yellow M, Mohawk; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:
S. 2514. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oysters (other than oyster seed); to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2513. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on carbonic dihydrazide; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2512. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on onitrophenol; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2511. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on phosphorescent pigment; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2510. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Solvent Yellow 133; Fluorescent Yellow M, Mohawk; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:
S. 2542. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on onitrophenol; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2541. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on phosphorescent pigment; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2540. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on Basic Violet 11; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2539. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on Chromic Acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:
S. 2531. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Invisible Blue Dye; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2530. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Potomac Yellow Dye; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 2529. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Hydroxyapatite; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2528. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Solvent Yellow 160; Potomac; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2527. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Huron Yellow Dye; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:
S. 2519. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Solvent Yellow 160; Potomac; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2518. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Solvent Yellow 155; Potomac; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2517. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Solvent Yellow 154; Potomac; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2516. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Solvent Yellow 153; Potomac; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2515. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Solvent Yellow 152; Potomac; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:
S. 2543. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Solvent Yellow 151; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:
S. 2542. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on onitrophenol; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2541. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on phosphorescent pigment; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2540. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on onitrophenol; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2539. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on Chromic Acid; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2538. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on onitrophenol; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN:
S. 2529. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on para-methoxyphenol or hydroquinone monomethyl ether; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2528. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Solvent Yellow 133, Fluorescent Yellow M, Mohawk; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:
S. 2527. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Lanthanum phosphate doped with europium; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2526. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on yttrium oxide phosphor, activated by europium; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2525. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on lanthanum phosphate phosphor, activated by cerium and terbium; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2524. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on barium magnesium aluminate phosphor, activated by europium or manganese; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:
S. 2544. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on compound of barium magnesium aluminate phosphor; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio:
S. 2543. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Invisible Blue Dye; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2542. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on strontium halophosphate doped with europium; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2541. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on yttrium oxide phosphor, activated by europium; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2540. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on strontium halophosphate doped with europium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:
S. 2539. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Basic Violet 11; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2538. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Basic Violet 11; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2537. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Basic Violet 11; to the Committee on Finance.
S. 2536. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Basic Violet 11; to the Committee on Finance.
preserved by vinegar or acetic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 2558. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain non-toric shaped polarized materials of 80mm or less diameter; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 2559. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain infant products; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 2560. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain bags for toys; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 2561. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain educational toys or devices; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 2562. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain cases or containers to be used for electronic drawing toys, electronic games, or educational toys; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 2564. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain protective cases of molded silicone for toys; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 2565. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain carrying cases of plastics with molded handles shaped to hold toys; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 2566. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain plastic stylus pens for use with toys; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 2567. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain headphones, AC adapters, and protective cases of molded silicone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 2568. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain mechanics' work gloves; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 2569. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain mechanics' work gloves; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 2570. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain mechanics' work gloves; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 2571. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain mechanics' work gloves; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:
S. 2572. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain wide-range high sensitivity zoom security cameras; to the Committee on Finance.
By Mr. COONS:
S. 2611. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on phenyl (4,6-dimethoxy- pyrimidin-2-yl) carbazate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS:
S. 2612. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on methyl 2-[[4-(dimethylamino)-6-(2,2,3,3- trifluorothioxy)-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl]amino]carbonyl]amino]-sulfonyl]-3- methyl-1-propionyl ester; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS:
S. 2613. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on erythrobic acid-sodium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS:
S. 2614. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on ethyl 2-(isocyanatooxy)benzoate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS:
S. 2615. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Benzyl carbazate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CARPER):
S. 2616. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on pyrafluene-ethyl; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CARPER):
S. 2617. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on fluorinated propylene esters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CARPER):
S. 2618. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of difenconazole and mfenoxam; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):
S. 2619. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the low-volume hospital program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN:
S. 2620. A bill to extend temporarily the duty on certain rooftop cargo bags; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN:
S. 2621. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-aminoypyridine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN:
S. 2622. A bill to extend temporarily the duty on 4-chloro-3-nitrobenzoic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:
S. 2623. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on Avermectin B; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:
S. 2624. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on Pymetrozine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:
S. 2625. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on oxozystrobins; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:
S. 2626. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Cyclodex-methyl; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:
S. 2627. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on Fluoro acrylic copolymers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KLOBUCHAR:
S. 2628. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Pinoxaden; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:
S. 2629. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on (R,S)-2-[(2,6-dimethylphenyl) methoxyacetoxyl] propanoic acid methyl ester; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:
S. 2630. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of C5-18 perfluorocarbon alkanes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:
S. 2631. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of C5-18 perfluorocarbon alkanes, perfluorocarbon amines, and/or perfluorocarbon ethers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:
S. 2632. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of C3-13 perfluoroalkyl perfluoromorpholine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:
S. 2633. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on copoly(acrylic acid/taconic acid); to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:
S. 2634. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on bisphenol A Bis(3-methylacryloxypropyl) ether substituted dimethacrylate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:
S. 2635. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on ion exchange resin powder comprising a copolymer of styrene, aryl-ethyl, polymer with divinylbenzene and styrene beads having low ash content; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2636. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Fluoro acrylic copolymers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2637. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,3-dichloronitrobenzene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2638. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Pigment Violet 23; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2639. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 2-propenoic acid, polymer with diethylene benzene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2640. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Benzyl isocyanate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2641. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on bicycle speedometer parts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2642. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on diethylene-benzene polymer with ethylene benzene and ethylethylen benzene, sulfonated; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2643. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on bicycle wheel rims; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2644. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on bicycle wheel rims; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2645. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on bicycle speedometer parts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2646. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on bicycle wheel rims; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2647. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on bicycle wheel rims; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2648. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on bicycle wheel rims; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2649. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on bicycle speedometer parts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2650. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on garage door opener carriers designed for use on bicycles; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KLOBUCHAR:
S. 2651. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Styrene, ar-ethyl, polymer with divinylbenzene and styrene beads having low ash content; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2652. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Ion exchange resin powder comprising a copolymer of styrene, aryl-ethyl, polymer with divinylbenzene and styrene beads having low ash content; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2653. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on macroporous ion-exchange resins comprising a copolymer of styrene crosslinked with divinylbenzene, this functionalized; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2654. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Ion exchange resin polymer with diethylene benzene-styrene polymer; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2655. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on methylated and butylated melamine-formaldehyde polymer; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2656. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Brine Electrolysis Ion Exchange Apparatus; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2657. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Agilon 400; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2658. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Pigment Violet 23; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2659. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Pigment Violet 23; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2660. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Pigment Violet 23; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2661. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Pigment Violet 23; to the Committee on Finance.
By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2667. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Vacuum-Grade Ferronibium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2668. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on tungsten oxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2669. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Metallic Manganese; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2670. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-hexanediol; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2671. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Preventol ON Extra Preservative; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2672. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1,1-cyclobutanedicarboxylic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2673. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on ferronibium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2674. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on N-[4-(methoxy-methyl)-1-phenylmethyl]-4-piperidinylvinyl phenylpropamidine etha ediolate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2675. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Ancamene 2422 Curing Agent; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2676. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-butyl-5-chloro-3H-tetrazol-5-one; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2677. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1-(2-chloroethyl)-4-ethyl-1,4-dihydro-5H-tetraxol-5-one; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2678. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Ancamine 2422 Curing Agent; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2679. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing flupyram and p-dichlorobenzene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2680. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on poly(styrene-co-methyl methacrylate); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2681. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dimethyl dicarbonate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2682. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and methanesulfonyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2683. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and p-Nitrotoluene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2684. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 11-aminoundecanoic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2685. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Ancamea 2422 Curing Agent; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2686. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-acetylbutyrolactone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2687. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on polyamide 12; and polyamide 6, 12; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2688. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1,2,4 Triazole; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2689. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-acetylbutyrolactone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2690. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and methanesulfonyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2691. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and methanesulfonyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2692. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and methanesulfonyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2693. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and methanesulfonyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2694. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and methanesulfonyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2695. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and methanesulfonyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2696. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and methanesulfonyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2697. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and methanesulfonyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2698. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and methanesulfonyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2699. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and methanesulfonyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2700. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluopyram and methanesulfonyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2701. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2702. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2703. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2704. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2705. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2706. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2707. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2708. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2709. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2710. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2711. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2712. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2713. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2714. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2715. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2716. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2717. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2718. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2719. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2720. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2721. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on fluoranthene, pyrene, phenanthrene, and benz[a]anthracene to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2722. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluoropyram and trifloxystrobin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2723. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluoropyram and trifloxystrobin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2724. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluoropyram and trifloxystrobin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2725. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluoropyram and trifloxystrobin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2726. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluoropyram and trifloxystrobin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2727. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluoropyram and trifloxystrobin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2728. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing fluoropyram and trifloxystrobin; to the Committee on Finance.
By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2728. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on phenyl-2-pyridyl acetamide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2729. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on triethylenediamine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2730. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on alpha-threo phenyl-2-piperidyl acetamide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2731. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain pressure distillation columns; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2732. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on alpha-phenyl-2-piperidyl acetic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2733. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on aqueous emulsion of a modified aliphatic amine mixture of decanedioic acid, compounds with 1,3-benzene-dimethanamine-bisphenol A-bisphenol A diglycidyl ether-diethylenetriamine glycidyl ether, ethy ether reaction product-epichlorohydrinoidaldehyd-propylene oxide-triethylentetramine polymer; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2734. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on 4-bromobenzyl bromide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2735. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on helium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2736. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 5(11-dimethylethyl) resorcinol; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2737. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on cast stainless steel single-piece exhaust gas manifolds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2738. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on benzene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2739. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of formaldehyde polymers with aniline and with 4,4′-diaminodiphenyl ether; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2740. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of alkyne polymers with maleic anhydride, 2-(1-piperazinyl) ethylimides, dialononyl phthalate and bis(1-methylethyl)-naphthalene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2741. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on gadolinium oxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2742. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on lanthanum oxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2743. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on knitted or crocheted fabrics of a width exceeding 30 cm, containing by weight 5 percent or more of elastomeric yarn but not containing rubber thread; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2744. A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on europium oxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2745. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixed xylidines; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2746. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on yttrium oxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2747. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures or coprecipitates of lanthanum phosphate, cerium doped lanthanum phosphate, cerium phosphate, and terbium phosphate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2748. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on benzamine, dodecyl- branched; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2749. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of oxycyclcoprorylcarboxyli and inert ingredients; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2750. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on n-ethyl-n-benzyl aniline; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2751. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on picoxystrobin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2752. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on potassium 1,3-dioxo-1H,3H-naphthol,1,8-cd)sulfonate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2753. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 4,4′-biphenyltercarboxylic dianhydride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2754. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dioctyl-4,4′-terephthalate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2755. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 3,3′-bis(4,4′-hydroxy)xylylenediisocyanate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2756. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on reaction product of 3,5-dimethyl-1,2-diazole with polymer of hexane-1,6-diyloxyisocyanate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2757. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on carbon on Lambda-Cy; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2758. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on dimethyl carbonate polymer with 1,6-hexanediol and 1,5-pentanediol; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2759. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2760. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on liquid-filled glass bulbs designed for sprinkler systems and other release devices; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2761. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on reaction product of 3,5-dimethyl-1,2-diazole with polymer of hexane-1,6-diyloxyisocyanate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2762. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2763. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2764. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2765. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2766. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2767. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2768. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2769. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2770. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2771. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2772. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2773. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2774. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2775. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2776. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2777. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2778. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2779. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2780. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on mixtures of thiophanate methyl and application adjuvants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2781. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on hexanedioic acid, dihydrazide, polymer with 5-amino-1,3,3′-trimethylene-cyclohexanemethanamine, 1,3-dioxanediol and 11-methylenebis-[4-isocyanatocyclohexane], Me Et ketone oxime- and polyethylene glycol mono-Me ether-blocked; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2782. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on N-[methoxymethyl(thio) phosphinoyl] acetamide formulation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2783. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2784. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2785. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2786. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2787. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2788. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2789. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2790. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:
S. 2791. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on oxylurofen; to the Committee on Finance.
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<td>S. 2831</td>
<td>A bill to renew the temporary suspension of duty on &quot;mitigation&quot; equipment (9501); to the Committee on Finance.</td>
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<td>S. 2830</td>
<td>A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on 3,3'-dichlorobenzidine dihydrochloride (111-biphenyl)-4,4'-diamino, 3,3'-dichloro-; to the Committee on Finance.</td>
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By Ms. COLLINS:
S. 2617. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on propylene glycol alginates; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS:
S. 2618. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on viscose rayon staple fibers having a decitex of less than 5.0, to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS
S. 584
At the request of Ms. Mikulski, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 584, a bill to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession of social work, and for other purposes.

S. 657
At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 657, a bill to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

S. 738
At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of comprehensive Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia diagnosis and services in order to improve care and outcomes for Americans living with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias by improving detection, diagnosis, and care planning.

S. 886
At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 886, a bill to amend the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 to prohibit the use of performance-enhancing drugs in horseracing, and for other purposes.

S. 1039
At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1039, a bill to impose sanctions on persons responsible for the detention, abuse, or death of Sergei Magnitsky, for the conspiracy to defraud the Russian Federation of taxes on corporate profits through fraudulent transactions and lawsuits against Hermitage, and for other gross violations of human rights in the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1107, a bill to authorize and support psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis data collection, to express the sense of the Congress to encourage and leverage public and private investment in psoriasis research with a particular focus on interdisciplinary collaborative research on the relationship between psoriasis and its comorbid conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 1297
At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1297, a bill to preserve State and institutional authority relating to State authorization and the definition of credit hour.

S. 1454
At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1454, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients and other renal dialysis provisions.

S. 1561
At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1561, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the deductibility of charitable contributions to agricultural research organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 1591
At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1591, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg, in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.

S. 1629
At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1629, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 1670
At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1670, a bill to eliminate racial profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1734
At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1734, a bill to provide incentives for the development of qualified infectious disease products.

S. 1751
At the request of Mr. HJOVEN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BUMMER) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1751, a bill to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to facilitate recovery and beneficial use, and provide for the proper management and disposal, of materials generated by the combustion of coal and other fossil fuels.

S. 1809
At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1809, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for viral hepatitis surveillance, education, and testing in order to prevent deaths from liver cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1884
At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1884, a bill to provide States with incentives to require elementary schools and secondary schools to maintain, and permit school personnel to administer, epinephrine at schools.

S. 1958
At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1958, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the March of Dimes Foundation.

S. 2050
At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2050, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain provisions of the Creating Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, and for other purposes.

S. 2060
At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Ms. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2060, a bill to provide for the payment of a benefit to members eligible for participation in the Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence program for days of nonparticipation due to Government error.

S. 2076
At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2076, a bill to improve security at State and local courthouses.

