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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 8, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, shortly before the July Fourth break, we had three marines from Camp Lejeune, which is in my district, who were killed during combat operations in Afghanistan: Staff Sergeant David H. Stewart, Lance Corporal Brandon J. Garabrant, and Lance Corporal Adam F. Wolff. May I, at this time, extend my deepest sympathy to the families of these three brave marines.

Mr. Speaker, recently much attention has been given to the chaos building in Iraq. However, we must not forget that there is still chaos in Afghanistan.

In June of this year, I visited Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. I met three soldiers from Fort Bragg who had lost one leg each in Afghanistan. I met two marines from my district at Camp Lejeune.

One marine, 23 years old, had lost two legs and an arm. His father, from Louisiana, was standing beside his exercise mat, which is about 3 or 4 feet off the ground. To look in the eyes of the father, to see the pain, the sadness, and the worry about the future of his 23-year-old son, I cannot describe today on the floor of the House. I don't know the words to describe the pain I saw in the eyes.

Then I went to see the second marine from Camp Lejeune, who in February of this year stepped on a 40-pound IED and lost both legs. I could only look at him and hope for the best as he told me about his wife and his 8-month-old baby girl.

Mr. Speaker, beside me today, I have the photograph on this poster of two young ladies whose father was Sergeant Kevin Balduf, stationed at Camp Lejeune. The little girls' names are Eden and Stephanie. They are standing at the grave site of their father.

Sergeant Balduf and Colonel Palmer—Sergeant Balduf, again, was stationed at Camp Lejeune and Colonel Palmer at Air Station Cherry Point, which is also in my district in eastern North Carolina—were sent to Afghanistan to train Afghans to be police officers. The night before Sergeant Balduf and Colonel Palmer were killed, Sergeant Balduf emailed his wife, Amy, and said, ''I don't trust them. I don't trust them. I don't trust any of them.'' The next day, he and Colonel Palmer were shot and killed by the Afghans they were trying to train.

Mr. Speaker, Afghanistan is not worth the treasure or the blood that has been spent there over the last 12 years. We have no more business thinking we can change the Middle East, because history has proven Afghanistan and Iraq will never change, no matter what. Iraq was an unnecessary war. It was manufactured intelligence by the previous administration. It was an unnecessary, unjust war where 4,000 Americans were killed, 30,000 were wounded, and 100,000 Iraqis were killed themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I will close today by quoting a man for whom I have great respect, because he and I agree on our foreign policies. His name is Pat Buchanan:

> Is it not a symptom of senility to be borrowing from the world so we can defend the world?

We in Congress continue to spend money over in Afghanistan—and now Iraq—from money that we borrow from other countries. It makes no sense.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I say to Stephanie and Eden: Your father was a hero. He will never be forgotten.

I will say to all the families and the children of those who lost loved ones: Your loved ones will never be forgotten. They have done so much for this country.

May God continue to bless America and may God continue to bless those in uniform, and may God continue to bless America.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to a Federal judge in Texas, our government is ''completing the criminal mission'' of human traffickers ''who are violating the border security of the United States'' and assisting a ''criminal conspiracy in achieving its illegal goals.''

Printed on recycled paper.

Here is how ICE is complicit in aiding and abetting human smuggling:

A smuggler is paid to bring children into the United States. The smuggler then is apprehended by ICE and prosecuted, but the criminal act is completed when ICE personally delivers the migrant child to the parent who has instigated the crime. If the parent is also illegally in the United States, ICE neither deports the parent nor the child.

The Federal judge chastised the Department of Homeland Security for not enforcing the law and compares this nonenforcement on the border to ''taking illegal drugs or weapons it has seized from smugglers and delivering them to the criminals who solicited their illegal importation'' into the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this administration, with its policy of open borders and blatant refusal to enforce the law, is complicit in the crisis at the southern border.

The timing is not a coincidence. The surge of foreign nationals illegally entering the United States all began when the President planted the seed for executive amnesty in a 2012 Rose Garden speech. In this speech, he announced his policy of unilateral administrative amnesty for minors. This was an avoidable crisis created to set the stage politically for universal amnesty.

The President's policy of nonenforcement has effectively encouraged tens of thousands of people to pay smugglers to bring children from Central America to the United States. Now migrant children just surrender themselves at the border and expect the United States to let them stay, take care of them, or reunite them with their parents who may also illegally be in the U.S.

Why? Because the word is out in Central America that America does not enforce its laws. The number of unaccompanied minors who are smuggled into the U.S. illegally has grown tremendously under this administration, as this chart shows, now up to 142,000 a year.

This is not only a humanitarian crisis, but this crisis is affecting our national security, our economy, our health, and our sovereignty. Our porous border allows anyone to enter the United States illegally. The influx of thousands of migrants comes with a cost to the tune of billions of dollars, all left to Americans to pay for.

The system is overwhelmed. We can't even take care of our veterans. Now there have been disturbing reports of diseases originating in Central America that have traveled with the migrants coming to our country threatening the health of people who are legally here and American citizens.

This is not isolated on the border towns. Unaccompanied minor children are being sent all over the country. In fact, I just found out last night that Health and Human Services is looking for a school to house unaccompanied minors in Houston, Texas—my hometown.

While the administration acts surprised about the crisis, the paper trail shows they knew that it was coming in January. The Department of Homeland Security in January posted online advertising for transportation contractors needed to help deal with this surge of unaccompanied minors coming into the United States.

The administration knew about this, but rather than enforce the rule of law and increase border security, the administration planned to accept the migrants and find places to house them. This current chaos is also an insult to people who come to America the legal way, but the White House has put politics over the law and what is best for the American people.

So what now? Well, deploy the National Guard to the southern border to deter future migrants from making the journey to America. It is the first duty of the Federal Government to defend the sovereignty of our Nation. Appropriate money that is still going for nation-building in Iraq to fund the National Guard on our southern border. Surely, protecting our border is just as important as securing the border of Iraq. If the President won't protect the border, let the State Governors do it with the National Guard.

Second, those who have already come here should be safely reunited with their families in their native countries. The law should be changed to expedite their removal. Warehousing these children is not a compassionate response to this crisis. It will not solve the crisis; it will only grow.

The President of the United States should be the first to say to the world: The rule of law will be enforced in the United States. Do not try to beat the system. Come to the United States the legal way or not at all.

But the administration is missing in action in this crisis. It is true the President is going to Texas this week, but he is going down there to raise money for a campaign. He is not going near the border. Maybe it is just too dangerous to go to the Texas-Mexico border.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE REAGAN HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND FROM PFAFFTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Band of Raiders that successfully marched on Washington last week.

The Reagan High School Marching Band came to D.C. from Pfafftown, North Carolina, one of only 14 bands chosen to participate in the National Independence Day Parade.

Director Andrew Craft gives life to the band's philosophy that ''we must create strong musicians before we can expect a strong music ensemble.'' The band's music statement emphasizes performance excellence, and excellence's ever present companion: work ethic.

In fewer than 10 years, Reagan High School is already recognized as having one of the top school bands in North Carolina and the Nation.