S. 2112
At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2112, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize space-available travel on military aircraft for members of the reserve components, a member or former member of a reserve component who is eligible for retired pay but for age, widows and widowers of retired members, and dependents.

S. 2143
At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2143, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that
May 7, 2012

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S2929

paper which is commonly recycled does not constitute a qualified energy resource under the section 45 credit for renewable electricity production.  

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. Moran, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Boozman) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2160, a bill to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.  

S. 2165

At the request of Mrs. Boxer, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand), the Senator from North Carolina (Ms. Hagan) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Ayotte) were added as cosponsors of S. 2165, a bill to enhance strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.  

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. Webb, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) were added as cosponsors of S. 2179, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve oversight of educational assistance under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense, and for other purposes.  

S. 2229

At the request of Mr. Nelson of Florida, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Wyden) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) were added as cosponsors of S. 2235, a bill to authorize further assistance to Israel for the Iron Dome anti-missile defense system.  

S. 2343

At the request of Mr. Reid, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. Boxer), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. Inouye), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. Mikulski), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. Rockefeller), the Senator from New York (Mr. Schumer) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Udall) were added as cosponsors of S. 2343, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and for other purposes.  

S. 2394

At the request of Ms. Snowe, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Isakson) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2364, a bill to extend the availability of low-interest refinancing under the local development business loan program of the Small Business Administration.  

S. RES. 429

At the request of Mr. Wicker, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. Mikulski) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 429, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day.  

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. Collins (for herself and Mr. Durbin):  

S. 2515. A bill to promote the use of clean cookstoves and fuels to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat pollution by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.  

Ms. Collins. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce The Clean Cookstoves Support Act, which addresses a serious global environmental and public health issue. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by my friend and colleague, Senator Durbin.  

Nearly half the world’s population cooks food over open fires or inefficient, polluting, and unsafe cookstoves, using firewood, dung, or coal as fuel. Smoke from these traditional cookstoves and open fires is associated with a number of chronic and acute diseases, with women and young children affected disproportionately. The World Health Organization estimates cookstove smoke to be one of the top five threats to public health in poor, developing countries, and accounts for nearly two million deaths annually in the developing world, which is more than the deaths from malaria, tuberculosis, or HIV.  

Traditional cookstoves also create serious environmental impacts. The amount of biomass cooking fuel required each year can reach up to two tons per family, and local environmental degradation can result where demand for fuel outstrips the natural regrowth of resources. Recent studies show that emissions of black carbon, or soot, from biomass cookstoves significantly contribute to climate change, second only to carbon dioxide in impact.  

These stoves should be replaced with modern alternatives to reverse these alarming health and environmental trends. Fortunately, modern stoves, designed to burn fuel efficiently, can eliminate up to 90 percent of the black carbon produced by cooking and home heating. This would be relatively inexpensive and could be done quickly it is what scientists call the “low-hanging fruit” of environmental fixes.  

With the leadership of Secretary State Hillary Clinton and the United Nations Foundation, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves was formed in 2010. Recognizing the severity of the global health and environmental issues, this public-private partnership aims to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and combat pollution by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. The Alliance partners are working to help overcome the market barriers that currently impede the production, deployment, and use of clean cookstoves in the developing world.  

To assist in this important endeavor, several Federal agencies the Departments of State, Energy, and Health and Human Services, including NIH and CDC, the United States Agency for International Development, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation have committed to contribute to the Alliance in three key areas.  

First: support for research and development to improve design, lower costs, and develop global industry standards and testing protocols for cookstoves. Second: diplomatic engagement to encourage a commercial market for clean stoves and promote several strategies, including reducing trade barriers, promoting consumer awareness, and improving access to financing. Third: the Alliance will channel projects to distribute the clean stoves to targeted areas, including refugee camps, disaster relief efforts, and long-
aimed at women and girls. These contributions will assist the Alliance in reaching its goal of spurring the adoption of clean cookstoves in 100 million households by 2020.

Our legislation reinforces the commitment of the U.S. agencies to the Alliance and requires the Secretary of State in consultation with the relevant Federal agencies, and in coordination with relevant international nongovernmental organizations and private and governmental entities, to work to advance the goals of the Alliance. In addition, our bill formally authorizes the agency’s funding commitments to ensure that these crucial pledges toward preventing unnecessary illness and reducing pollution around the globe are met.

By supporting the work of the Alliance to replace primitive stoves with modern versions that emit far less soot, this legislation would directly benefit some of the world’s poorest people and reduce harmful pollution that affects us all.

This measure addresses an important global pollutant and alleviates a serious public health and environmental concern affecting developing nations. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the Clean Cookstoves Support Act.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KOHL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):
S. 2554. A bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am proud to introduce a bill to reauthorize the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program.

I am pleased that Senator COONS, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and Senator SCHUMER have joined me in this effort. When enacted, this legislation will continue for another five years the life-saving grant program that Senator Campbell and I authored in 1998. This measure will continue Congress’ strong commitment to the safety and security of our Nation’s law enforcement officers.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program, administered by the Department of Justice, provides financial assistance to State law enforcement agencies to help purchase bulletproof vests. This program is an important part of the Federal Government’s overall policy to assist and support State and local law enforcement partners around the country.

In February, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing on this program and the need for U.S. agencies to fund it. The hearing provided an opportunity to hear about the success of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program since 1997, data shows that body armor has saved the lives of 3,000 law enforcement officers. That is 3,000 men and women who may not otherwise have made it home to their families and loved ones. The BVP Program has assisted State and local jurisdictions with the purchase of nearly one million bulletproof vests.

Despite the progress that has been made in the improvement of lifesaving equipment and training, there is much work to be done. The year 2011 was an especially tragic one for the law enforcement community. Last year, 163 State and Federal law enforcement officers lost their lives and thousands were injured or disabled in the line of duty. This is an increase from 2010 and a grim reminder of the sacrifices far too many individuals make in the service of their communities and fellow citizens. The Senate should continue to do its part to help reverse the trend of the last several years.

The safety and support of law enforcement officers across the United States should be something on which we can all agree. As we look toward National Police Week this month, Senators have an opportunity with this legislation to help make a difference and to show the thousands of law enforcement officers and their family members who will be in Washington that the Senate stands with them. I encourage their support and I look forward to the enactment of this legislation.

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. 2554

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 “Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 2012”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS
Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the subcommittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Thursday, May 10, 2012, at 10 a.m. in room SD 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Beyond Mother’s Day: Helping the Middle Class Balance Work and Family.”

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the committee on (202) 224 5441.
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MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2050, H.R. 2240, H.R. 4628, AND H.R. 4849

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I understand there are four bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2050) to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 2240) to authorize the exchange of land or interest in land between Lowell National Historical Park and the city of Lowell in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 4628) to extend student loan interest rates for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans.

A bill (H.R. 4849) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue commercial use authorizations to commercial stock operators for operations in designated wilderness within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and for other purposes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I now ask for a second reading en bloc, and I object to my own request en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until Tuesday, May 8, at 10 a.m.; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2343, the Stop Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act, with the time until noon evenly divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; and that following the remarks of the two leaders, the majority control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans control the second 30 minutes; and that following the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 2343, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, the first vote tomorrow will be at noon on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2343, the Stop Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:46 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 8, 2012, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 7, 2012:

THE JUDICIARY

JACQUELINE H. NGUYEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

AJIT VARADARAJ PAI, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2011.

JESSICA ROSENWORCEL, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2010.

THE JUDICIARY

KRISTINE GERHARD BAKER, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS.

JOHN Z. LEE, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.
I rise to recognize and commend the efforts of cans to educate themselves on the chronic support the nearly 26 million Americans who app is available for smart phones. About participating in outdoor activities. In ad-
appropriate medications and avoiding your triggers. Check local air quality conditions at
Maintaining an active lifestyle is important in staying healthy and if symptoms are properly managed Americans who suffer from asthma can stay active. Here are some simple steps:
Mr. Speaker, this month, it is important to support the nearly 26 million Americans who suffer from asthma. I am encouraging Americans to educate themselves on the chronic respiratory disease, asthma.

spread the word to end the word

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and comment the efforts of the Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign; a grassroots organization founded by college and high school students toward promoting greater awareness and respect for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Created by young people with disabilities and their typical peers, Spread the Word to End the Word promotes the undeniable truth that everyone matters, everyone is accepted and, most importantly, everyone is valued. Today, young activists across the country are leading local efforts to raise awareness and collect pledges from peers and the community to vow not to use the word “retarded” and recognize the first Wednesday of every March as a national awareness day for the Spread the Word to End the Word campaign.

Best Buddies and Special Olympics participants across the nation have enthusiastically taken the pledge to stop the derogatory use of the word “retarded,” and have collectively encouraged hundreds of thousands of others to do the same. I am proud to speak about this amazing group of young activists who are spreading hope in their communities every day; not just in their own communities but across the country and the world by making communities inclusive of people of all ability levels.

I am proud to have taken the pledge, and I thank all who also pledge to think of others before they speak and, in so doing, promote universal human dignity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RIVERBANK LIONS CLUB

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize the chartering of the Riverbank Lions Club and its chartering members for their commitment to community and humanitarian service.

Lions Club International was founded in 1917 by a group of business leaders who desired working towards the betterment of their community and the world. Boasting over 46,000 clubs and 1.35 million members, it is now the world’s largest service organization. Together, they strive to promote the organization’s mission to “empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding.” Through community volunteer work, implementing programs to encourage good health and youth empowerment, as well as community and environmental awareness programs, they are truly working to make the world a better place to live.

On May 5, 2012, the Riverbank Lions Club joined this prestigious organization with the chartering of its chapter in Riverbank, California. This group will undoubtedly uphold the Lions’ vision and help those in need through community service and fundraising projects.


Mr. Speaker, we thank you for the opportunity to honor the Riverbank Lions Club here today. Further, we appreciate you joining us in congratulating its members on the chartering of their new chapter and to recognize their commitment to service.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ED HUNT

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Edward Woodrow Hunt, who passed away on April 21, 2012 at the age of 69. Mr. Hunt served as Fresno County’s District Attorney for two decades, from 1982 to 2002. He was a passionate prosecutor, who sought justice for victims and was instrumental in the passage of California’s “Three Strikes” law.

Mr. Hunt was born on July 27, 1942 in Huntsville, Alabama to Ed and Ethel Hunt. He demonstrated his dedication to public service early in his life, when he enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1961. He served proudly until 1964. His military work brought him to California’s San Joaquin Valley, where he worked as an aircraft mechanic at the Castle Air Force Base in Atwater, California.

A proud product of Valley schools, Mr. Hunt graduated from California State University, Fresno with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, and earned his law degree from the San Joaquin College of Law. Early in his legal career, he served as a Deputy District Attorney, where his love of public service grew. His zest for the law and service led him to seek election to become Fresno County’s District Attorney.

After a demanding 1982 election cycle, the voters selected Mr. Hunt as their District Attorney. As Fresno’s Chief Law Enforcement Officer, Mr. Hunt hit the ground running, and worked diligently to take action against those who had violated the law. Not only was he an impecable District Attorney, he was also an important partner in ensuring the well-being and safety of our Valley, and eventually the entire State.

When two former California Assembly Members, myself and Mr. Bill Jones, co-authored legislation for our State’s “Three Strikes and You’re Out,” which eventually was placed on the ballot as an initiative by the people of California, Mr. Hunt was one of its staunchest
HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK MOTTATAN PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. Speaker, together with Congressman Jim COSTA, I rise today to recognize Mr. Lloyd Roduner on the event of his retirement as Chairman and Division Five Director for the Lower San Joaquin Levee District.

Lloyd was born in Merced in 1932 and grew up on his family’s farm. He graduated from Merced High School where he served as the student body president. Lloyd then went on to attend Cal Poly on a scholastic scholarship. After college, Lloyd served in the Army from 1952–1954. He was stationed in San Diego and served as a food inspector. When he left the Army, he went back to work at his family’s ranch.

Lloyd, along with his brother Richard, runs the family business, W.P. Roduner Cattle & Farming Company. He was also a member of the California Beef Council and the California Cattlemen’s Association. In addition, he was the charter president of the El Nido Lion’s Club in 1964.

Lloyd faithfully served the Lower San Joaquin Levee District since October 1985. Through his wisdom, vision and leadership he earned the respect of local, State and Federal officials and entities in support of the District. In doing this he was able to lead and guide other directors, staff and personnel in operating and maintaining the District in the most efficient and economical way possible. He always kept in mind the benefits of the District for its landowners.

Lloyd has a passion for horses and roping which he learned from his father. He was an accomplished showman of horses since he was fifteen and just retired from this five years ago. Many generations of his family are ropers and as soon as his grandchildren were old enough, he taught them. Lloyd has been married to his wife, Patricia, since 1955. They have two children, Michael and Lloydeen, and eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, along with Congressman Jim COSTA, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Lloyd Roduner for his years of dedication and service to the Lower San Joaquin Levee District.

HONORING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JIM MCDERMOTT
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to introduce numerous bills on behalf of Asian American and Pacific Islander Americans in the 7th Congressional District. Fourteen percent of my constituents are of Asian American and Pacific Islander descent. Their contributions throughout Washington State and across our country have been integral to our Nation’s success.

During this commemorative month, we also should remind ourselves of past treatment of these groups, which has been marred by discrimination and bigotry. This year marks the 70th year since the signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the Japanese American internment during World War II, and the 130th year since the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

Only by learning and remembering our history can we hope to avoid repeating its difficult lessons. I applaud the efforts of organizations dedicated to telling the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Seattle’s Wing Luke Asian Museum, the Seattle Asian Art Museum, the Filipino American National Historical Society, and the Japanese American Legacy Project are among those committed to preserving and narrating the stories of the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who helped to shape our common history.

I have been privileged to introduce numerous measures to honor the legacies of Asian Americans in my district. Today, I am pleased to designate a federal courthouse in Seattle, the William Kenzo Nakamura United States Courthouse. Mr. Nakamura, a member of the storied 442nd Regimental Combat Team, posthumously received the Medal of Honor in recognition of his extraordinary bravery during World War II.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders long have made and continue to make very meaningful contributions to our country and to our society. This month, we honor them.

MEGA PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGER (PBM)—MERGER OF EXPRESS SCRIPTS AND MEDCO

HON. MIKE ROSS
OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ROSS of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to make a statement because I’m concerned with the newly created mega pharmacy benefit manager (PBM). The Federal Trade Commission recently concluded its investigation into the merger of Express Scripts and Medco, two of the three largest PBMs. PBMs are primarily responsible for implementing and administering benefit plans that are care-effective and lower prescription drug spending. Now, approximately 135 million Americans will be forced to rely on this new mega PBM to manage their prescription drug benefits. This merger also creates the nation’s largest mail-order pharmacy, accounting for close to 60 percent of all mail-order prescriptions processed in the U.S.