The Raiders performed ''America the Beautiful'' for the parade. They are also proud of the Reagan High School fight song, appropriately titled, ''The Great Communicator March.''

It is an honor to recognize this fine organization today, and I wish them continued success in the future. With their rigorous focus and commitment to excellence, I believe we can count on a bright future for the Band of Raiders.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, our crisis at the southern border is a direct result of the President's executive actions that have sent a message to children and families across Central America that if they cross our porous border they will be allowed to stay. In fact, the administration estimates approximately 65,000 unaccompanied alien children will cross our border this year alone.

This is a humanitarian crisis of this administration's own creation and a stark reminder of the President's failings when it comes to securing our border. An unsecure border presents many dangers to our national security, and the recent and dramatic rise in unaccompanied alien children along our southern border indicates an alarming ease at which our border is being crossed illegally.

Potentially worse than that, despite the administration's apparent surprise by this recent surge in border crossings by these children, on January 19 of this year, the Department of Homeland Security posted a request for information on the Federal Business Opportunities Web site seeking contractors to provide ''escort services'' for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The posting specifically calls for a contractor who can transport unaccompanied alien children that have been apprehended by law enforcement in the U.S. to the care of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The solicitation from January states that ''there will be approximately 65,000 unaccompanied alien children in total.''

□ 1215

The online posting suggests that DHS was expecting a significant increase in the number of unaccompanied alien children that it would need to transport this year.

Furthermore, the 65,000 number closely corresponds with the administration's new estimate that 60,000 unaccompanied children will come into the country illegally this year.

This leads to the obvious question of how it was that ICE or DHS was able to project such a rise in border crossing by children this year.

Because of this, I have sent a letter to DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson and Acting Director of ICE, Thomas Winkowski, demanding information as to how their agencies may have anticipated the recent and dramatic rise in the number of unaccompanied alien children that are crossing the southern border into the United States illegally.

Mr. Speaker, this unprecedented humanitarian crisis at our border must be resolved, and I fear that promises of even more unilateral executive actions from this President will only make the problem he has created even worse.

We must get to the bottom of how this crisis happened, how it can be prevented from happening again, and how we can finally secure our Nation's problem of securing our porous borders.

IN HONOR OF MY SISTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our great country.

As the fireworks went off and we celebrated Independence Day, July Fourth was a reminder of the men and women across this country and throughout history that have dedicated their lives to freedom, faith, and their families.

We had a wonderful time with a majority of my family, but I was reminded the day following the Fourth of July that this is not just about a place where we talk about policy. It is really about people.

I got a call that my sister, who is fighting a different kind of fight—a fight against cancer—was moved to a hospice wing. Truly, as I went to visit her, she reminded me, Mr. Speaker, that it is not about policy, but it is about people.

Today, as she fights for her final breath, I want to take a personal opportunity to tell the few that are gathered here—and perhaps this is only for an audience of one—that an older brother is proud of his sister. He is very thankful for the opportunity that he has had these last 52 years to know her.

Lord, as we look at the fight against cancer, it affects every single family—perhaps every single Member that is here—and there is nothing much that we can be thankful for, other than the time that it permits us to say the things that we should have said long ago.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body to thank many of the Members who have been praying for my sister, but mainly to say that I am proud to be her brother and to serve this country, where we can gratefully express our appreciation in a free and unselfish way.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the House reconvenes, we ask Your blessing upon deliberations informed by the experiences and interactions of the Members with their constituents.

We thank You for the time to be together with family and friends as our Nation celebrated 235 years of being a marvelous experiment in the self-governance of a people brought together by ideals and trusting in the ability of a free people to govern themselves in justice and peace.

Mindful of this great heritage, and the hard work and sacrifices of so many American ancestors to us all, may the Members of this people's House deliberate in good faith, mindful not only of short-term interest, but of their place in history, and of the tremendous responsibility to govern wisely for a bright future for our Nation.

May all that is done this day, in the wake of our national celebration, 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 gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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.

CONGRATULATING RANDY ERICKSON

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize and thank Mr. Randy Erickson, a constituent from Kodiak, Alaska.

Recently, on behalf of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Foundation, he traveled from Kodiak, Alaska, to South Sudan. While there, Mr. Erickson repaired and serviced power generators for the two utilities that provide these towns with electricity. This work is part of the Electrification Sustainability Program in South Sudan, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

One project has evolved into a self-sustaining municipal electric cooperative serving approximately 1,300 consumer members. The other project also serves approximately 550 customers, including household, commercial enterprises, public institutions, and non-governmental organizations.

After the 2005 peace agreement in South Sudan, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation sent a team of experienced engineering and management staff to establish the first electric cooperative, and later to build two more rural utilities in other areas.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International team provided training at these utilities to strengthen the competency of their directors, management, and employees.

Civil unrest broke out again last December, and many people were evacuated. Recently, USAID and the State Department began approving travel for its employees and partners to South Sudan, and Mr. Erickson volunteered his time and skills for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Foundation to help ensure that, despite the unpredictable situation, the people in these areas could still have electricity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Erickson for his hard work.

SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, once again, as so many times before, the people of Israel are under missile attack from the terrorist group Hamas in Gaza, with 300 rocket attacks since June—150 just over the past few days—forcing children into shelters, with the promise of more violence rained on Israel. This is the same Hamas that has formed a unity government with the Palestinian Authority.

Mr. Speaker, some things are clear. When rockets are fired on Israel, Israel will defend its people. When Hamas chooses violence, Israel will protect its people. When Hamas commits itself to the eradication and extermination of Israel, Israel will do what it must to ensure its survival.

Today, I will be introducing bipartisan legislation reaffirming this country's support for the people of Israel as it defends itself.

IMMIGRATION CRISIS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Spartanburg Herald-Journal published an editorial from the Colorado Springs Gazette titled: ''Immigration Crisis: Securing Border is Key to Stemming Flow of Children.''

Extraordinary points are made in the editorial:

Failure to secure the southern border, combined with careless messaging by President Barack Obama, has made the United States an attractive nuisance. The fiasco at the southern border is far more than a political dilemma.

Obama needs to get this under control, letting Latin Americans know in no uncertain terms that the United States cannot and will not host unattended children who illegally cross the border. We cannot continue putting these youths in danger, and we can't afford to resolve their collective plight.

The lives of helpless children rest in the balance.

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

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, numbers don't lie, but viewed in isolation, they can obscure the truth.

Last week offered some encouraging news: 288,000 new jobs and an unemployment rate, by one measure, of 6.1 percent, which is the lowest rate achieved during Mr. Obama's administration.

There is tremendous human cost associated with half a decade of unemployment above—often, well above—6 percent, but this is an improvement. Our celebration, though, should be tempered by the truths obscured by this statistic.

The truth is: more than 92 million adults above age 16 are not in the labor force.

The truth is: if the labor force were at pre-recession levels, the unemployment rate would be 11.1 percent.

The truth is: the labor force participation rate has not been this low since 1978.