PBMs claim to reduce prescription drug costs; in fact, they are contributing to the increase in healthcare spending. They create artificial barriers that limit patient choice and competition through referring patients to their own discount mail order operations. PBMs also switch patients to more expensive medications allowing these companies to collect rebates from drug makers. Employers and health plans end up paying more for these expensive drugs.
Since 2000, the number of large PBMs has declined and the concentration among the “Big Three” PBMs has increased. The merger of Express Scripts and Medco reduces the options for large plans from three to two. This new mega PBM will control over 40 percent of the national prescription drug volume.

Mr. Speaker, given the possible concentration of market share by the mega PBM, I urge my fellow colleagues to demand transparency and accountability in this industry.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD TYLER-TIGERMAN

HON. SAM FARR
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of Richard Tyler-Tigerman, who recently passed away at the age of 89. Richard was a remarkable man, beloved by all who had the great fortune to know him. Our nation is a more cultured place for his lifetime of efforts.

Richard became best known in my hometown of Carmel, California, as the Director of the Sunset Cultural Center. In that role he helped develop the Sunset Center—at one time the elementary school that I attended as a boy—into a world renowned performing arts center. And while he was expanding the national and international cultural impact of the Sunset Center, he never lost sight of his neighbors and made sure that he and the Sunset Center were still a local community resource. Richard was a true cultural icon in Carmel, always welcoming, convivial, and engaging.

Richard Tyler-Tigerman was born September 28, 1922, in Chicago, the ninth son of Hungarian immigrants. Apart from a two year stay in New York, where Richard participated in a WPA-sponsored children’s theatre project, Richard grew up in Chicago. His mother Minna, a classically trained singer herself, encouraged him to find a way to support himself by pursuing a career in the arts. And while he was expanding the national and international cultural impact of the Sunset Center, he never lost sight of his neighbors and made sure that he and the Sunset Center were still a local community resource. Richard was a true cultural icon in Carmel, always welcoming, convivial, and engaging.

Young, educated Americans begin their adult lives financially strapped. Not only do these recent graduates have debt, they also have some of the greatest difficulty finding gainful employment. Recent college graduates have some of the greatest difficulty finding gainful employment. Recent college graduates have some of the greatest difficulty finding gainful employment.

If we do not pass a measure that extends the reduced interest rate on student loans, more than 7 million students’ rates will double to 6.8 percent. Students who borrow the maximum in subsidized student loans will pay up to an additional $1,000 in interest costs. It is our responsibility to give these students a chance to earn a quality education without the strings of unmanageable debt.

There is little profit to be had from trying to prevent diseases from occurring in the first place, which means pharmaceutical companies and others who profit from efforts to treat and cure diseases will not pay for such efforts. If we want to prevent cancer, the spread of HIV, outbreaks of West Nile Virus, and protect mothers and babies from tobacco; if we want to promote better nutrition, birth defect reduction, preparedness for bioterrorism, and breast and cervical cancer screenings; if we want to protect our children from lead in our homes and yards, the childhood obesity epidemic, and otherwise invisible clusters of chronic diseases like Multiple Sclerosis, we have to fund these programs ourselves. The Prevention and Public Health Fund must be protected as a measure of self-protection.

This bill repeals the Prevention and Public Health Fund. I cannot support this bill.

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2012

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and contributions of a visionary in higher education, Dr. James L. Doti, on the start of his third decade as President of Chapman University.

Dr. Doti has devoted his academic career to Chapman University and has transformed it from a small liberal arts college to a prominent national ranked university.

Under his leadership, Chapman University has attracted exceptional faculty and students, including international and national award winners, noted scholars, best-selling authors, highly respected researchers and world-renowned performers.

Dr. Doti is an accomplished and active scholar, having published numerous articles, authoring two textbooks and serving as co-editor of a collection of readings in private enterprise.

Among his many accolades, Dr. Doti has received the George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and has been inducted into the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans.

In addition, Dr. Doti has played a critical role in establishing the School of Law and the Dodge College of Film and Media Arts at Chapman, both of which have achieved national distinction in their fields.

I congratulate President Doti on his exemplary service to higher education and wish him continued success.
HONORING GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY STUDENT ACTIVISTS DURING THE “LAST COLONY MARCH AND RALLY FOR D.C. DEMOCRACY”

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in a week spent commemorating the 150th anniversary of the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act, which was signed into law on April 16, 1862, freeing the first slaves in the United States. District residents were again reminded of the denial of freedom and democracy that exist at home. On Thursday, April 19, 2012, leaders of the D.C. Statehood Student Association and George Washington University students marched from The George Washington University campus to the Capitol as part of the “Last Colony March and Rally for D.C. Democracy.” Six of them engaged in acts of civil disobedience and were arrested. Along the three-mile route from Kogan Plaza to Upper Senate Park, others joined the young activists, calling for action on important matters of D.C. democracy, ranging from budget autonomy to full congressional representation for the six activists: Brian Crawford, Corante Henderson, Moo Ho Bae II, Markus Batchelor, Matt Laurinavicus, and Patrick Kennedy, went into the street at Constitution Avenue and First Street, where they sat down and blocked traffic, and were arrested for their act of civil disobedience.

Their courage shows that the civil disobedience that began here one year ago will continue until Congress grants D.C. full democracy. On April 11, 2011, the D.C. Mayor and six members of the D.C. Council were among 41 people who were arrested on Capitol Hill in a large display of civil disobedience. As a former preschool teacher, I understand the difficulties teachers face today. With growing class sizes, shrinking budgets, and harsh scrutiny of standardized testing, this important profession has become more challenging than ever, and we must do more to reaffirm our commitment to educators.

Education is the key to our economic success. The quality of our education system affects us as a country and as individuals who provide for ourselves and our families. We can remain competitive without an educated and passionate workforce, and supporting our teachers is the wisest investment we can make in our country’s future.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a heartfelt thanks to the following teachers of the 37th Congressional District who risked the safety of their families for their country. I encourage students, parents and school officials to participate in the events of National Teacher Appreciation Week.

THE FEDERAL RESERVE AND THE 1%

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, an op-ed in the April 19, 2012 Wall Street Journal by Mark Spitznagel explains how the Federal Reserve’s monetary easing program, in place since the financial crisis of 2008, has continued the massive transfer of wealth from the Middle Class directly to the richest.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Apr. 19, 2012]

HOW THE FED FAVORS THE 1% (By Mark Spitznagel)

A major issue in this year’s presidential campaign is the growing disparity between rich and poor, the 1% versus the 99%. While the president’s solutions differ from those of his likely Republican opponent, they both ignore a principal source of this growing disparity.

The source is not runaway entrepreneurial capitalism, which rewards those who best serve the consumer in price and product. (Would we really want it any other way?) There is another force that has increased the income inequality in the economy, which the president does not discuss. It is not redistribution, but redistribution to the 1%, who were favored entities and individuals deemed most creditworthy. Flush with capital, these recipients have proceeded to bid up the prices of assets and resources, while everyone else has watched their purchasing power decline. At some point, of course, the honey flow stage—but not before much malinvestment. Such malinvestment is precisely what we saw in the historic 1990s equity and subsequent real-estate bubbles and what we’re likely seeing again today: over-levered credit and equity markets, culminating in painful liquidation. The Fed is transferring wealth from the middle class to the most privileged. As a result, the expansion of credit is uneven in the economy, which results in wealth redistribution to the most privileged. This coercive redistribution has been a far more egregious source of disparity than the president’s presumption of tax unfairness (if there is anything unfair about approximately half of a population paying zero income taxes) or deregulation.

Pitting economic classes against each other is a divisive tactic that benefits no one. Yet if there is any upside, it is perhaps a closer examination of the true causes of the problem. Before we start down the path of arguing about the maldistribution of wealth to benefit the many, why not first stop redistributing it to the most privileged?

HONORING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. MAC THORNBERRY
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the thirteen Medal of Honor

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe National Teacher Compensation Week and to thank teachers across the nation for their dedication. Teachers touch the lives of so many children throughout their careers and have a unique role in bringing together families and communities to develop our Nation’s most valuable resource, our children.

Our former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt first introduced the idea of a National Teachers’ Day in 1953. Mrs. Roosevelt said, “I think, at a child’s birth, a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift would be curiosity.” Thankfully, our children do have such figures in their lives: the teachers who instill curiosity and a love of learning. I think we can all point to a teacher in our past who inspired imagination and a sense of discovery.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the courageous acts of Brian Crawford, Corante Henderson, Moo Ho Bae II, Markus Batchelor, Matt Laurinavicus, and Patrick Kennedy, students at The George Washington University and leaders in the D.C. Statehood Student Association. They exemplify the time-honored tradition of using civil disobedience to combat injustice, and remind us that the District’s great struggle for democracy is expanding and will continue until freedom and equality come to the District of Columbia.

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recipients who trained in Mineral Wells, Texas, at Camp Wolters during World War II and at Fort Wolters during the Vietnam War. On March 23, 2012, the Fort Wolters Gate Committee joined with the citizens of Mineral Wells to honor these brave men with two ceremonies on Medal of Honor Day.

These thirteen outstanding individuals are First Lieutenant El L. Whiteley, First Lieutenant James M. Sprayberry, First Lieutenant Charles L. Thomas, First Lieutenant Vernon Baker, First Lieutenant Jack L. Knight, Second Lieutenant Audie L. Murphy, Staff Sergeant Edward A. Carter, Jr., Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Novosel, Chief Warrant Officer Frederick Edgar Ferguson, Captain Ed Freeman, Captain Jon E. Swanson, Major Patrick H. Brady, and Major William E. Adams.

The Medal of Honor is our nation’s highest military honor that can be bestowed upon an individual service member by the United States government. It is given to men and women of the Armed Forces who set themselves apart through their uncommon courage, selflessness, and valor which goes above and beyond the call of duty. The recipients of this prestigious award are not only leaders among those with whom they serve, they are also the role models to whom future generations of Americans will always look. I am honored to be able to join in recognizing these heroes before Congress today.

HONORING THE LEGENDARY CAROLE KING

HON. DAN BOREN
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about my friend Carole King.

Carole King is a music legend, with hundreds of pop hits, including the recognizable “I Feel the Earth Move.” She has won four Grammy’s, and is a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Many of her songs have been featured in commercials, TV shows, and movies, and she has worked with many music icons such as Eric Clapton and Celine Dion.

In addition to her fame as a musician, King is also a strong activist for environmental issues. She is often here in our offices on Capitol Hill fighting for the protection of our wildlife and ecosystems, both in her native Idaho and worldwide.

While Carole and I do not always agree on the issues, I have always been impressed by her tenacity. She is truly dedicated to this cause, and her perseverance is something to be admired. Many of us do not have the opportunity to meet someone like Carole. She has a great heart and is a great asset to America.

I want to congratulate Carole King on all of her accomplishments. It has been a pleasure to work with her over the years.

IN HONOR OF ANDREW F. SIMMONS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Andrew F. Simmons, a native of Yorkers, has spent a good deal of his adult life in improving housing in his hometown. He began a partnership with Yorkers 15 years ago in assisting with the development of affordable homes in the distressed southwest area.

Since 1999 he has managed numerous development projects, including the Gazette Building Waterfront Development. He was contractor for the Hamilton Heights renovation project, the Metro North Train Station demonstration projects in Yorkers and Croton-Harmon.

He has helped to lead the completion of the pre-development of three two-family homes and worked as general contractor and developer of an additional three two-family homes. Further, he is developing an affordable twelve-unit condo on the Hudson River.

Andrew Simmons developed Think Services, a consulting firm which works with Community Development Corporations with design phase, budget and community inclusion in project development.

I am proud to join with the Women’s Civic Club of Nepperhan in honoring Andrew Simmons for his outstanding work in developing and building homes for those who need it most.

IN HONOR OF GEORGIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE BOB HANNER

IN HONOR OF ANDREW F. SIMMONS

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IN HONOR OF GEORGIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE BOB HANNER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Southwest Georgia’s most respected public officials, Georgia State Representative Bob Hanner, first elected as a member of the Georgia General Assembly in 1975, recently announced that he will not run for re-election after serving 37 years in Georgia’s House of Representatives.

His longevity of dedicated public service and steadfast representation of his constituents in Chattahoochee, Lee, Quitman, Stewart, Terrell and Webster counties, are just a few of the many reasons as to why Representative Hanner has been an invaluable member of the Georgia General Assembly.

Representative Hanner hails from Parrott, Georgia and is a graduate of both Gordon Military and Southwestern Colleges. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard in Vietnam from 1967–1968.

Following his collegiate career and military service, he worked in the private sector as a farmer and an estate planner. Prior to being elected to the Georgia General Assembly, he also served as a member of the Terrell County Hospital Authority.

Representative Hanner’s first election to the Georgia General Assembly was in a September 1975 runoff in what was then the 130th House District. He successfully claimed 2,811 votes of the 5,442 votes cast in the special election runoff.

Over the course of his distinguished legislative career, he has served as a member of the House Appropriations and Rules Committees and as Secretary of the House Committees on Natural Resources & Environment, Public Safety and Homeland Security. For the last 15 years, Representative Hanner has served as the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and he co-chaired a state-wide water management study committee.

In conjunction with his legislative responsibilities and other important duties associated with his public service, Representative Hanner has played an active role in several civic and community service organizations in Southwest Georgia. He is a member of the P.T. Schley Masonic Lodge #229 in Dawson, Georgia; the Terrell County Chamber of Commerce; and has served as a past director of the United States Jaycees.

It cannot be disputed that Representative Hanner has achieved numerous successes throughout his life. However, none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and the support of his loving wife, Linda. Mr. and Mrs. Hanner are the proud parents of three magnificent children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting an outstanding legislator and one of Georgia’s most respected public figures, Representative Bob Hanner, on the occasion of his well-deserved retirement.
MILITARY COMMISSIONS

HON. MICK MULVANEY
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, no one in this body was untouched by the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, which will stand in our history as one of the most infamous crimes ever perpetrated against the people of the United States. It not only cast a shadow of despair over our country but also thrust us into a different kind of global conflict, fighting an unconventional, adaptive enemy that has adopted the mass murder of innocent civilians as a weapon of war.

More than four years ago, we apprehended the alleged mastermind of the 9/11 plot, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. He and four others are awaiting trial in the Guantanamo Bay detention facility on charges that include the text of that report in my remarks and the subjects of a news report from National Public Radio. The reformed military commission were the first steps in a process that would lead to the current military commissions system in the days after the 9/11 attacks, it was seen as a convenient way to handle the hundreds of detainees at Guantanamo.

The fullness of time, Martins argues, has turned the commission into something more: something that actually resembles an adversarial judicial process. "Law is being applied, judges are interpreting laws, trying for different pieces of a particular motion," Martin told NPR in an interview. "Justice is being done, we're just absolutely committed to that."