Mr. Speaker, some predicted President Obama would be the second coming of Jimmy Carter. Nearly 6 years in, that is looking like a best-case scenario.

SECURE THE BORDER AND FAITHFULLY EXECUTE THE LAW

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

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, the President refuses to secure the border, ignoring our laws. He has promoted citizenship for anyone who makes it into our country illegally. In so doing, he has caused mass illegal migration into our country. This has resulted in human trafficking, abuse, and even death.

The President has turned U.S. military bases into refugee camps, denying Members of Congress access to these camps. He has allowed media tours, but the media can't ask questions, can't talk to medical staff or employees, can't talk to the children, can't bring recording devices, and can't take pictures. It is very reminiscent of the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, the President's lawlessness on the border has undermined our national sovereignty and national security. Now the President wants our constituents to pay $3.7 billion to solve a problem he created. Without a secure border, this is just the beginning.

Members of both parties must demand that the President finally secure the border and faithfully execute the law.

DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, everywhere I go in my district, from the grocery store to town hall meetings, I hear the same thing over and over again. This President will not stay within the bounds of the Constitution of the United States or the laws passed by this body and the Senate, and it is time that we stand up to that.

That is why I join in support with the proposal by the esteemed Speaker of this House, the gentleman from Ohio, that this House bring a lawsuit to bring the President back within bounds. I do so reluctantly. I wish we didn't have to do that.

The President's response to this was to say: So sue me.

So, Mr. President, we will sue you—not because we want to but because we have to defend the Constitution you won't abide by and we have to protect the rights of the people of this country that you continue to transgress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1531

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE) at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

VETERINARY MEDICINE MOBILITY ACT OF 2014

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1528) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow a veterinarian to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice outside of the registered location, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1528

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 ''Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. TRANSPORT AND DISPENSING OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IN THE USUAL COURSE OF VETERINARY PRACTICE.

Section 302(e) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 822(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(e)'' and inserting ''(e)(1)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a registrant who is a veterinarian shall not be required to have a separate registration in order to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice at a site other than the registrant's registered principal place of business or professional practice, so long as the site of transporting and dispensing is located in a State where the veterinarian is licensed to practice veterinary medicine and is not a principal place of business or professional practice.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include an exchange of letters between the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON, On April 3, 2014, the Committee on Energy and Commerce ordered reported H.R. 1528, the ''Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2013.'' As you know, the Committee on the Judiciary was given an additional referral on this measure upon introduction. As a result of your having consulted with the Judiciary Committee concerning provisions of the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I too agree to discharge the Committee on the Judiciary from further consideration of H.R. 1528.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 1528 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1528, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1528, the ''Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2013.'' As you noted, the Committee on the Judiciary was given an additional referral on this measure upon introduction.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo action on H.R. 1528, and I agree that your decision is not a waiver of any of the Committee on the Judiciary's jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward. In addition, I understand the Committee reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and you will have my support for any such request.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 1528 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2014, introduced by Representative KURT SCHRADER of Oregon.

This is a commonsense bill that is supported by the veterinary community and will bring clarity to the sometimes conflicting guidance from the Drug Enforcement Administration, the DEA, relative to the Controlled Substances Act and the ability of a licensed veterinarian to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice outside of the registered location. Simply put, the bill allows veterinarians to legally carry and dispense controlled substances in the field.

This bill has a direct impact on my district—home of the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, New Bolton Center. Vets are often required to provide ambulatory services in the field, especially in rural areas and for the care of large animals such as cows or horses. Sometimes it is not feasible for owners to bring the animals to a hospital or a clinic like New Bolton Center, and so vets provide essential house call visits.

Clarification of the law is necessary to allow vets to transport, administer, and dispense controlled substances outside of their registered location whether to provide pain management, anesthesia, or euthanasia. Passage of this important legislation will allow veterinarians the complete ability to provide care to their animal patients beyond their clinics. This will protect the health and welfare of the Nation's animals, ensure public safety, and safeguard the Nation's food supply.

A companion bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on January 8, 2014. H.R. 1528 includes 185 cosponsors and is supported by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the ASPCA, the American Animal Hospital Association, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and a veterinary coalition coordinated by the AVMA of over 110 organizations.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act.

This bipartisan legislation will permit veterinarians to treat animals in the most appropriate setting. This is particularly important for veterinarians when responding to emergencies, treating livestock and wildlife, or working in rural areas.

H.R. 1528 amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow veterinarians to legally carry and administer controlled substances in States in which they are licensed so they can provide care at the location of the animal patient.

The Senate unanimously passed a companion bill, and I am pleased the House is voting on this important legislation. Veterinarians must be able to legally provide complete veterinary care in a way that best protects animal welfare and public safety.

I would like to thank the sponsors, both Representative KURT SCHRADER and TED YOHO. I would also like to acknowledge the leadership of Chairman UPTON, Chairman PITTS, Ranking Member WAXMAN, Ranking Member PALLONE, and the work of the committee's staff in advancing this bill through the Energy and Commerce Committee and bringing it to the floor today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1528, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), who is a veterinarian himself.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act.

I want to thank my colleagues—Chairman UPTON, Chairman GOODLATTE, and Mr. PITTS—for helping to bring this important measure to the floor, and a special thank you to my friend and fellow vet, KURT SCHRADER. I also want to thank the Senate for unanimously passing this important piece of legislation out of that Chamber.

I spent over 30 years in the veterinary profession, and the passage of this bill will allow for the continued use of drugs necessary to perform the work we do for our four-legged patients. The animals I have helped on ranches and in the field have no voice of their own, and they require a certain degree of service that only veterinarians can provide.

Vets must have the ability to treat animals on-site and in the field. Limit that ability and you hurt a profession, you cripple ranchers across the country, and, most of all, you unfairly restrict lifesaving treatments for the animals, the patients, who need them the most. Imagine what it would be if the cattle ranchers were required to bring their cattle in or the horse owners to bring their horse to the vet every time they needed services. It directly affects their patient and their livelihood.

My friends, take it from me, I have practiced veterinary medicine in the field. If anything, we need more vets in the field, not less. This bill simply allows those in our profession to continue to do the lifesaving work that we were trained to do on the animals that so badly require it.

Join me in voting for this commonsense measure.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my colleague from Oregon, Congressman SCHRADER.

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, this really was a truly bipartisan, bicameral effort, including, as you have already heard, an impressive coalition ranging from the American Farm Bureau and the ASPCA down to all 50 State veterinary medical associations.

It is nice, I think the public should be reminded, that while we have great differences in this body on many issues, there are also a lot of issues we agree on. I think this first 6 months

has been a very productive session for this Congress, and this particular bill I think is noteworthy.

It is a little bit of a shame we are actually here in the early stages of the Drug Enforcement Agency's efforts to control the distribution and abuse of controlled substances. They issued a very blanket type of rule that, unfortunately, scooped up veterinary medicine and animals. We have been able to avoid this issue for many, many years. It is one of those where for the last 100–150 years veterinarians have gone out to the farms and ranches—nowadays, even within the cities, going home to home with mobile veterinary clinics—making sure those patients got the care with the appropriate medication that they deserve to be treated humanely.