Still, critics have reservations. "One of the biggest problems is that today's military commissions carry with them the baggage of the military commissions from the Bush era and there is no way to get around that," says Karen Greenberg, director of the Center on National Security at Fordham Law School.

That's why Greenberg says Martins has a Sisyphean task of correcting the commissions' difficult history. For example, the Bush-era military commissions allowed hearsay evidence and coerced statements—statements that might have come from torture and while the reformed commissions, as Martins calls them, no longer torture, the old system still manages to cast a pall over the new.

"There are other problems," says Greenberg. "Basic things like attorney-client privilege. Defense attorneys and their clients at Guantanamo have their mail read. This means it's okay under this new system at Guantanamo to allow him to retire after he finishes his current assignment as chief prosecutor. Martins would like to remain in the post another few years until November 2014."

One chief prosecutor who preceded Martins was accused of rigging the military commissions process to ensure convictions. Another quit after he said he felt pressured to approve evidence derived from torture in commissions proceedings. He later said that he left because he didn't feel he could do that in good conscience.

MARTINS HAS SOME UNEXPECTED ALLIES ON THIS MISSION

MARTINS HIMSELF IS NO STRANGER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

For seven months in 2009, between deployments, Martins worked at Justice on President Obama's Detention Policy Task Force. Then, three years ago, he became the first soldier to have a ceremony held in the Justice Department's Great Hall. The country's top civilian lawyer, Attorney General Eric Holder, spoke at the ceremony as did Gen. David Petraeus who, at the time, was the head of the United States Central Command. Petraeus and Martins have worked together for more than two decades. Amid the ceremony, the former military prosecutor praised Martins: "Above all he is one of those rare individuals who always seems to end up in the toughest assignments and always performs exceedingly well in them."

A PROSECUTOR MAKES THE CASE FOR MILITARY TRIALS

(By Dina Temple-Raston)

The chief prosecutor for the military commissions at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is arguing a difficult case: that the commissions are not only fair, but can take pride of place alongside the civilian criminal justice system.

Brig. Gen. Mark Martins is the chief prosecutor for the commissions, the courts at the Naval Base that try high-profile terrorism suspects.

He has been called Guantanamo's 'detox' man largely because he has made it his mission to show that the military commissions system at Guantanamo is no longer a toxic version of due process.

When the Bush administration resurrected the commissions system in the days after
IN HONOR OF ELAINE DAVID
HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Elaine David comes to us from Nova Scotia when her parents moved here to relocate in Mount Vernon where she graduated from high school, and by taking weekend and evening courses while working, she also graduated from Elizabeth Seton College.

As a hobby, she and her sister-in-law took classes in floral design and with the encouragement of her family, opened her own flower shop.

Elaine carried over that dedication into her community life. She is a devoted member of the Macedonian Baptist Church of Mount Vernon, a past member of the Black Women’s Political Caucus of Westchester, and a member of several floral trade associations. She has received awards from Westchester School for Special Children, the Westchester Chapter of the National Association of Negro Professional Women’s Club, the Empire State Funeral Directors Association and the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce.

For more than two decades Elaine David has served her community and the people in it faithfully and with devotion. I am happy to join with the Women’s Civic Club of Nepperhan in honoring her for this dedication and thank her for all she has given.

HONORING COLONEL GEORGE D. BURROW
HON. JOHN R. CARTER
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a decorated war veteran who has made countless sacrifices for our great nation. Retired Colonel George D. Burrow, an American hero, has received numerous medals and recognitions for his unwavering service.

Colonel Burrow was born on May 6, 1932 in Port Arthur, Texas. He began his military career in 1950, when he joined the Texas National Guard. By 1958, he graduated from Officer Candidate School as a Distinguished Military Graduate with an Army commission. Shortly after becoming an officer, Mr. Burrow became airbone and aviator qualified.

Colonel Burrow served five tours overseas during times of crisis, including in Germany, Korea and Vietnam. During these conflicts, Mr. Burrow built the reputation of a genuinely modest, superior warrior that executed his missions with phenomenal efficiency and brilliance.

One of the many examples of Burrow’s impressive leadership was his guidance over the Bravo Troop of the famed 1st Squadron, 9th Calvary during the Vietnam War. Burrow commanded the 27 Huey helicopters of Bravo Troop and the legendary group of choppers acquired the nickname “Burrow’s Barbarians.” Bravo Troop accounted for more than 2,000 confirmed enemy kills between April 1967 and February 1968.

Colonel Burrow demonstrated unparalleled bravery and perseverance during battle. He was shot down a total of 13 times in Vietnam. When asked about how he managed to survive these seemingly hopeless events, he doesn’t boast of his courage and inordinate ability to lead. Instead, Burrow praises his fellow service members who supported his life during his service and rescued him often.

Colonel Burrow retired after 39 years of service to the United States of America; his medals include the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (3rd Award), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (2nd Award), Air Medal (34th Award), Purple Heart (31st Award), DOD Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award), Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Master Army Aviator Wings, Parachute Badge, and Joint Chief of Staff Badge. Furthermore, to continue the remembrance of Burrow’s service, he was inducted into the Infantry Hall of Fame in 1979.

Mr. Speaker, Retired Colonel George Burrow celebrated his Eightieth Birthday on May 6, 2012 and it is a great honor for me to recognize an American hero on this day. I will conclude this account of Colonel Burrow’s selfless accomplishments by asking my colleagues to join me in reflecting on, and recognizing him, as one of America’s greatest men.

IN HONOR OF JAMES L. SIMMONS, JR.
HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, James L. Simmons, Jr., is a Yonkers native who has been giving back to his community for many of those years he was owner/operator of a hair care salon in Yonkers while also serving as a community planner for affordable housing.

In 1999 Mr. Simmons started a partnership with the city of Yonkers to assist in developing affordable homes in distressed areas of southwest Yonkers. Under his leadership as Director of the Center for Urban Rehabilitation and Empowerment, CURE, as it is known, acquired numerous parcels of land in southwest Yonkers with the aid of the Bureau of Planning and Development.

With the land, Mr. Simmons, as general contractor, then obtained various grants and loans to complete two- and three-family homes. He acquired another parcel of land on which he built two condominium units and named the development after his late mother.

He worked on numerous developments including the Waterfront Development Project Gazette Building, and he is now in the predevelopment stage of Cook’s Landing, his largest project, which will be 77 affordable rental units.

Mr. Simmons has served on the board of the Yonkers Community Action Program and is commissioner of the Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.

I am proud to join with the Women’s Civic Club of Nepperhan in honoring James Simmons for his outstanding work in developing and building homes for those who need them most.

IN RECOGNITION OF OFELIA RUDER’S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE CUBAN HEBREW CONGREGATION OF MIAMI
HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize a remarkable woman who has meant so much to our South Florida community—Ofelia Ruder. Ofelia has dedicated her life in service to the Cuban Hebrew Congregation of Miami for the last 50 years, starting out as Secretary in 1962 and eventually becoming its Executive Director.

For the last half-century, Ofelia has been the cornerstone of the Cuban Hebrew Congregation in Miami Beach. Through her tireless work on behalf of the congregation she has become an influential leader and role-model, not just for the Cuban-Jewish community, but for South Florida as a whole.

What started out as a small group of Jewish Cuban families in 1961, many of whom having been forced to flee their home country for a second time, the Cuban Hebrew Congregation has become a dynamic and thriving institution that represents a cultural and educational epicenter for Judaism in South Florida. The Cuban Hebrew Congregation’s community, “El Circulo,” with Ofelia at the forefront, has been committed to outstanding service to the Jewish community. For more than half a century Ofelia has been actively engaging our entire community, committed to improving our South Florida community and instilling the importance of community service and unity among those around her.

In addition to her numerous accomplishments, Ofelia is a proud mother of two sons, Albert and Bernie, who have continued her legacy of public service and have become dedicated public servants themselves.

On behalf of “El Circulo” and the entire South Florida community, I wish to congratulate and thank Ofelia for her 50 years of service with the Cuban Hebrew Congregation. I expect to hear ever greater things yet from Ofelia and the Cuban Hebrew Congregation.

IN HONOR OF NICHELE JOHNSON AND BROTHER ARTHUR MUHAMMAD
HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Nichele Johnson and her husband Arthur Muhammad are continuing working for the youth of Mount Vernon and they raise four daughters of their own.
IN HONOR OF CANTOR ERIK CONTZIUS
HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Cantor fills a special role within the Jewish community; leading worship, officiating at lifecycle events, teaching adults and children, conducting synagogue music programs, and offering pastoral care.

Ten years ago Cantor Erik Contzius brought his talent, his commitment to Reform Judaism and unique personality to Temple Israel of New Rochelle. All the congregants have been touched by him, from the training of children to become B’nai Mitzvahs, to making the High Holidays alive with sound, to entertaining us with song. He holds a special place at Temple Israel of New Rochelle.

Cantor Contzius founded Kol Simkha, the Temple’s youth choir, as soon as he arrived in New Rochelle. A decade and hundreds of students later, Kol Simkha is going strong, singing the beloved prayers at Family Services. Cantor Contzius has cultivated many young voices in the congregation, giving them a chance to be heard during special services and on his own album, Teach My Lips a Blessing.

Cantor Contzius has given many distinguished solo presentations, most recently with the Westchester Chorale, singing the Darius Milhaud Service Sacré. Within the synagogue, he performed with its own jazz band, Yiddolk, as part of the annual Follies show, and with the Chordsmen, a barbershop quartet.

In November of 2010, the Cantor’s original composition, “Ma Ashiv Ladonai,” was premiered at the Vatican—a true honor. He was raised in Parsippany, N.J., received his B.A. in Psychology from Rutgers College and went on to study abroad at the University of York, England. He received his Master of Sacred Music degree from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, School of Sacred Music, studying in Israel and New York.

Before becoming a part of the Temple Israel family, along with his wife Monica and son Jacob, he served as Cantor at Reform Congregation Kneseth Israel of Eikins Park, PA, and Temple Israel of Omaha.

I enthusiastically join with Temple Israel of New Rochelle in honoring Cantor Erik Contzius for the joy, guidance and leadership he has provided over the past decade and wish him many more years among us.

RECOGNIZING MAY AS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH
HON. LAURA RICHARDSON
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of a dedicated wife, proud supporter of our military and veterans, and most importantly, a great Alaskan. On April 26, 2012, Alaska lost one of its hardest working and most dedicated daughters, Mrs. June Burkart.

Mrs. Burkart was a loving wife and mother whose life was defined by service to her family and community. For decades she served on the boards of countless organizations that supported Alaskans, most recently raising significant funds for the Wounded Warriors Program. As an avid outdoor lover, she worked to ensure that any wounded warrior who wished to hunt or fish had the opportunity to do so through the Safari Club International Alaska Chapter.

For days, I can continue praising her many accomplishments and the many ways that she improved my life and the lives of anyone who knew her. Her memory will continue to live on in our hearts and souls. I hope that June’s family, and especially her husband Roy, can take comfort in the bond they had with June as it will be for them always. I hope the precious memories the family has of her will bring them comfort, and that they will come to find, in the lovely words of Hugh Robert Orr:

“They are not dead who live in lives they leave behind. In those whom they have blessed, they live a life again, and shall live through us all the days. I hope that each day more beautiful, as time declares their good, forgets the rest, and proves their immortality.”

I am honored to be a charter member of the Congressional Caucus for Foster Youth, a caucus that allows Members to gain a better understanding of the current state of foster care throughout the nation and identify potential federal policy modifications that could improve outcomes for the children in our country’s foster care system. On February 24, 2012, in an effort to address many of the ongoing issues foster youth face, members of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth launched a national listening tour which began in my district.

Mr. Speaker, currently there are over 463,000 children living in foster care. These children have been plagued on the account of the physical, sexual and emotional abuse they have endured with their biological caretaker. My state of California currently has the largest foster care population with the number of youths in foster care tripling since 1981.

Sixty-five percent of children who are not placed in a permanent home emancipate themselves from the system often left unemployed, without a place to live and resorting to homeless shelters. Less than 3 percent go on to college and emancipated females end up four times more likely to receive public assistance compared to the overall population of the United States.

Almost 30,000 children who are victims of abuse and neglect are entrusted to the care of the Los Angeles County Juvenile Dependency Court system. The court’s primary mission is to ensure that these youth are safe, happy and secure. As a result, Los Angeles established the country’s first courthouse especially designed for children and families.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we provide more programs, events, activities, and funding that will educate Americans about the success of children placed in permanent homes, debunk myths about the process and acknowledge the thousands of children who could potentially become a part of these statistics. Through these efforts we can increase the rate of adoption, decrease the rate of homelessness among the youths in this group and help develop future leaders and innovative thinkers of tomorrow.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the families who have opened their hearts and homes to foster children. Foster parents play a critical role in the lives of some of the most vulnerable youth in California and across the country. They help hold our nation’s social fabric together by ensuring that thousands of young people in this country stay on track towards successful futures.

In addition, I would like to commend SHIELDS for Families, an internationally recognized organization in my district that transforms the lives of parents by providing them with resources to prevent children from going into the foster care system. This month, we celebrate these unsung heroes and their efforts to change the lives of these children.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud co-sponsor H.R. 2012, Foster Care Mentoring Act, focused on connecting foster youth with responsible and caring adults and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact legislation that addresses the very real and persisting needs of young people in our foster care systems.
During this month, we recognize all those who are helping to improve the lives of children in foster care but it also serves as a reminder that more must be done. These children deserve to grow up in a loving home that is safe, happy, and most importantly one they can call their own.

IN HONOR OF ELEAZER AND SARI KLEIN
HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Eleazer and Sari Klein are admirably refreshing in that despite their impressive accomplishments, they remain a sincerely caring, responsive and unassuming couple. Both have much to be proud of. They come from families who have created worlds of good in diverse arenas. They use their talents to run successful businesses and support organizations of Torah and chesed. And for all this, it is clear that they take most pride in raising children who are a credit to their families.

Eleazer’s father, Rabbi Dr. Bernard Klein, z’t’l, originally from Munkatch, survived the Holocaust, and went on to receive Smicha from Torah Vodaath, attend Columbia University and become a practicing Rav and Chairman of the Department of History, Philosophy and Political Science at the City University of New York. Mrs. Shirley Klein, a ma’ziah, granddaughter of Rav Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld z’t’l, was a teacher and educator with a Masters in Education. Together, they infused their children with the primary goals of commitment to family, education and placing Torah values above all.

Sari’s family, the esteemed Gottlib/Fink Family, remains one of the most respected families in Belgium. Her role models, Sari’s parents and grandparents, realized success in business, but always kept at the top of their priorities raising a refined Torah family as well as contributing to the Jewish community. Mrs. Klein’s “masterpieces”, Rabbi Chaim Klein, Menahel, comments, “You cannot impose such things on children. Their behavior testifies to generations of midos tovos and hanaghos tovos in a home of Torah, Kedusha and Tahara.”