DEA, in its exuberance, unfortunately, was unwilling to grant a waiver, a commonsense waiver, administratively, and forced Congressman YOHO and myself to go to a statutory change—lots of taxpayer money, lots of time by the committees. But it, unfortunately, is necessary. The good news I think for America is that common sense does prevail a lot of times in this great Congress. As alluded to, they have over 185 cosponsors of this legislation, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act, allowing veterinarians simply to do what they have done before, which is carry controlled substances safely to treat, dispense, and protect their patients in the field.

I think America would wonder why we are here. I think America is glad we are here, making sure that their pets, their livestock, get the care and treatment they need so they can have safe food and fiber and take care of the pets that they love and live with on a daily basis.

I am not going to go into the bill itself. I think Mr. PITTS did an excellent job of outlining things, as did Mr. GREEN.

I want to make sure I recognize a few folks that have been critical in the role here getting this to the floor. First and foremost, my good friend and colleague, TED YOHO from Florida, and his right-hand man, Larry Calhoun, did a yeoman's job making sure this was a good bipartisan effort; Chairman GOODLATTE and his staff for their unwavering support throughout the process; Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member PETERSON were invaluable—as a matter of fact, I think we had all but four members of the Agriculture Committee sign on, Republican, Democrat, city, rural; this is a great bill—Senators MORAN and KING for their efforts on the Senate side; Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member WAXMAN on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

And finally, I extend my personal gratitude and a very special thank you to Dr. Ashley Morgan at the American Veterinary Medical Association for her tireless efforts through several years' worth of time to make sure that this bill actually got to the floor and got the vote that our animal friends actually deserve and, frankly, on behalf of all veterinarians in this great country.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have no other speakers, and we are prepared to close.

I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to ask all of the Members to support this commonsense bill that is on behalf of the life and safety of our animal patients and the safety of our food supply.

I urge bipartisan support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1528, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4653) to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4653

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 ''United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 201 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', which shall be an independent Federal Government advisory body''.

(b) SELECTION.—Subparagraph (A) of section 201(b)(2) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(b)(2) is amended by inserting at the end the following new sentence: ''The Commission as a whole shall also have expertise on the variety of faiths practiced around the world.''.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—Subsection (b)(3) of section 201 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by striking ''The appointments required by paragraph (1) shall be made not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.'' and inserting the following: ''An appointment required by subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) should be made within 90 days of a vacancy on the Commission.''.

(d) VACANCIES.—Subsection (g) of section 201 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by striking the second sentence.

SEC. 3. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.

Subsection (a) of section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),

(A) by striking ''and the director'' and inserting ''the director''; and

(B) inserting ''and members of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom,'' after ''Training Center,''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''and the various'' and inserting ''the various''; and

(B) by inserting '', the relationship between religious freedom and security, and the role of religious freedom in United States foreign policy'' after ''violations of religious freedom''.

SEC. 4. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended in the second sentence, by inserting ''voting'' after ''nine''.

(b) COMPENSATION.—Subsection (b) of section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by inserting ''voting members of the'' after ''The''.

(c) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—Subsection (e) of section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''The Department of State is encouraged to allow Commissioners and Commission staff with the appropriate security clearance access to classified information, in order to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of their positions.''.

(d) APPLICATION OF ANTIDISCRIMINATION LAWS.—Subsection (g) of section 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by inserting '', including discrimination on the basis of religion'' after ''employment discrimination''.

SEC. 5. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND DISCLOSURE.

Paragraph (2) of section 208(d)(2) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435a(d)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(H) Intern, fellowship, and volunteer programs that are primarily of educational benefit to the intern, fellow, or volunteer. Sponsoring private parties may provide compensation and benefits to interns, fellows, and volunteers, provided that no conflict of interest arises. The number, duration, and funding source of any such internship, fellowship, or volunteer programs shall be described in the annual financial report required by subsection (e).''.

SEC. 6. EXTENSION AND TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) of section 207 (22 U.S.C. 6435), by striking ''2014'' and inserting ''2019''; and

(2) in section 209 (22 U.S.C. 6436), by striking ''September 30, 2014'' and inserting ''September 30, 2019''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4653 demonstrates—again, introduced by our distinguished friend and

colleague FRANK WOLF—the strong bipartisan support that exists for religious freedom, with nearly an equal number of Republican and Democrat cosponsors of the legislation.

□ 1545

I believe this makes a powerful statement in a world where we see the rights of religious minorities and conscientious objectors being trampled upon in countries where intolerant ideologies, be they of a sectarian or secular nature, seek to crush moral and spiritual thought and conscience.

The headlines, indeed, are filled with examples in country after country in the world. A 27-year-old mother in Sudan was imprisoned and faced a death sentence in Sudan because, under shari'a law, she was considered an apostate as the child of a Muslim father, even though the only religion she herself had ever practiced was Christianity. To this day, Meriam Ibrahim remains unable to leave Sudan.

Anti-Semitism, pervasive and lethal in the Middle East, has spread like a cancer in many parts of Europe, and has resurfaced in Ukraine with a series of shocking and violent attacks following the ouster of former Prime Minister Yanukovych.

In communist dictatorships such as China, religious believers are imprisoned, tortured, and even executed for attempting to practice their faith. In China today, there is a pernicious, escalating war on believers, made worse by the wanton brutality of the regime's ubiquitous secret police. In North Korea, the situation couldn't be more dire, with Christians in particular subject to what human rights observers have termed genocide, dying by the tens of thousands from starvation and torture in concentration camps for daring to hold true to their consciences—that innermost sanctuary of the individual.

Tragically, many countries of the world are a long way from achieving the human right of religious freedom recognized by article 18 of both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Mr. Speaker, in 1998, with great legislative skill, commitment, and driving passion, Chairman FRANK WOLF pushed a somewhat supportive Congress but highly reluctant White House into enacting a singularly important human rights law: the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

For the first time ever, FRANK WOLF's law made the protection and promotion of religious freedom a serious priority in U.S. foreign policy by creating an Ambassador at Large for Religious Freedom; by establishing the Office of International Religious Freedom at the Department of State, which, among other duties, compiles the International Religious Freedom Reports on every country in the world; and by crafting the independent-minded U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the subject of today's reauthorization.

Importantly, FRANK WOLF's landmark law also created a system for naming and taking action against Countries of Particular Concern, or CPCs. History has shown that when the U.S. elevates religious freedom—and that priority is conveyed to Countries of Particular Concern—conditions often change for the better, prisoners of conscience gain their freedom, and progress is made in the free, or at least a freer, exercise of religious liberty.

According to the Commission, three themes guide the nine Commissioners' discussions on priority countries with serious violations of religious freedom: state-sponsored hostility to and repression of religion; state-sponsored extremist ideology and education; and state failure to prevent and punish religious freedom violations—or, a sense of impunity. Several of the CPC countries that systematically violate religious freedom fall into all three of those categories.