As Sari says, “It’s all about appreciating what you have and instilling the correct values into your children.” It is our heartfelt brocha that all these extraordinary attributes, exemplifying “Mah Tovu Ohalcha” continue in their doros, ad b’t dai.

May I have the honor of joining in congratulating Eleazer and Sari Klein as Guests of honor at the 13th Anniversary Dinner of Yeshiva Ohavei Torah.

HONORING ST. JUDE CHILDREN’S RESEARCH HOSPITAL
HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital is a beacon of light in Tennessee. Built five decades ago on the belief that “no child should die in the dawn of life,” St. Jude is a place where children afflicted with disease, and parents burdened by lost hope, can find healing and the promise of tomorrow.

In its first ten years, the hard working medical team of St. Jude brought to 50 percent the survival rate for the most common form of childhood cancer. Building on that hard work and success, the research team of St. Jude continued to break through childhood disease barriers. Serving 7,800 active patients a year, the medical and professional staffs, along with volunteers around the country, serve the most vulnerable among us regardless of their ability to pay.

St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital is a glimmer of hope to the families of children faced with medical lost causes. I am thankful for the noble work of all those who are a part of the St. Jude community and look forward to the next 50 years of healing and hope. I rise today in support of St. Jude and ask my colleagues to join with me as we celebrate half a century of service to our children.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STOUGHTON AREA SENIOR CENTER
HON. TAMMY BALDWIN
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th anniversary of the Stoughton Area Senior Center and to recognize its outstanding commitment and contribution to our community.

The Stoughton Area Senior Center began operating out of the basement of Our Saviors Lutheran Church as a social gathering place for local seniors in 1972 and eventually relocated to the First Federal Bank building in 1994. Situated along the banks of the Yahara River, the Senior Center’s distinctive Norwegian-style building not only provides essential support and programming, but also greets all of Stoughton’s residents and visitors as they drive down Main Street and into town. Over the years both my staff and I have had the privilege of holding public meetings at the Senior Center.

The Senior Center is committed to the enrichment of the lives of seniors and their families through a wide array of programs. However, this building is a hub for much more than a few games of bingo or euchre. The vision and dedication of staff and volunteers has led to the development of innovative programs like Zumba and Tai Chi, classes on health insurance and economics, and support groups for families. A team of Case Managers strive to help seniors remain independent by providing informational and guidance about local services. Additionally, the Senior Center prides itself on its nutritional program, which is funded through the Older Americans Act and directed by the staff nutritionist. Last year, the Senior Center served 4,531 meals in-house and delivered 15,140 more meals directly to homes. From these vital services to community partnerships to annual pool tournaments, the Senior Center could not operate without the devotion and hard work of volunteers. Throughout the years, countless volunteers of all ages have contributed to and supported the Senior Center.

The Stoughton Area Senior Center believes that, “Aging brings changes. You make life choices. We provide options.” For the past 40 years, the Stoughton Area Senior Center has provided options, invaluable services, and programming for our seniors and community. I offer hearty congratulations to the staff, volunteers, community partners, and the City of Stoughton for remaining committed to providing the highest level of service to our seniors through the Stoughton Area Senior Center. I wish the Stoughton Area Senior Center the very best and many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF CALVIN JONES
HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Calvin Jones, called CJ, has been involved with the Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club, counseling the youth of Mt. Vernon for more than 40 years. CJ first came to the Mt. Vernon Boys’ Club at the age of 12 after he and another boy were seen fighting by then Director Dick Cuputo who stopped the fight and asked them to instead join the Club.

He would ask CJ, now a member, to help with odd jobs around the Boys Club and through his efforts and merit CJ was made a “Lifetime Member” of the Boys Club. In 1972 CJ was recruited by his brother James, who was Athletic Director and a basketball coach at the North Side unit of the Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club, to become a basketball coach. Since then CJ has been a mentor and
on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of orchards children’s services

hon. gary c. peters
of michigan
in the house of representatives
monday, may 7, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th Anniversary of Orchards Children’s Services of Southfield, Michigan. For five decades, Orchards has been providing critical support services to families and youth in need across Southeast Michigan.

It was 1958 when the founding women of Orchards, all members of the National Council of Jewish Women, gathered to address a growing dilemma in communities across the region: inadequate resources available for families of at-risk youth. All too often, at-risk youth would end up being removed from their families and moved to facilities outside of Michigan. This led to the separation of many families and to moments of crisis for them. It was just four years later that Orchards was born—first as a single residence serving just seven young boys, then later with additional homes serving adolescent boys and girls.

After officially launching as an independent child care agency in 1987, Orchards has grown and expanded its programs to meet the changing needs of at-risk youth in a community uniquely challenged by long-term economic uncertainty. However, in spite of these obstacles, Orchards has endured and its thousands of clients have achieved a brighter future. Today, Orchards’ programs include foster care and adoption services, a complete array of services for strengthening family cohesiveness and a set of programs geared toward providing at-risk youth with the opportunities necessary to ensure a well-rounded development.

The importance of Orchards’ services, in a time of unprecedented pressure and financial crisis for families across Southeast Michigan, cannot be overstated. Each year, Orchards serves over four thousand children and families, two thirds of which is its family preservation services, and all of them are at-risk. And even more telling, the average age of the youth Orchards supports is eight, which underscores the existing need for these critical services at an early age. In just one measure of its success, 96 percent of the youth in the Detroit School System that are served by Orchards complete their high school education and graduate—a figure almost three times the current rate system wide.

Mr. Speaker, for half of a century, Orchards Children’s Services has been an orchard for its clients: a place where they can grow and prosper. Many times, Orchards’ employees and supporters have been there during seminal moments of crisis to support at-risk youth and their families with critical social services. There is no doubt that Orchards’ work has strengthened the core of Michigan’s communities, its families, and our greatest asset, our children. I am so pleased to recognize Orchards on achieving this significant milestone, and I wish its CEO Michael Williams, its Board Chairperson Carol Klein and its employees, supporters and clients many decades of success to come.

in honor of deacon miriam lopez

hon. eliot l. engel
of new york
in the house of representatives
monday, may 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Miriam Lopez is a retired New York City police officer who worked jointly with federal agencies because of her expertise in laws that governed firearms and explosives. She was in charge of the inspection of fire arm dealers in New York City and the tri-state area and the renewal or removal of the dealers’ licenses.

After retiring from the Police Department, Deacon Lopez became more involved in the church and with youth. She had mentored teenagers for years through the Police Athletic League program, and now she is a member of the Generation X Ministry in Kingdom Baptist Church, serves as a Deacon for the congregation, and is the office and bookstore manager. Her passion for youth and the community has led her to pursue mission work, which is her next endeavor. Deacon Lopez is mother, grandmother, sister and daughter as well as a pillar of strength to the community she serves.

Deacon Miriam Lopez is being honored by the Henry and Helen K. Day & Learning Foundation and I join with the Foundation in congratulating her for her years of working with our youth.
As we enter into the month of May, we can all spread knowledge on prevention, changing the risk factors over which we have control. The Stroke Association of Southern California has reported that 70 percent of strokes are preventable through lifestyle changes, control of risk factors, and medical care. Several dangerous factors include physical inactivity and obesity, excessive alcohol consumption, and smoking.

The good news is that efforts aimed at prevention are working. Between the years 2000 and 2008, stroke mortality rates in California have declined from an average of 61.2 deaths per 100,000 people to 38.9 deaths per 100,000 people. We can continue this trend by raising awareness of risk factors and reducing inequalities in access to information and healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, American families deserve healthy and happy lives. This month let us re-dedicate ourselves to helping our families and neighbors become more aware of the risks and causes of high blood pressure and stroke.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOPKINS JUNIOR HIGH

HON. FORNEY PETE STARK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable achievement of the Hopkins Junior High School Science Team of Fremont, California for winning the National Science Bowl. This is the second time in four years that Hopkins Junior High School has won the National Science Bowl, sponsored by the Department of Energy.

Hopkins Junior High owes its success to team members Karthik Bharathala, Dhruv Muley, Catherine Zeng, Brian Tseng, Mark Choi and their teacher Paul Ricks, who practiced tirelessly for this year’s competition. Clearly, that practice certainly paid off.

In the National Science Bowl, judged by United States Senator Steven Chu, five member teams compete against each other in a fast paced Jeopardy style format where teams try to be the first to correctly answer an oral question posed about science or math. Nearly 14,000 students participated in regional tournaments and more than 100 teams competed in the Nationals.

This accomplishment is evidence of the quality of Fremont’s public schools. The dedication of students, teachers and parents has led to this great success, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them. We are incredibly proud of the Hopkins Junior High School Team and their coach for this outstanding achievement.

IN HONOR OF MICCERICA THOMAS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, those who give back to their communities as special treasures for the actively seek to better their inheritance. Miccitera Thomas grew up in Mount Vernon on a quiet street where her parents owned their home. She began her studies in the city’s public schools and graduated from Roosevelt High School in Yonkers. She went on to achieve a degree in Business Accounting from Westchester Community College. While she now lives in White Plains, she continues to devote most of her time to Mount Vernon.

When she began working with Henry Allen over eleven years ago, she knew she had found an organization where she would be committed to for the long haul. At that time Henry was producing the Two Fools Charity Basketball Games out of his own pocket. He had the idea of giving back to the elementary school that he went to when he came to New York after losing his parents. Miccitera volunteered to help out and has never left.

Whether seeking donations, stuffing bags or making phone calls, Miccitera is an essential component of the small team that has made an idea a reality. When it was impossible for anyone to be on site while workmen were constructing the new computer lab, Miccitera jumped in a car and came to Mount Vernon to supervise. When a child lost her telephone at a game, Miccitera scoured the bleachers looking for it.

When not working with the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation, Miccitera can be found shopping for her favorite items, shoes, or working with the White Plains Housing Authority’s summer basketball games.

Her son, Quan, and daughter, Roben, are currently in college pursuing psychology and forensic science studies. While they’re away at school she concentrates spending more time with her adopted daughters, Kassandra and Carolyn.

I enthusiastically join with the Henry Allen Educational & Learning Foundation in honoring Miccitera Thomas for the good work she has done with the Foundation for the people of Mount Vernon.

IN SUPPORT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

HON. JIM McDERMOTT
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we have spent months in this House watching the Republicans create an unstable business environment and hurt U.S. jobs while they delay the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

While the Export-Import Bank supports hundreds of thousands of American jobs every year at no cost and no risk to the taxpayer, the Republicans have been stuck between their radical tea-party ideology of pure free-market practices in the Pharmaceutical industry and unfair trade practices. We cannot afford to allow PBMs, to ensure that consumers are receiving the care they deserve at competitive and fair costs.

Mr. Speaker, within the pharmaceutical industry there is a pressing issue concerning the lack of transparency surrounding PBM business practices. We cannot afford to allow these businesses to continue as usual in the pharmaceutical industry. The recent Express Scripts and Medco merger means that “the big three” PBMs will now control benefits for 72% of all Americans. This makes it much more important that we act decisively and pass this legislation.

PBMs have engaged in practices that include: negotiating with drug manufacturers at the same time as employers and health plans to ensure they secure prescription drug plans that will benefit themselves, switching customers to higher priced plans and benefitting from both the rebate and higher payment without any benefit to the health plan provider and
employer, and also repeatedly changing pharmacy audit rules which makes it more difficult to ensure compliance. Mr. Speaker, these are only a few of the issues that plague loosely regulated PBMs and the pharmaceutical industry. We must bring this to an end.

H.R. 4215 would demand a greater level of transparency in PBM business practices, interactions with Medicare Part D, and other pharmaceutical stakeholders. It will increase regulation on PBMs, which are currently regulated in only a handful of states, and make certain that our Nation’s pharmaceutical consumers are adequately protected. This should not be seen as a partisan issue, but rather, a quality of life issue that affects every single American.

Mr. Speaker, let’s act now to pass this legislation and put a stop to anti-competitive practices in the prescription drug market. Let’s protect consumers from being forced to pay higher prices for their medication. Let’s do our part to lower healthcare costs, and ensure the best care for our constituents.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE SCOTT FOR RECEIVING THIS YEAR’S FEDERAL SERVICE AWARD

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michelle Scott of Raleigh, North Carolina, for receiving this year’s Federal Service Award at the Department of Justice’s annual victim’s service awards. Having worked with crime victims for the past 12 years, she has shown great dedication to the people of North Carolina. The award the Department of Justice recognizes service providers, other professionals, or volunteers, for their exceptional contributions and extraordinary impact on behalf of crime victims in Indian Country, on military installations, in national parks, or in other areas under federal jurisdiction.

Since 2003, Ms. Scott has led the biannual Federal Domestic Violence Conference in North Carolina. In response to the requirements of Title I of the Justice for All Act of 2004, Ms. Scott led the judges and prosecutors in the Eastern District of North Carolina to place the victim at the forefront of criminal proceedings. Ms. Scott developed and implemented model victim-witness training programs in Kosovo and Albania for judges, prosecutors, victim advocates, law enforcement officers, and non-governmental agencies.

I would like to express my sincere congratulations to Michelle Scott on receiving this year’s Federal Service Award. I join with her family, friends, and colleagues in offering my praise and admiration for her work on behalf of crime victims here and abroad. I applaud what Michelle has done for the citizens of North Carolina and in Kosovo. We are lucky to have such a champion of victim’s rights in our great state.

The 2nd district of North Carolina strives on strong leaders like Michelle, who work hard every day to protect and serve the people of our community. I am grateful to hearing about her future achievements, and may God continue to grant her success and happiness in all her endeavors.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRACY RANCH

HON. JIM COSTA OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tracy Ranch on the occasion of its 150th anniversary celebration. The Tracy Ranch has made a significant and historical impact on agriculture in Kern County. During its 150 years of operation, the Tracy Ranch has become a family-held operation that grows cotton, wheat, potatoes, tomatoes, almonds and pistachios. Beef raising rounds out the operations of Buttonwillow Land & Cattle Company, a partnership made up of three families: the Freys, Selvidges and Tracys.

The Tracy Ranch legacy officially began in 1862 when Ferdinand Tracy and Wellington Canfield formed the partnership Canfield & Tracy, a rangeland cattle operation. Their herds roamed the lower San Joaquin Valley, grazing on wild grass in an untamed dominion ruled by the likes of rattlesnakes, jackrabbits, coyotes and waterfowl. In 1875, Ferdinand married Ellen Baker, the widow of Colonel Thomas Baker. In 1898, Ferdinand’s nephew, William Tracy, established what would be today’s headquarters and historical park on Wildwood Road, 5 miles northeast of Buttonwillow. This era was marked by the raising of Belgian draft horses and later, ostriches. His marriage in 1904 to the daughter of another pioneer family, Fannie C. Rowlee, would yield six children.