Mr. Speaker, when an administration, be it Republican or Democrat, demotes or trivializes religious freedom to a minor talking point, human rights-abusing nations construe such indifference as license to harass, abuse and exploit persons of faith.

Since its founding, the International Religious Freedom Commission has issued 15 annual reports and 14 special reports covering 76 countries. Of these, the Commission has identified 16 of these as countries that ought to be designated as Countries of Particular Concern.

I would also point out the Commission has acted as a true watchdog, recommending with incisive commentary—and I read their reports, as I know FRANK WOLF and many other Members in this Chamber read them—twice as many countries as CPCs than the State Department has designated as Countries of Particular Concern.

Our hope is that the State Department will say other diplomatic concerns need to be subordinated and just call it the way it is. If a designation is warranted, then name them a Country of Particular Concern and begin a robust intervention to try to get that nation to mitigate and, hopefully, end such egregious practices.

This includes the Commission's list of eight nations that are not on the list currently. One is Vietnam, which is an egregious violator of the rights of religious minorities. The Commission always calls it like it is and pulls no punches.

I would hope—and I would add this parenthetically—that when Members travel, they ought to look up on the Commission Web site and read what the country they are going to visit has said and done about religious freedom violations. Read the country specific report on it, and bring it up with your interlocutors in the country you are going to.

It is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that while the CPC designations remain, the penalties associated with the designations have now essentially lapsed. The last designations by the Obama administration were in 2011, and as 2 years have passed, the sanctions directly linked to the International Religious Freedom Act's sanctions authority have expired. This failure to implement our law on religious freedom sends a deeply troubling message to violators of this fundamental human right. It is thus more important than ever that we in Congress speak with a clear and loud voice today.

Two-and-a-half years ago, after passing with strong bipartisan support in the House, reauthorization of the Commission got bogged down in the Senate. Eventually, through the tenacity of Chairman WOLF, holds were lifted and the bill passed and was signed into law. We hope that the Senate will move swiftly to passage.

Mr. Speaker, let me also point out that in the House there has been tremendous cooperation on both sides of the aisle. This is, as I said at the outset, a truly bipartisan piece of legislation. We have had excellent input from the Commission itself throughout this process, including testimony from then-Chairman Dr. Robert George of Princeton University, who attended my hearing on May 22 and laid out in long, and very, I think, precise detail what needs to be done to combat the religious intolerance that exists today.

I would point out parenthetically that on July 1, Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett was elected as the new Chairman. Dr. George is now the Vice Chairman.

I would also point out that at my hearing members from the religious minority communities—Muslim, Baha'i, Christian, and Jewish—spoke out about the importance of the work of the Commission in countries like Iran, Pakistan, and China, helping to shine a bright light on the serious abuses that take place in all three countries. Of course, they raised other concerns as well.

Therefore, I ask all of our colleagues to join us in supporting this fine bipartisan piece of legislation, sending a very important message to the world that the United States of America deeply values religious liberty, and that it should continue to be a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4653, legislation that reauthorizes the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

I would like to begin by commending Representative FRANK WOLF, the author of this important legislation, along with Representative CHRIS SMITH, for their leadership on international religious freedom issues and for their hard work on this bill.

Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights States that:

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to . . . manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance.

Yet, every day religious communities around the world are subject to escalating violence, persecution, and discrimination.

In Sudan, a woman just faced a trial for apostasy, and was initially sentenced to death. China has banned fasting during Ramadan in Muslim-majority areas. In Nigeria, Christians and Muslim communities live in fear of the fanatical terrorist group Boko Haram. In Iran, the regime continues to persecute members of the Baha'i faith.

These and the many other examples of religious intolerance around the world are unacceptable. In keeping with our values, the United States has a responsibility to speak out against violations of religious freedom wherever they might occur.

USCIRF's work to defend religious freedom ranges from conducting research and publishing reports and analysis for public consumption, to offering advice and guidance to lawmakers on religious freedom violations around the world.

I believe religious freedom is a cornerstone of a strong democracy. And democracies, especially the United States, have a responsibility to support religious freedom around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4653, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the author of this legislation and the man that pushed this bill to enactment, the prime author of the International Religious Freedom Act, the chairman of the Commerce, Justice Appropriations Subcommittee, and also the cochair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Speaker BOEHNER, Majority Leader CANTOR, and their staff for prioritizing House consideration of this important reauthorization, as well as House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ED ROYCE and Congressman CHRIS SMITH for shepherding this legislation through the committee process.

I will say publicly what I said many times privately: no person that I have served with in 34 years has done more for human rights and religious freedom than Congressman CHRIS SMITH. He is my hero. When I see the giants that I have served with in my 34 years, and when you go abroad, whether it be in Boko Haram territory in Nigeria or in China, no one has a greater reputation for speaking out for the voiceless than Congressman SMITH. So I appreciate CHRIS' efforts at moving this thing quickly.

I also want to thank Elyse Anderson from my staff, who has done incredible work on this.

From the start, this bill has enjoyed, as Mr. SMITH said, strong bipartisan support, including the cosponsorship of Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL. I want to thank Mr. ENGEL also for his strong support on these issues over the years.

The broad support for this bill is fitting for an issue so central to America's own grand experiment in self-governance—the protection of religious freedom—which is often referred to as America's ''first freedom.''

Sadly, one need only pick up the newspaper today to see how religious freedom is under assault globally.

The terrorist Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, is gaining territory in Iraq and before our eyes is threatening the very existence of ancient faith communities in the region, including the centuries-old Christian community.

Tens of thousands of Iraqi Christians have fled Mosul and the surrounding region in what the Christian Science Monitor recently characterized as a ''cataclysmic restructuring of an area that was home to some of the earliest Christians.''

In addition to the crisis in Iraq, religious minorities are marginalized and imperiled in Egypt and Syria. The government of Vietnam severely restricts religious activities of all faiths, as does the government of China; and religious minorities such as the Ahmadiyya Muslims face governmental and social harassment in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia. Countries that we give aid and support to, though the Ahmadiyyas in Pakistan cannot even vote.

These persecuted individuals and communities look to the U.S. above all others to champion their cause and to raise their plight with repressive governments.

In May, I introduced H.R. 4653, the bipartisan legislation before us today, which reauthorizes the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom for 5 years.

First created in 1998 through the International Religious Freedom Act, it is an independent, bipartisan Federal Government Commission that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad, reviews the facts and circumstances of religious freedom violation based on international standards, and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress. Without this Commission, there would be nobody around to point out what is taking place to these groups.

□ 1600

Since its inception, the Commission has been an invaluable watchdog for global religious freedom conditions. The Commission has been a voice for the imprisoned Baha'i leader who is languishing unjustly behind bars in Iran. Many Baha'is are behind bars in Iran, and if it weren't for the Commission, no one would know.

The Commission has been a voice of the fearful Iraqi nun who is uncertain if there is a future for her in the land of her birth. More Biblical activity took place in Iraq than in any other country in the world, other than in Israel. Abraham is from Iraq. Ezekiel is buried in Iraq. Daniel is from Iraq, as are Jonah and Nineveh. Without the Commission, there would be nobody speaking out for the Iraqi nun, who is fearful of her life and is fearful of the future for her church.