With the death of William Tracy in 1941, his widow Fannie Tracy rallied her widespread children and their spouses back to the ranch. The result was a turning point that saved a ranch ravaged by bad luck of the 1920s and the Great Depression of the 1930s. Fueled by the talents and resources of the Freys, Selvidges and Tracys, made urgent by World War II, the ranch was transformed from an equine epoch into a mechanized farming operation.

Today in the fifth generation, diversity is its strength. The Tracy Ranch is respected and should be honored for the achievement of their unity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work and dedication that the Tracy Ranch has put forth. Reaching its 150th year, the Tracy Ranch is joined today by only a handful of other surviving Kern County operations with roots going back to early California. I congratulate the Tracy Ranch on its many years of dedicated and successful work in California, and wish the families many successful years to come.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD SOSIS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Richard Sosis is a committed social activist who has contributed to his communities through his work as a teacher, lawyer, and attorney. He was born in 1941 in the Bronx to Phil, an union activist father, and Muriel, a mother active in tenant’s rights causes including the unsuccessful integration of Parkchester. His parents worked for racial and economic justice, rearing Richard in a household where politics was a constant conversation, even bringing him to demonstrations for civil rights causes.

This turned near tragic when the family attended a concert in Peekskill featuring Paul Robeson which was attacked by local racists protesting an integrated gathering. On the bus ride home, rocks smashed the bus windows and Muriel had to remove pieces of glass from his hair.

Not unexpectedly, Richard joined the civil rights and anti-war struggles of his youth. At CCNY he was a leader in gathering support for Freedom Rides and marches on Washington to press for greater civil rights for all Americans.

In 1963 he graduated and taught social studies teacher in a Queens middle school. In 1964 he entered St. John’s University School of Law, graduating in 1967, passing the bar and becoming a practicing attorney. For eight years he had two full-time jobs—a teacher in Queens and as a lawyer in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

In 1971 Richard married Marion McBride, and they bought a brownstone in Cobble Hill. In 1975 their daughter Karin was born and in 1978 their son Andrew was born. Andrew passed away several years ago, and Karin lives and works in central Africa.

After Karin’s birth Richard focused on teaching, with one of the first programs teaching law in a NYC public school. In 1995 he pursued his legal practice full-time.

Richard and Marion divorced in 1989, and Richard moved to Hillcrest Avenue and was elected President of the PTA at Albert Leonard Middle School. He met math teacher Judith Bobrow, and in 1991 they were married. Judith and Richard had a daughter Leah, who in 1994, is a senior and on the high honor roll at New Rochelle High School.

Richard has been on the Board of the New Rochelle Bar Association, and served as its president from 2007 to 2009. He continues his work with the Lawyer-in-the-Classroom program, which partners local attorneys with teachers and schools across the city.

Richard is the current Chair of the New Rochelle Zoning Board, having served on the board as a member and chair for almost 10 years.

For his years of service to his communities, I join with the New Rochelle Democratic Club in honoring Richard Sosis and wish him every success.

COMMENORATING CINCO DE MAYO AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATINO AMERICANS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, May 5 is the 150th anniversary of Cinco de Mayo which marks the historic triumph of the Mexican people over the French Army in Puebla. This holiday commemorates the Battle of Puebla where General Zaragoza and his ragtag band of patriots fought off the powerful and large French Army for their independence.

This battle and victory is an example of the Americans.

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This battle and victory is an example of the many common bonds Mexicans and Americans have, such as, liberty and democracy.
This is also an example of the Mexican people’s positive influence on the American people and culture through their continuous struggle for freedom. Today, young Mexican women and men serve in the Armed Forces defending our country from those who would do us harm.

Mr. Speaker, there are over 44 million Mexican-American citizens living and contributing to the United States through their tenacious work ethic, positive energy and love for this country. As a representative of the 37th Congressional District of California which is home to over 300,000 constituents with Mexican and Latino heritage, it is my honor to rise in celebration of the Mexican and Latino people’s struggles and achievements.

I am proud that Latinos have risen to leadership roles in every sector of American life—politics, law, medicine, entertainment, the media, sports, business, and the arts. Today there are 30 Latino Members of the United States Congress, including 7 California Democrats. I am privileged to serve with them in our fight to create jobs for Latinos and Latinas; make college affordable for Latino young people, including by preventing interest rates on need-based student loans from doubling in July; and protecting Social Security and Medicare for the millions of Latino seniors who rely on these programs.

So on this glorious day let me wish my constituents, and all Americans, a very Happy Cinco de Mayo.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DAN UTLEY
HON. BRETT GUTHRIE OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to report the tragic loss of a young man who was born and raised in Kentucky’s second district.

Captain Dan Utley, born in Bowling Green, Kentucky in 1979, and who was raised and educated in Glasgow, Kentucky, before graduating from the University of Louisville, was killed in action while serving in the U.S. Army in Mali on April 20, 2012, while on a training mission to help the people of that country combat terrorism.

Captain Utley was 33 years old. And I am told that in those 33 years he touched many lives with his intellect, his compassion, and his warmth. He was a sharp young man who, at every turn in his life, made the kind of selfless choices that define what it means to be an American hero. And make no mistake—Dan Utley and the members of America’s Armed Forces who die defending our nation are indeed heroes. They put defending their country, their families, and our freedom ahead of their own lives.

During his Army service, Captain Utley served in many posts, all of them challenging and proof of his skill and talent. His deployments included serving in South Korea for 24 months, in Kuwait for 12 months, in Afghanistan for 13 months, and in Mali for seven months. It was in that North African country that Captain Utley lost his life.

A recent news article published by Reuters outlined the challenges facing Mali:

Within weeks, Mali has plunged from being a sovereign democracy to a fractured territory without a state, occupied by competing rebel groups in the north while politicians and coup leaders in the south jostle for control of the capital Bamako.

There is no easy solution. Each nation can be put back together soon—raising concerns among neighbors and Western powers of the emergence of a lawless “rogue state” exploited by militants. “We have never seen in such a dire situation at any other time in our history,” said Mahmoud Dicko, influential head of the Islamic High Council, the poor French colony once seen as a poster child for democratic election in West Africa.

Captain Utley was there because America is engaged in a worldwide fight against al Qaeda and other terrorist networks. His devotion to his country and to the less fortunate people of the third world took him to one of the most dangerous places on Earth. He made the ultimate sacrifice while serving the people of Mali and so that everyone back home can continue to enjoy freedom and safety. I am humbled every time I hear of one of these young men and women who have given their life so that their fellow citizens can enjoy their own life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Dan served with distinction during each of his missions. He served as a tactical communications platoon leader, an operations officer for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) as a Team Leader. During the course of his service, Dan won several awards and commendations, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Combat Star, The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Seoul Defense Service Medal, and the NATO Medal. Captain Utley also received the Basic Parachutist Badge and his Thailand Jump Wings.

What I’ve been told about Dan Utley is what I think every parent ultimately wants for their children—that they grow up with a strong desire to serve their fellow man, their country, and their community. That they grow up with an incredible work ethic. That they grow up with compassion and a desire to make a difference.

Dan Utley lived that kind of life, and I could agree more with Dr. Gary Gregg, the Director of the McConnell Center at the University of Louisville where Captain Utley was a graduate, who lamented, “America has lost one of its rising stars.” And to my friend, the Senior Senator from Kentucky, MITCH McCOLLUM, I offer my sympathy on the loss of one of the greatest McConnell Scholars who has passed through the wonderful program that he set up at the University of Louisville to nurture the next generation of leaders for our Commonwealth.

Dan Utley is no longer with us, but he had already grown into a great leader, an American hero, and will forever serve as an example to others who seek positions of leadership. If every person who desires a chance to lead had the heart and values of Dan Utley, I imagine we would be living in a much better world.

I offer condolences to Captain Utley’s widow, Captain Katie M. Utley, whom we also thank for serving in America’s military; to Captain Utley’s father, Charles L. Utley; his mother, Linda H. Utley; his brother and sister-in-law, Charles Utley II and Marie Utley; his brother and sister-in-law, Matthew R. Utley and Michelle; his nephews, Matthew Ryan Utley and Mason Robert Utley; his niece, Marleigh Rose Utley; his maternal grandmother, Pauline Haynes; his parents-in-law, Chris and Peggy Michael; his brother-in-law, Michael; and many other friends and family members. I am saddened by this loss, but heartened at the enduring courage of those who serve in America’s Armed Forces. Kentucky is home to a great many families who have lost loved ones in the War on Terrorism, and in previous conflicts in which our country has been engaged. We mourn always for their loss, and remain eternally grateful for their sacrifice.

HONORING ELMER ELLIS LIBRARY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elmer Ellis Library at the University of Missouri on its 150th year of service in the Federal Depository Library Program, a program whose origins date back to 1813, when Congress first authorized the printing and distribution of copies of the Journals of the House and Senate, and other documents to the chambers had ordered printed. One hundred and fifty years is a long time to do anything, especially, I would argue, to keep track of our government’s too-numerous-to-name documents. Of course, I say that in jest—retention and preservation of tangible and digital information is critical, and future generations and scholars need an accurate record of the proceedings and actions of our government.

Since 1813, depository libraries have safeguarded the public’s right to know by collecting, organizing, maintaining, preserving, and assisting users with information from the federal government. Government documents span a wide range—from agency information, appropriations, census data and technical reports to Supreme Court decisions and insertions into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, such as my remarks today.

I also would like to take this opportunity to recognize Elmer Ellis Library on its recent receipt of the Federal Depository Library Program Spotlight Award, which highlights that not only is the library one of the oldest participants of the program, starting its program in 1862 in the midst of the Civil War, it also has one of the largest collection in the country, housing 1.5 million federal and Missouri state documents. Unbelievably, some of these documents date back to the founding of our nation.

Since the Federal Depository Library Program was instituted in 1813, the role has changed. Depository libraries still act as the bridge between our nation’s government and its services, offering free access and assistance to interested individuals. However, technology has...
transformed the way we create, process, store and distribute information. This means depository libraries must face the challenge of migrating government information to newer formats. Congress appreciates all of depository libraries’ hard work and hopes to help move forward on these issues with them.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Elmer Ellis Library and its current coordinator, Marie Concanon, on reaching this significant milestone. Here’s to another 150 years of Elmer Ellis Library’s chronicling this body’s steps and missteps!

CONGRESSIONAL ARTS COMPETITION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students participated in the 2012 Congressional Arts Competition, “An Artistic Discovery.” Their works of art are exceptional!

Sixty young men and women participated. That is a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition. First place was awarded to Jessica Menchon from Mt. Olive High School for her oil on canvas entitled, “History of Waterloo Village.” Second place was awarded to Vicki Liu from Ridge High School for her acrylic entitled, “Shameless.” Third place was awarded to Rachel Elias from Montville High School for her charcoal and chalk pastel entitled, “Looking Up.”

Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Marilaina Lutz from Roxbury High School for her photograph entitled, “Swallow and Hummingbird” and Nicolas McMillen from Parsippany Christian School for his photograph entitled, “Brotherly Tree.”

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name and the title of their contest entries for the official RECORD.

Boonton High School; Emily DiLaura “Spring Labor.”
Franchesca LeBrun “Portrait (Self).” Sara Leslie “When I Was a Little Girl.” Sabrina Noel “My Dog Trixie.”

Montville High School; Alexa D’Arenzo “Goddess in Despair.” Nicolette Russo “Drip-Ping.” Jesse Statthis “Apart of Me.”


Parsippany High School; Ashley Del Rio “Untitled.”

Pope John XXIII High School; Kelly King “Government.”
Ridge High School; Clair Chin “In This Day and Age.” Laura Kurdi “Freedom’s Reflection.” Sophie Harris “Modern World.”
Roxbury High School; Brianna Krop “My 3rd Period Daydream.” Cara Resiak “One Fish, Two Fish, Me Fish, You Fish.” Elizabeth Synalovski “Madison.”

Sparta High School; Melissa Hespelt “Four Eyed.”


Each year, the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of our fellow Americans walk through the exhibition and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey’s 11th Congressional District.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF OSCAR T. KADLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask for the House’s attention today to honor Mr. Oscar T. Kadle.

Oscar T. Kadle was born April 2, 1921 in Four Mile, Alabama. He married Martha Brooks on February 22, 1958 and they have always lived in the Saks community. He was drafted into the Army in 1941 first stationed at Fort McPherson, Georgia and then Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, for boot camp. He left Fort Bliss and went to Hawaii on his way to the South Pacific where he served his country during World War II.

Oscar took part in the invasion of Saipan in 1944. After Saipan he was sent to Iwo Jima. In 1945, he was on a ship headed for mainland Japan for an invasion there. The ship was stopped before arriving in Japan, and the soldiers were left sitting in the ocean for two days waiting for orders. The first Atomic Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima at this time. Oscar’s ship was ordered back to Iwo Jima. The war ended not long after this and Oscar was headed home to be discharged from the Army at Fort Shelby, Mississippi.

After returning home Oscar went to work for Seven Up Bottling Company for 25 years. He left Seven Up to go into the plumbing business and later went to work for Davis & Daniels Construction where he worked for 15 years until his retirement.
Oscar was very active in the construction of Harvest Media Center in 1995 and later in the construction of the Harvest Church of God Sanctuary. He was saved in 1985 while he was driving back home from a job in Tuscaloosa. Oscar started attending Harvest Church of God in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, I honor Mr. Kadle today and thank him for his outstanding service to our country.

THE SATELLITE SENTINEL PROJECT: MONITORING WAR CRIMES IN SUDAN

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN
OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 7, 2012

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, in late 2010 a remarkable and innovative project was established to use real-time satellite imagery to monitor and document the humanitarian and human rights situation on-the-ground in Sudan. The idea was the brainchild of activist and actor George Clooney and came into being through a remarkable collaboration between Clooney’s humanitarian foundation Not on Our Watch, the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the incredible generosity of DigitalGlobal, the commercial satellite company that has donated thousands of images of activities taking place on-the-ground in Sudan. Through these images, the world has seen images in southern Sudan that may be mass graves, and others documenting military attacks on civilian targets.

The project is an invaluable tool not only for understanding what is happening in real-time in Sudan, but in providing evidence that may one day be used in international trials for war crimes committed against Sudan’s defenseless civilian population. A story about how this project was set up and the team of Harvard faculty, students and interns who monitor and analyze the satellite imagery was published in the April 29th edition of the Boston Globe Sunday Magazine. I applaud the Satellite Sentinel Project and all its collaborators in their singular contribution in documenting the human rights and humanitarian reality in Sudan.