The Commission has been a voice of the Buddhist monk, who has watched with horror as more than 130 of his fellow Tibetans have set themselves aflame in desperation at the abuses they have suffered at the hands of the Chinese Government. If it were not for this Commission, nobody would know how the Buddhists are being persecuted in Tibet.

In short, the Commission has been and, with passage of this legislation, will continue to be the voice of the marginalized, oppressed, and persecuted people who dare to worship according to the dictates of their consciences.

The Commission can be relied upon to consistently give the unvarnished truth, as Mr. SMITH said, about the true state of religious freedom in countries around the globe, whether they are strategic allies or adversaries. The Commission is also unhindered by the bureaucratic morass that so often stymies the State Department during both Republican and Democratic administrations alike.

Given the state of religious freedom abroad today, the sobering reality is that the Commission's voice is needed more now than ever before. A vote for this legislation is a vote for America's first freedom. With that, I urge its unanimous passage.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, so I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 4653.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

To conclude, I want to thank Chairman WOLF again for, authoring the International Religious Freedom Act in 1998. What we reauthorize today is just one part of it, and that is the International Religious Freedom Commission.

For the record, the Commission is comprised of nine Commissioners, plus the Ambassador at Large. As of July 1, the current Chairman is Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, Dr. Robert George is Vice Chairman; Dr. James Zogby is Vice Chairman; and Dr. Zuhdi Jasser and Mary Ann Glendon are Commissioners.

Dean Eric Schwartz—who, as we all know, used to work up on the Hill as a staffer on the Democrat side and who went on to work in the NSC and work on refugee policies—is also a Commissioner, as are Daniel Mark, Father Thomas Reese, and Hannah Rosenthal—who acted as—as point person in

combating anti-Semitism. They work at their own expense. These are very, very dedicated individuals and their work is supported by a highly professional staff.

Again, I would ask Members to read their reports. They are among the best reports that have been produced anywhere in Washington. They are accurately posting what is going on, and then they go into great depth as to what some of the remedies ought to be.

I want to thank, again, Chairman WOLF for his extraordinary leadership for 34 years as a Member of Congress in combating all forms of human rights abuse, especially religious persecution. This is just another manifestation of his extraordinary leadership.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I rise in strong support to H.R. 4653, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2014.

I support this bipartisan legislation which reauthorizes the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) for five years.

First created in 1998, USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan Federal government commission that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad, reviews the facts and circumstances of religious freedom violations based on international standards and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State and Congress.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to have religious freedom then it is important that we protect it. Everywhere we look, the choice of worship is being challenged.

For example, we are reminded that significant threats to religious freedom persist across the globe.

In Iraq the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is gaining territory in Iraq and threatening the very existence of ancient faith communities in the region,

In addition to the crisis in Iraq, religious minorities are marginalized and imperiled in Egypt and Syria; the government of Vietnam severely restricts religious activities of all faiths, as does the government of China; and religious minorities such as the Ahmadiyya Muslims face governmental and social harassment in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia.

Since its inception, USCIRF has been an invaluable watchdog for global religious freedom conditions.

USCIRF commissioners are routinely called upon to testify before Congress and provide expert policy recommendations on how to most effectively advance this fundamental human right in U.S. foreign policy.

Religious freedom is America's first freedom, part of its history and identity as a nation. It also is a core human right recognized by international law and treaty; a necessary component of U.S. foreign policy and America's commitment to defending democracy and freedom globally; and a vital element of national security, critical to ensuring a more peaceful, prosperous, and stable world.

USCIRF champions this issue both at home and abroad and its voice is needed as much today as it has ever been.

I urge you to join me in cosponsoring this bipartisan legislation to reauthorize USCIRF.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4653, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUSPENSION OF EXIT PERMITS

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 588) concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 588

Whereas according to UNICEF, over 4,000,000 orphans are estimated to be living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas the United States has made significant financial investments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, providing an estimated $758,102,000 in development, humanitarian, and security assistance, including peacekeeping activities, in fiscal year 2013;

Whereas cyclical and violent conflict has plagued the Democratic Republic of the Congo since the mid-1990s;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State, the policy of the Administration toward the Democratic Republic of the Congo is ''focused on helping the country become a nation that . . . provides for the basic needs of its citizens'';

Whereas the United Nations has recognized a child's right to a family as a basic human right worthy of protection;

Whereas adoption, both domestic and international, is widely recognized as an important child protection tool and an integral part of child welfare best practices around the world, along with family reunification and prevention of abandonment;

Whereas, on September 27, 2013, the Congolese Ministry of Interior and Security, General Direction of Migration, informed the United States Embassy in Kinshasa that effective September 25, 2013, they had suspended issuance of exit permits to adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents, affecting hundreds of children;

Whereas there are American families with finalized adoptions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the necessary legal paperwork and visas ready to travel home with these children but are currently unable to do so; and

Whereas on December 19, 2013, the Congolese Minister of Justice, Minister of Interior and Security, and the General Direction of Migration confirmed to members of the United States Department of State that the current suspension on the issuance of exit permits continues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) affirms that all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent family;

(2) recognizes the importance of ensuring that international adoptions of all children are conducted in an ethical and transparent manner;

(3) expresses concern over the increasing number of new adoption cases that have been opened and the impact on children and families of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's suspension of exit permits; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Congolese Government—

(A) resume issuing exit permits for all children that have been adopted, and continue processing adoptions that are already underway;

(B) expedite the processing of those adoptions which involve medically fragile children; and

(C) encourages continued dialogue and cooperation between the United States Department of State and the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve the intercountry adoption process and ensure the welfare of all children adopted from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I speak in strong support of the Peterson resolution, H. Res. 588, concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents.

Last year, the Democratic Republic of the Congo suspended the issuance of exit permits for Congolese children who were adopted by foreign parents, impacting hundreds of U.S. families.

The suspension means that Congolese children adopted by American parents cannot leave the country to go to their new homes, even though the parents have been officially declared the legal guardians under Congolese law. What is more, despite the exit permit suspension, Congolese courts have continued processing new adoptions, leading to a further backlog of adopted children who are unable to leave the country.

It is estimated that over 900 American families are caught up in varying degrees and stages of this adoption limbo—breaking many, many hearts. This is a deplorable situation for these children and for their distraught families. The DRC has not offered a clear

explanation for the suspension. The government has provided no evidence of widespread abuse in the adoption process.

The Peterson resolution underscores the importance of an ethical and transparent adoption process, and there are currently robust procedures in place for ensuring that these children are, indeed, orphaned and going to safe homes.

Ultimately, the DRC is entitled to amend its adoption process in going forward, but once the parents' legal guardianships are approved and established by the Congolese courts, the government should allow these children to depart the DRC with their adoptive moms and dads. All children deserve loving homes with moms and dads.

I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota, COLLIN PETERSON, for authoring this important measure, which has strong bipartisan support. Mr. PETERSON has always been a consistent voice in support of human dignity and of the least and littlest among us, consistently defending the human person from the womb to the tomb.

At the full committee markup, several adoptive parents who were denied the requisite permission to bring their sons or daughters home were in attendance.

They, COLLIN, when we went down and spoke to them, told many of us how incredibly grateful they are to you for your leadership and your compassion and for your authorship, especially, of this important resolution.

I also want to thank my colleagues on the committee—Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and subcommittee Ranking Member KAREN BASS—for their leadership in marking up this resolution at both the subcommittee and committee levels and for helping to get it to the floor. I also thank ERIC CANTOR and the Speaker for ensuring that it was up for consideration today.

Again, more than 900 American families from across the U.S. and their Representatives in Congress are watching this very closely. Indeed, in April, 170 Members of Congress wrote and asked the DRC Government to lift the exit permit suspension.

When Secretary Kerry visited the Congo in May, he personally raised the issue with President Kabila. I also call on President Obama to raise this issue personally when he and President Kabila meet at the gathering of African heads of state here in Washington during the first week of August.

Finally, I want to say a word to those parents who have endured not only the burdens that are financial, but that are primarily emotional in being separated from the children they have graciously welcomed into their lives.

Your hardship and pain is deeply understood by my colleagues and me, as well as by our staff members, many of whom have worked not only on this resolution, but who have also pushed our State Department and the Government of the DRC to resolve this important issue. Please continue to persevere. Don't give up hope. You will get to love and to have those wonderful children in your homes.

I also want to let the parents know that our Africa Subcommittee plans to hold another hearing to address the growing crisis of orphans in Africa to which adoption is one of the very important durable remedies, and we specifically intend to address the situation that you are confronting with your children from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I would hope that Congressman PETERSON would lead off that testimony, again, in having been the man, the person in Congress, walking point on this very important issue.

Our approval today of House Resolution 588, with support across party lines, will send a strong signal to Kinshasa that we need to unite these affected families. They shouldn't be separated from these kids. They have done everything by the book, and they ought to be with their loving parents.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank Foreign Affairs Committee Chair ROYCE, the subcommittee Chair CHRIS SMITH, and Ranking Members ENGEL and BASS for their support of this legislation.

I first heard about this problem when a constituent from my district, Kristin Zeidler of Montevideo, called my office to explain her family's situation.

Kristin and her husband, Gregg, adopted a 4-year-old girl from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Their adoption has been recognized by both the United States Government and the Congolese Government since December of 2012, but they are not being allowed to bring this little girl home.

That is because, in September 2013, adoptions from the DRC were effectively suspended as the Congolese immigration authorities stopped issuing exit permits to adopted children. The Zeidler family has been fighting for the last year and a half to bring their little girl home.

This is just one example of more than 800 Congolese children and their adoptive American families who are caught up in the ongoing adoption crisis in the DRC.

Just to put this into context, this is over 10 percent of the total number of children who were adopted internationally by American families last year worldwide. The majority of the impacted cases are in their final stages and are merely awaiting the last step to bring home their legally adopted children.

This legislation takes a pragmatic approach, seeking to keep both sides at the table and to lead us towards a positive resolution. The resolution recognizes the Congolese Government's concerns about the ethical and transparent adoption process, and it respectfully requests that the issuance of exit permits and the adoption process resume.

Most importantly, H.R. 588 encourages a continued dialogue between our two countries on this issue. I hope that our mutual interests in the welfare of these children can lead us to a solution.

Turmoil in the region makes official estimates difficult, but we know there are millions of orphans living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With hundreds of American families like the Zeidlers being impacted by the suspension, we have a responsibility to act. A child's right to a family is a basic human right that is worthy of protection.

I am leading a letter with Representatives EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, MICHELE BACHMANN, and TRENT FRANKS to President Obama, asking him to address this issue when he meets with President Kabila at the United States-Africa Leaders Summit here in Washington, D.C., next month. I urge my colleagues who support this resolution today to also consider signing the letter.

Once again, I am very grateful to committee Chairman ROYCE and to subcommittee Chairman SMITH for their attention to this important issue, and I am also grateful for the support of the Adoption Caucus cochairs—Congresswoman BACHMANN and Congressmember BASS—and of Ranking Member ENGEL.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I have several speakers who want to be here, but they are not physically present on the floor.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this important resolution.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, you have heard today about the devastating effects of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's decision to suspend exit permits for internationally adopted children. I've met with the American families who, as a result of this action, cannot welcome their adopted son or daughter into their home. I've seen their heartbreak.

One family, the Weavers, live in my district. In 2012, James and Olivia Weaver began the process of adopting little Wilfride, a gregarious five-year-old girl with a heartwarming smile. Her birth mother had abandoned her at a local orphanage.

The Weavers were overjoyed when, after nine long months, a Congolese court declared them Wilfride's legal parents. They quickly made preparations for their new daughter to join them and their two other daughters in Chino Hills, California.

But one month after the court's declaration, the Congolese Government suspended exit permits for children like Wilfride—meaning this little girl has had to continue living in an orphanage for the last 10 months. All this despite having a loving home in California that desperately wants to take her in.

I have been to the Congo many times. I understand the exceptional deprivation of orphans there. The Congolese Government should be helping, and not hindering, their transition to a good home.

I should add that, parents with completed adoptions in the DRC are legally responsible for their child's wellbeing—and are reportedly paying on average $500 a month in child support, in addition to healthcare expenses. I have serious concerns that the DRC Government may have perverse financial incentives to postpone resolving this issue.

I sincerely hope that this is not contributing to the Congo's delay. The government must allow these children to make their way to the homes that are anxiously awaiting their arrival. I want to thank Rep. PETERSON and Chairman SMITH for their hard work on this difficult issue, and I urge Members to support this important resolution to encourage the Congolese government to do the right thing.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 588, which expresses the strong opposition of the House to the current practice of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) of suspending the issuance of exit visas for Congolese children adopted by loving American families.

On September 27, 2013, the Congolese Government inexplicably and inexcusably suspended the issuance of exit permits to children who were seeking to depart and begin new and more hopeful lives in the country of their adoptive parents.

All children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent family.

It is unjust, cruel, and inhumane to punish innocent children for actions they did not commit and had no control over.

UNICEF estimates that there are over four million orphans living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 800,000 of which are double orphans, meaning that they have lost both of their parents. In many cases entire families have been decimated by violence.

Thus, if these innocent children are to have any chance for a normal life, there is a major need for international adoptions.

The recent action by the DRC Government jeopardizes both the adoption process and the long term safety of these children.

Mr. Speaker, there are few nations with more persons willing and eager to open their homes and their hearts to the orphaned children of the DRC.

There are, right at this moment, scores of American citizens currently in the DRC who are being forced to remain in the country for months while they wait for the government to approve exit permits for their adopted children. These delays serve no useful purpose and unnecessarily impede the children's adjustment to their new life and brighter future in America, including enrolling in school, adapting to the culture, and learning the language.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of the Government of the DRC are particularly disturbing given the fact that the United States is one of the DRC's largest and most generous supporters, as evidenced by the estimated $274 million in bilateral aid $165 million in emergency humanitarian assistance it provided in fiscal year 2014.