Attachment:

[From the Boston Globe Sunday Magazine, Apr. 29, 2012]

SPYLAB: HOW A TEAM OF HARVARD GEEKS IS USING A SATELLITE—PLUS A LITTLE HELP FROM GEORGE CLOONEY—to Rewrite the Rules of War Crimes Investigation

(By Michael Blanding)

Late-afternoon light slants outside the windows of a Harvard Square conference room where half a dozen twenty- and thirty-somethings huddle around a table covered with laptops, several cups of coffee, and one falafel sandwich. It could be a grad student study session, at least until a young woman named Brittany Card stands up in front of the Sudanese Embassy in Washington, D.C. and asks Satellite Sentinel Project’s director of operations, Nathaniel Raymond, a 34-year-old with mussed-up hair and tortoiseshell glasses. "Whoever’s play it is,” replies Benjamin Davies, the 34-year-old fast-talking deputy director, "we had rapid events take place” on the border. And while they weren’t watching, like everyone else, they had been focused on Sudan’s Kauda Valley, where the Sudanese government had hemmed in rebels and civilians alike, conducting bombing raids that drive them into the surrounding Nuba Mountains. The team had been coming up ideas for what could be happening.

Davies theorizes the Sudan military could finally be preparing for an assault on the Kauda Valley. No, Raymond says; they would have seen more activity from all the troops in that area. ’’It’s like The Two Towers. You look out, and there are a lot of orcs and torches,” he says. If you’re stuck in the Nuba Mountains, he adds, ‘’you are saying, Where is Gandalf right about now? Can you text him again?”

The group is fond of movie analogies. Before the night is through, they’ll reference Harry Potter, The Matrix, WarGames, and The Hunt for Red October as part of their unusual mix of high, low, earnestness, and dorm-room antics.

Suddenly a thought occurs to Raymond: What if the SAF is in Kauda and is really a trick to draw in southern rebels? He slams the table. “Oh man, it’s obvious. You draw them in and then you hit their flanks.” He points to an area in Sudan by the cities of Muglad and Babanusa, where tanks dropped off by train would have an uncontested route to the border. In minutes, Card finds that the nomads usually move much farther south—that could mean they’ve been driven out. The team’s manager of imagery analysis, Isaac Baker, 32, calls up satellite shots that show roads being built from Muglad and tanks stationed in Babanusa.

The evidence is mounting.

This theory would be a change from the one the Satellite Sentinel Project has been building. Just a week earlier, on March 16, Clooney and other activists led a protest in front of the Sudanese Embassy in Washington, D.C. to demand that 30,000 of the refugees in the Nuba Mountains. “It’s about to start raining, and once it starts raining there, thousands of people are going to die,” he said. The Sudanese government created a police line and was arrested, and his message was broadcast everywhere from CNN to TMZ.

Now, however, the Harvard group suspects everyone was looking at the wrong spot. If their theory proves true, they will have predicted an invasion before it happened. If it’s started, they can’t do the same thing to war criminals? ’’

Raymond asks.

They decide to go for it. Since the images won’t come in until tomorrow, all they can do now is wait. It’s close to 9 p.m. when the group breaks up. “It’s addictive, isn’t it?” says Jody Heck, a Harvard sophomore. “I have to study for a 10 o’clock exam tomorrow.”

Using satellites to search for war crimes in the Sudan was George Clooney’s idea. He had started taking trips to the country six years ago. In October 2010, just months before South Sudan voted to declare independence, he returned with the Enough Project, a Washington-based nongovernmental organization working to end genocide and other crimes against humanity. "If entertainment is going to trump news,” Clooney says by phone from Los Angeles, “then entertainment should go where the news is.”

Whenever violence had occurred in Sudan in the past, the government has been able to deny it. Sitting in the desert one night with Enough’s cofounder, John Prendergast, Clooney asked, "Why is it that you can Google Earth my house, but you can’t do the same thing to war criminals?”

There had to be a way, he continued, they could turn satellites into the humanitarian equivalent of paparazzi.

They could certainly try, figured Jonathan Hutson, Enough’s communications director. He had previously worked as a research fellow at Physicians for Human Rights in Cambridge, where they had used them to investigate mass graves in Afghanistan. A few nights after Clooney’s trip, Hutson found himself in the actor’s suite at D.C.’s Willard InterContinental, eating pizza and setting up a conference call with Google and the United Nations. Their goal, Hutson was to figure out a way to “stop a war before it starts.”

It took less than three months for the Enough team to launch the Satellite Sentinel Project, with $750,000 in seed money from Not On Our Watch, the humanitarian foundation Clooney cofounded with Matt Damon and others. Hutson got Raymond to direct the operations of the project, and Raymond got Hartford to invest it. Five satellite imagery company DigitalGlobe agreed to donate images—which can cost thousands of dollars—and help train Isaac Baker and student interns to analyze the footage.

With four staff members and a half-dozen interns, the new team quickly learned to search for clues of impending attacks. Nine after launching the project, they detected SAF troops gathered within 40 miles of the Sudanese village of Kurmuk. After the Satellite Sentinel Project reported it over the Internet, more than 1,500 villagers fled across the border to Ethiopia. By the time the invasion took place, there were few left to kidnap and harm and went all Paul Revere up in that,” Raymond says.

The project’s ability to warn civilians of impending violence is “unique in my experience,” says Stephen Wood, an ex-CIA analyst who is vice president of DigitalGlobe's Analysis Solutions. Just as important, he says, is how they document past abuses. “We’ve watched villages being absolutely destroyed, and being able to help explain how dire that is is very significant.”

Last summer, for instance, the Satellite Sentinel Project alleged Sudan was killing
civilians and burying them in mass graves in the town of Kadugli. Yet in a Washington Post article, the United States’ special envoy to Sudan said US intelligence reports showed no evidence such graves actually existed.

The team kept looking. “We had multiple people speaking to us saying bodies were being buried in a [particular] water tower,” recalls Benjamin Davies. One day, Ben Wang, an 18-year-old intern from Tufts, was looking through images when he noticed the tower had moved. He pointed to a hole in the ground where it had been. “The grave is there,” he said.

Over at a satellite company, the team watched the tower move back to its original place, covering up the grave. In August, they released a report and, by year’s end, Time magazine reported that the International Criminal Court was investigating war crimes based largely on information gathered by the group.

As Satellite Sentinel Project reports were increasingly being cited by Congress members and UN officials, the team began to realize something new was happening. Rather than remaining passive observers, they were affecting the actions of the combatants. The Sudan Armed Forces started hiding their tanks and bunkers, flagging them not from the enemy on the ground but from a satellite 300 miles above it. Major offensives began starting on American holidays—Thanksgiving, Presidents’ Day weekend—as if the fighters hoped the people watching in Cambridge would be away from their computers. Then this past January, days after the project issued a report mentioning road construction, 29 Chinese workers helping build the road for the SAF—innocents in the conflict—were kidnapped by Sudanese rebels. They wouldn’t return for 11 days. “It was the sum of all fears,” Raymond says. “It’s what we work every day to avoid.”

Raymond and the others at Harvard may toil on laptops half a world away from any violence, but their work isn’t virtual. Every member of the team has had Sudan dreams, as they call their nightmares of shooting and being shot. “There is an immense intimacy to the violence; Raymond says. “We are not sitting through reports to create a story. These are actual events. These are actually affecting the ways in which perpetrators make decisions.”

It’s a level of responsibility for a team whose oldest member is 94. But while members hasten to add that Harvard professors and DigitalGlobe analysts are advising their moves, there is something about the digital generation of activists that uniquely suits them to the task. “We could not reproduce this with people who have been trained in other non-governmental organizations,” says Davies. The qualities said to characterize Generation Y—the ability to multitask on multiple technologies, a facility for social interaction, teamwork, and the individual sense of entitlement over deference to hierarchy—all help this group analyze data and make decisions quickly. “People overvalue expertise,” says Raymond, perhaps the first time those words have been spoken at Harvard. “Critical thinking and the ability to learn complex systems is more important than some one walking in with six PhDs.”

The amateur satellite sleuths were put to the test in March when Clooney was set to meet with President Obama and testify before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. On a recent trip to the Nuba Mountains, he’d witnessed a rocket attack and interviews with those who had lost loved ones through bombings—but his testimony would not be proof. And while the Satellite Sentinel Project had satellite images from the time showing smoke from alleged bombings, they couldn’t find the “shooter”—artillery or aircraft—that caused it. “We are presenting a report with the biggest movie star in the world meeting with the president of the United States,” recalls Raymond. “You want to find the shooter.”

Baker kept at it. After days of triangulating from nearby airstrips and squinting at satellite images, his team finally noticed a speck he hadn’t seen before—it was an Antonov AN–26, a Soviet-era cargo plane Sudan uses as a makeshift bomber. “This was incredible. ‘That’s our guy!’” says Davies.

Two days later, Clooney showed the satellite image to the Senate committee, with the Antonov outlined in blue. He credited the Harvard team with the evidence.

“Their level of expertise is incredible, but more than that is their level of commitment,” Clooney says now. “Sometimes they are up all night trying to figure this stuff out, for no other reason than they are trying to save lives. And they don’t get enough acknowledgment for that.”

It looks as if the project staff has been up all night. It’s March 29, two days after they’d decided to search for the flanking attack, and they’re again around their conference table. Eyes are bleary, and the group is quiet. They’ve got the satellite images they asked for, but not the proof of an imminent invasion, as they dream,” as they call their nightmares of violence, but their work isn’t virtual. Every one of them was looking at satellite images when he noticed the tower had moved. He pointed to a hole in the ground where it had been. “The grave is there,” he said. After more than an hour, Bakes finds some new checkpoints and signs of tank movements, but still no smoking gun. Raymond prepares to call it a night.

In the days to come, Baker will find two tanks that could signal an invasion. By late April, news reports would indicate the region edging ever closer to war. After South Sudan seized the oil-rich Sudanese town of Heglig, Sudan bombed a bridge in South Sudan, killing several civilians. Despite pleas from the United Nations and African Union, the violence in the border region may have been incorrect about the location of attacks, but they had accurately predicted SAF was mobilizing for a fight.

That realization is still weeks away, though, and tonight the mood is somber. “Should we move [the satellite’s focus] south or stay tight on the border?” Raymond muses aloud.

The question is a fraught one. After providing some $600 million in pro bono imagery and analysis, DigitalGlobe has been negotiating new pay rates going forward. While teaching at Whaley Middle School in California, Ms. Pleasants formed the Human Relations Club, a group focused on bringing multicultural events to the entire student body. She used her love of different cultures to inspire her students, expand their horizons, and help them to embrace other cultures. Mr. Speaker, Margaret Pleasants enjoyed many simple pastimes and was always eager to share in those experiences with others. She understood well the importance of living in the moment and bestowing those values upon future generations. While her passing comes as a great loss to many, we may continue to look to her life for inspiration.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, given the significance of this week to the U.S.-Azerbaijani bilateral relationship, it is important to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Occupation of Shusha in Azerbaijan. Shusha lies within the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and is another painful reminder of the ongoing conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the region.

Twenty years ago today, Armenian forces stormed the strategically important town of Shusha, which lies on a hill just over three miles away from the Nagorno-Karabakh capital of Stepanakert. The town was attacked at the break of dawn from three sides, trapping Armenian military units and civilians on their hilltop.

For hours the town was shelled, killing and wounding thousands of men, women, and children, and the attacking forces have occupied it ever since.
As a result of this tragic incident, the rich history and culture of Shusha remains inaccessible to the Azerbaijani people who are prohibited from visiting the ancient Azerbaijani museums, religious sites, musical schools, and historical sites of their past. Despite four United Nations resolutions insisting that the Nagorno-Karabakh region—and by extension, the town of Shusha—legally belongs to Azerbaijan, the region remains warded and steeped in conflict.

Today we remember those who died defending their homeland and support those who are still affected, unable to return to the homes from which they were separated.

My hope is that this anniversary will provide another opportunity to work together to ensure a peaceable, lasting resolution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict so that people from both nations will no longer suffer.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 9

10 a.m. Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To receive a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for Central Command and Africa Command Programs.

SVC-217

2 p.m. Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine limiting Federal support for financial institutions.

SD-538

2:30 p.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the need for privacy protections, focusing on perspectives from the Administration and the Federal Trade Commission.

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert E. Bacharach, of Oklahoma, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Paul Williamson to United States District Judge for the District of Mary, John E. Dowdell, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, Mark E. Walker, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida, and Brian J. Davis, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

SD-226

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine building and maintaining an effective human resource workforce in the Federal government.

SD-342

Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

SH-219

MAY 10

3:30 p.m. Appropriations
Financial Service and General Government Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine expanding broadband access, promoting innovation, and protecting consumers in a communications revolution, focusing on fiscal year 2013 resource needs for the Federal Communications Commission.

SD-138

MAY 16

9:30 a.m. Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 2374, to amend the Helium Act to ensure the expedient and responsible draw-down of the Federal Helium Reserve in a manner that protects the interests of private industry, the scientific, medical, and industrial communities, commercial users, and Federal agencies.

SD-366

10 a.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patricia K. Falcone, of California, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, Marietta S. Robinson, of Michigan, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and William P. Doyle, of Pennsylvania, and Richard A. Liliinsky, Jr., of Maryland, both to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner.

SR-253

Finance
To hold hearings to examine Medicare physician payments, focusing on understanding the past so we can envision the future.

SD-215

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), focusing on Chicago and beyond.

SD-419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine helping the middle class balance work and family.

SD-430

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 2276, to permit Federal officers to remove cases involving crimes of violence to Federal court, S. 2554, to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2017, and the nominations of David Medine, of Maryland, to be Chairman, James Xavier Dempsey, of California, Elbeth Collins Cook, of Illinois, Rachel L. Brand, of Iowa, and Patricia M. Wald, of the District of Columbia, all to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

SD-226

Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine current readiness of U.S. forces in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

10:30 a.m. Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To receive a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for Pacific Command Programs.

SVC-217

MAY 17

10 a.m. Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine seamless transition, focusing on a review of the Integrated Disability Evaluation System.

SH-216

9:30 a.m. Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 2146, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to create a market-oriented standard for clean electric energy generation.

SD-366

10 a.m. Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine creating positive learning environments for all students.

SD-450

2:15 p.m. Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine fulfilling the Federal trust responsibility, focusing on the foundation of
9:30 a.m.  Armed Services  
SeaPower Subcommittee  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.  
SD–628

11 a.m.  Armed Services  
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee  
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.  
SR–232A

2 p.m.  Armed Services  
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.  
SR–232A

3:30 p.m.  Armed Services  
Airland Subcommittee  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.  
SR–232A

5 p.m.  Armed Services  
Personnel Subcommittee  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.  
SR–232A

9:30 a.m.  Armed Services  
Strategic Forces Subcommittee  
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013.  
SR–232A

9:30 a.m.  Armed Services  
SR–222

2:15 p.m.  Indian Affairs  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine programs and services for native veterans.  
SD–628

9:30 a.m.  Armed Services  
SR–222

CANCELLATIONS

MAY 10

2:15 p.m.  Indian Affairs  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine new tax burdens on tribal self-determination.  
SD–628
**HIGHLIGHTS**
See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

**Senate**

**Chamber Action**

*Routine Proceedings, pages S2891–S2931*

**Measures Introduced:** Three hundred thirty-one bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2508–2838.

**Pages S2922–28**

**Measures Reported:**

- H.R. 2668, to designate the station of the United States Border Patrol located at 2136 South Naco Highway in Bisbee, Arizona, as the “Brian A. Terry Border Patrol Station”.
- S. Res. 435, calling for democratic change in Syria, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.
- S. 2516, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, to establish user-fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars.

**Pages S2892, S2931**

**Measures Considered:**

*Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act—Agreement:* Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2343, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans.

*Additional Cosponsors:* Ajit Varadaraj Pai, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2011. Pages S2892, S2931

*By 91 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. EX. 88), Jacqueline H. Nguyen, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.* Pages S2907–13, S2931

*Kristine Gerhard Baker, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.* Pages S2907–13, S2931

*By 91 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. EX. 88), Jacqueline H. Nguyen, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.* Pages S2907–13, S2931

*John Z. Lee, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.* Pages S2907–13, S2931

*By 91 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. EX. 88), Jacqueline H. Nguyen, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.* Pages S2907–13, S2931

**Messages from the House:**

**Measures Referred:**

**Measures Read the First Time:**

**Executive Communications:**

*Additional Cosponsors:*

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Additional Statements:**

**Notices of Hearings/Meetings:**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—88) Page S2912

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:46 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 8, 2012. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S2931.)

**Committee Meetings**

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 215 public bills, H.R. 5327–5541; and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 122; and H. Res. 644–646, were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H2316–21

Reports Filed: Reports were filed on May 2, 2012 as follows:

H.R. 5325, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 112–462) and

H.R. 5326, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 112–463).

A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 643, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Department of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 112–464).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Smith (NE) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Recess: The House recessed at 2:10 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha: H. Con. Res. 105, to authorize the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 376 yea with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 196; Pages H2292–95, H2301

Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby: H. Con. Res. 106, to authorize the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby; Pages H2295–96

John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2012: H.R. 4097, to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts; Pages H2296–97


Authorizing the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Tracy, California, to the City of Tracy: S. 1302, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in Tracy, California, to the City of Tracy. Pages H2299–H2300

Recess: The House recessed at 5:04 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Page H2300

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on page H2330.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2301, H2302, and H2302–03. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SEQUESTER REPLACEMENT ACT OF 2012; AND SEQUESTER REPLACEMENT RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2012

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee began a markup of H.R. 4966, the Sequester Replacement Act of 2012 and the Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act of 2012.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2013

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 5326, making appropriations for the Department of Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related
Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 7 to 3, an open rule providing one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule waives points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI. Under the Rules of the House the bill shall be read for amendment by paragraph. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the Congressional Record. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides that, until the adoption of a conference report on the budget resolution, the allocations of spending authority printed in Tables 11 and 12 of the Budget Committee report accompanying the House-passed budget resolution shall be considered to be the allocations under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. Finally, the rule waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against any resolution reported on May 10, 2012, providing for consideration or disposition of any measure reported by the Committee on the Budget relating to section 201 of House Concurrent Resolution 112. Testimony was heard from Representatives Wolf and Fattah.

**Joint Meetings**

No joint committee meetings were held.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

**Senate**


Subcommittee on Airland, to hold hearings to examine tactical aircraft programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program, 3 p.m., SR–232A.

**Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:** to hold hearings to examine expanding refinancing opportunities to improve the housing market, 10 a.m., SD–538.

**Committee on Finance:** to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mark J. Mazur, of New Jersey, and Matthew S. Rutherford, of Illinois, both to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Meredith M. Broadbent, of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission, 10 a.m., SD–215.

**Select Committee on Intelligence:** to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

**Joint Meetings**

**Conference:** meeting of conferees on H.R. 4348, to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs, and for other purposes, 5 p.m., SH–216.

**CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD**

**Week of May 8 through May 11, 2012**

**Senate Chamber**

On Tuesday, at approximately 10 a.m., Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2343, Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed at 12 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

**Senate Committees**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

**Committee on Appropriations:** May 9, Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for the Coast Guard, 10 a.m., SD–138.

May 9, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to receive a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for Central Command and Africa Command Programs, 10:30 a.m., SVC–217.

May 9, Subcommittee on Financial Service and General Government, to hold hearings to examine expanding broadband access, promoting innovation, and protecting consumers in a communications revolution, focusing on fiscal year 2013 resource needs for the Federal Communications Commission, 3:30 p.m., SD–138.

May 10, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to receive a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for Pacific Command Programs, 10:30 a.m., SVC–217.


**Committee on Armed Services:** May 8, to receive a closed briefing on the Defense Clandestine Service in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program, 3 p.m., SR–232A.

May 8, Subcommittee on Airland, to hold hearings to examine tactical aircraft programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program, 3 p.m., SR–232A.

May 10, Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine current readiness of U.S. forces in review of the Defense Authorization request.
for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program, 10 a.m., SR–232A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: May 8, to hold hearings to examine expanding refinancing opportunities to improve the housing market, 10 a.m., SD–538.

May 9, Subcommittee on Economic Policy, to hold hearings to examine the National Flood Insurance Program, focusing on the need for long-term reauthorization and reform, 10 a.m., SD–538.

May 9, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine limiting Federal support for financial institutions, 2 p.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: May 9, to hold hearings to examine the need for privacy protections, focusing on perspectives from the Administration and the Federal Trade Commission, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

May 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Patricia K. Falcone, of California, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President, Marietta S. Robinson, of Michigan, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and William P. Doyle, of Pennsylvania, and Richard A. Lidinsky, Jr., of Maryland, both to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: May 10, to hold hearings to examine S. 2374, to amend the Helium Act to ensure the expedient and responsible draw-down of the Federal Helium Reserve in a manner that protects the interests of private industry, the scientific, medical, and industrial communities, commercial users, and Federal agencies, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: May 8, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mark J. Mazur, of New Jersey, and Matthew S. Rutherford, of Illinois, both to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Meredith M. Broadbent, of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission, 10 a.m., SD–215.

May 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Medicare physician payments, focusing on understanding the past so we can envision the future, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: May 10, to hold hearings to examine the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), focusing on Chicago and beyond, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: May 10, to hold hearings to examine helping the middle class balance work and family, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: May 9, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Joseph G. Jordan, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, Executive Office of the President, 10 a.m., SD–342.

May 9, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine building and maintaining an effective human resource workforce in the Federal government, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: May 9, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, 10 a.m., SD–226.

May 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert E. Bacharach, of Oklahoma, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Paul William Grimm, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, John E. Dowdell, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, Mark E. Walker, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida, and Brian J. Davis, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

May 10, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 2276, to permit Federal officers to remove cases involving crimes of violence to Federal court, S. 2554, to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2017, and the nominations of David Medine, of Maryland, to be Chairman, James Xavier Dempsey, of California, Elisebeth Collins Cook, of Illinois, Rachel L. Brand, of Iowa, and Patricia M. Wald, of the District of Columbia, all to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: May 8, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

May 9, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture: May 8, Subcommittee on Nutrition and Horticulture, hearing entitled “Formulation of the 2012 Farm Bill: Specialty Crop and Nutrition Programs”, 11 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

May 10, Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, and Credit, hearing entitled “Formulation of the 2012 Farm Bill: Credit Programs”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations: May 8, Subcommittee on Defense, markup of Defense Appropriations Bill FY 2013, 10 a.m. This is a closed hearing.

May 8, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, markup of Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill FY 2013, 11:30 a.m., H–140 Capitol.


May 9, Subcommittee State and Foreign Operations, markup of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill FY 2013, 11 a.m., H–140, Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, May 9, Full Committee, markup of H.R. 4310, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.
Committee on Energy and Commerce: May 8, Subcommittee on Health, markup of legislation to reauthorize under fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, established under fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars, and reform FDA programs, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 9, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing on H.R. 4273, the “Resolving Environmental and Grid Reliability Conflicts Act of 2012”; and Discussion Draft of the “Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012”, 9 a.m., 2125 Rayburn.

May 9, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, hearing entitled “Budget and Spending Concerns at HHS”, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services: May 8, Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy and Technology, hearing entitled “Improving the Federal Reserve System: Examining Legislation to Reform the Fed and Other Alternatives”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

May 9, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled “Rising Regulatory Compliance Costs and Their Impact on the Health of Small Financial Institutions”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

May 9, Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Federal Housing Administration’s Reverse Mortgage Program for Seniors”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

May 10, Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled “The Costs and Consequences of Dodd-Frank Section 1502: Impacts on America and the Congo”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs: May 9, Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, hearing entitled “Assessing U.S. Foreign Policy Priorities and Needs Amidst Economic Challenges in the Middle East”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.


May 8, Subcommittee on Transportation Security, hearing entitled “Building Secure Partnerships in Travel, Commerce, and Trade with the Asia-Pacific Region”, 12:30 p.m., 311 Cannon.

May 9, Full Committee, markup of H.R. 3857, the “Public Transit Security and Local Law Enforcement Support Act”; H.R. 4005, the “Gauging American Port Security Act”; H.R. 3173, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to reform the process for the enrollment, activation, issuance, and renewal of a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) to require, in total, not more than one in-person visit to a designated enrollment center; and H. R. 2356, the “WMD Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2011”, 9:30 a.m., 311 Cannon.


May 9, Full Committee, hearing on the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

May 10, Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing on H.R. 4369, the “Furthering Asbestos Claim Transparency (FACT) Act of 2012”, 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources: May 8, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, hearing on H.R. 3210, the “Retailers and Entertainers Lacey Implementation and Enforcement Fairness Act”; and H.R. 4171, the “Freedom from Over-Criminalization and Unjust Seizures Act of 2012”, 1 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

May 9, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Evaluating President Obama’s Offshore Drilling Plan and Impacts on Our Future”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: May 9, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; and Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, joint hearing entitled “TSA Oversight Part IV: Is TSA Effectively Procuring, Deploying, and Storing Aviation Security Equipment and Technology?”, 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.


May 9, Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, hearing entitled “Ensuring the Best Stewardship of American Taxpayer Dollars at the National Science Foundation”; 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

May 9, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Running on Empty: The Effects of High Gasoline Prices on Small Businesses”, 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.


Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: May 8, Full Committee, hearing entitled “VA Mental Health Care Staffing: Ensuring Quality and Quantity”, 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means: May 8, Subcommittee on Oversight and Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing entitled “Identity Theft and Tax Fraud”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

May 9, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Medicare Durable Medical Equipment Competitive Bidding Program”, 9 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

May 9, Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing entitled “The State of Social Security’s Information Technology”, 2 p.m., B–318 Rayburn.
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: May 10, Full Committee, hearing on ongoing intelligence activities, 9 a.m., HVC–304. This is a closed hearing.

Joint Meetings

Conference: May 8, meeting of conferees on H.R. 4348, to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs, and for other purposes, 3 p.m., SH–216.
Résumé of Congressional Activity

SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through April 30, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Days in session</strong></td>
<td>52</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Time in session</strong></td>
<td>323 hrs., 48'</td>
<td>258 hrs., 46'</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Congressional Record:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pages of proceedings</td>
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<td>2289</td>
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<td>Extensions of Remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public bills enacted into law</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private bills enacted into law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bills in conference</td>
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<td>Measures passed, total</td>
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<td>226</td>
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<td>Senate bills</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>House bills</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>64</td>
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<td>Senate joint resolutions</td>
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<td>House joint resolutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>House concurrent resolutions</td>
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<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measures reported, total</td>
<td>*97</td>
<td>*98</td>
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<td>Senate bills</td>
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<td>House bills</td>
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<td>House joint resolutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate concurrent resolutions</td>
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<td>House concurrent resolutions</td>
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<td>Simple resolutions</td>
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<td>Special reports</td>
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<td>Conference reports</td>
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<td>Measures pending on calendar</td>
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<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measures introduced, total</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>1,729</td>
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<td>Bills</td>
<td>476</td>
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<td>Joint resolutions</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>Concurrent resolutions</td>
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<td>Simple resolutions</td>
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<td>Quorum calls</td>
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<td>Yea-and-nay votes</td>
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<td>82</td>
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<td>Recorded votes</td>
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<td>112</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bills vetoed</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>..</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vetoes overridden</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>..</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 62 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 101 reports have been filed in the House.

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through April 30, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Civilian nominations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Confirmed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unconfirmed</strong></td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Withdrawn</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Civilian nominations</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Confirmed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unconfirmed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Withdrawn</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Air Force nominations</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Confirmed</strong></td>
<td>1,901</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unconfirmed</strong></td>
<td>2,467</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Army nominations</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Confirmed</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Unconfirmed</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Navy nominations</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Confirmed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unconfirmed</strong></td>
<td>91</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Marine Corps nominations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Confirmed</strong></td>
<td>124</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unconfirmed</strong></td>
<td>1,181</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Summary

| Total nominations carried over from the First Session | 667 |
| Total nominations received this Session | 9,852 |
| Total confirmed | 6,096 |
| Total unconfirmed | 4,411 |
| Total withdrawn | 12 |
| Total returned to the White House | 0 |
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Tuesday, May 8
Senate Chamber
Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2343, Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed at 12 p.m.
(Senate will recess following the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2343, until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Tuesday, May 8
House Chamber
Program for Tuesday: Begin consideration of H.R. 5326—Making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE
Baldwin, Tammy, Wisc., E711
Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E707
Blackburn, Marsha, Tenn., E711
Boren, Dan, Okla., E707
Cardona, Dennis A., Calif., E703, E704
Carter, John R., Tex., E709
Castor, Kathy, Fla., E703
Coffman, Mike, Colo., E712
Cohen, Steve, Tenn., E707
Costa, Jim, Calif., E703, E714
Ellmers, Renee L., N.C., E714
Farr, Sam, Calif., E705
Fonzi, Virginia, N.C., E718
Frelinghuysen, Rodney P., N.J., E716
Guthrie, Brett, Ky., E715
Jackson, Jesse L. Jr., Ill., E713
Johnson, Eddie Bernice, Tex., E718
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McDermott, Jim, Wash., E704, E713
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Mulvaney, Mick, S.C., E708
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Peters, Gary C., Mich., E712
Richardson, Laura, Calif., E703, E706, E710, E712, E714
Rogers, Mike, Ala., E716
Ross-Lehitten, Ileana, Fla., E709
Ross, Mike, Ark., E704
Sanchez, Loretta, Calif., E705
Stark, Fortney Pete, Calif., E713
Thornberry, Mac, Tex., E706
Woolsey, Lynn C., Calif., E712
Young, Don, Alaska, E710

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May 7, 2012

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