I agree that it ought to be the policy of the United States to help the Democratic Republic of Congo ''focus on helping the country become a nation that provides for the basic needs of its citizens.''

That is why the government of the DRC must discontinue its current practice of needlessly delaying or suspending the issuance of exit visas to children so they can be united with their adoptive families who will love and cherish them and provide for their basic needs.

H. Res. 588 calls upon the U.S. Government to recognize a child's rights and ask the Congolese government to:

1. Resume processing and issuing exit permits;

2. Prioritize the processing of inter-country adoptions that occurred before the suspension; and

3. Expedite the processing of children who are deemed medically fragile.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share the pain and anxiety of one Texas family resulting from the DRC Government's arbitrary suspension of exit visas for adopted children.

The mother of this family wrote my office yesterday. This is what she said:

I am writing today to inform you of the tragic situation my family is in with our legally adopted children not being allowed to come home from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Our sweet children, Josias (18 months) and Mercy (20 months), were adopted over a year ago and have had U.S. visas since December 2013.

Sadly, they are still waiting for us to come get them and bring them home because the Congolese government is not allowing any adopted children to leave the country to be united with their families.

In September 2013, the DRC government issued a suspension on the issuance of exit letters for all internationally adopted children, initially claiming the suspension would last ''up to a year.''

They have now indicated the suspension will likely go on much longer and that we may not ever be granted an exit letter for our children.

This has been a heartbreaking situation for our family as each day that our children are stuck in the DRC their lives are in danger.

Several children have died of malaria during the suspension and many more have become very ill due to unsanitary living conditions and limited access to medical care and their lives are now in jeopardy.

Adoption is an important tool for protecting children and if the only barrier preventing these children from going home is signature on an exit visa, then the United States should stand with the children and insist that the government of the DRC act in the best interests of the children.

I urge all members to join me in supporting H. Res. 588 so that we can end the suffering and heartbreak currently experienced by so many American families and their adopted children from the DRC. It is the right thing to do.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, today we have a chance to change the lives of hundreds of American families, including three families in the Sixth District of Kentucky. One of these is the Hatton family, who are sitting in the gallery here today.

These families have legally adopted children from the Democratic Republic of Congo, but have been unable to bring their children home because their exit permits have been unfairly halted.

After learning of their struggles, I have been working closely with the Department of State and advocating on their behalf because no family should be faced with the choice of leaving the newest member of their family in another country or remaining in the Congo, further splitting up their family and causing a tremendous amount of uncertainty and heartache.

We must do everything in our power to help these American citizens and facilitate the travel of their adopted children home to join their family in the United States.

That is why I am a cosponsor of this resolution and thank the member from Minnesota for his leadership and support on this issue.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important bipartisan resolution to encourage the Democratic Republic of the Congo to resume issuing exit permits so that families can bring their adoptive children home to the United States.

I want to commend my colleague, Representative COLLIN PETERSON, for bringing this measure forward. It makes clear that we condemn the use of children as political pawns and support the unification of these families that have been separated due to arbitrary, bureaucratic, red tape.

As the father of three, I can imagine nothing worse than being separated from my children and not being able to love and care for them. Unfortunately, this has been a reality for hundreds of American families, including two in my district.

The Riegler's, a family from Muncie, legally adopted their son Chiza on August 27, 2013. Almost a year later, he is not home, despite having medical needs that can only be properly treated in the United States. The Riegler's are not alone in this harrowing experience, other families throughout the country are in the same senseless limbo.

The Department of State must put pressure on the Democratic Republic of the Congo to issue exit permits for children that have legally been adopted. As exit permits are provided for children deemed medically fragile, the State Department must then expeditiously process the paperwork to ensure these children are in their parents' arms as soon as possible.

All children have a right to be in a loving family that can provide the support they need to become healthy adults. We should not accept having to wait years to bring an adopted child home to the United States as the best we can do for these children and their parents.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 588, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: ''Concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1615

PRECLEARANCE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3488) to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3488

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 ''Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PRECLEARANCE OPERATIONS.

Pursuant to section 1629 of title 19, United States Code, and subject to section 5, the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations in a foreign country to—

(1) prevent terrorists, instruments of terrorism, and other security threats from entering the United States;

(2) prevent inadmissible persons from entering the United States;

(3) ensure merchandise destined for the United States complies with applicable laws;

(4) ensure the prompt processing of persons eligible to travel to the United States; and

(5) accomplish such other objectives as the Secretary determines necessary to protect the United States.

SEC. 4. NOTIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.

(a) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days before entering into an agreement with the government of a foreign country to establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations in such foreign country, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following:

(1) A copy of the proposed agreement to establish such preclearance operations, including an identification of the foreign country with which U.S. Customs and Border Protection intends to enter into a preclearance agreement, and the location at which such preclearance operations will be conducted.

(2) An estimate of the date on which U.S. Customs and Border Protection intends to establish preclearance operations under such agreement.

(3) The anticipated funding sources for preclearance operations under such agreement, and other funding sources considered.

(4) An assessment of the impact such preclearance operations will have on legitimate trade and travel, including potential impacts on passengers traveling to the United States.

(5) A homeland security threat assessment for the country in which such preclearance operations are to be established.

(6) An assessment of the impacts such preclearance operations will have on U.S. Customs and Border Protection domestic port of entry staffing.

(7) Information on potential economic, competitive, and job impacts on United States air carriers associated with establishing such preclearance operations.

(8) Information on the anticipated homeland security benefits associated with establishing such preclearance operations.

(9) Information on potential security vulnerabilities associated with commencing such preclearance operations, and mitigation plans to address such potential security vulnerabilities.

(10) A U.S. Customs and Border Protection staffing model for such preclearance operations, and plans for how such positions would be filled.

(11) Information on the anticipated costs over the next five fiscal years associated with commencing such preclearance operations.

(12) A copy of the agreement referred to in subsection (a) of section 5.

(13) Other factors that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines to be necessary for Congress to comprehensively assess the appropriateness of commencing such preclearance operations.

(b) CERTIFICATIONS RELATING TO PRECLEARANCE OPERATIONS ESTABLISHED AT AIRPORTS.—In the case of an airport, in addition to the notification requirements under subsection (a), not later than 90 days before entering into an agreement with the government of a foreign country to establish U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations at an airport in such foreign country, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following:

(1) A certification that preclearance operations under such preclearance agreement would provide homeland security benefits to the United States.

(2) A certification that preclearance operations within such foreign country will be established under such agreement only if—

(A) at least one United States passenger carrier operates at such airport; and

(B) the access of all United States passenger carriers to such preclearance operations is the same as the access of any non-United States passenger carrier.

(3) A certification that the Secretary of Homeland Security has considered alternative options to preclearance operations and has determined that such options are not the most effective means of achieving the objectives specified in section 3.

(4) A certification that the establishment of preclearance operations in such foreign country will not significantly increase customs processing times at United States airports.

(5) An explanation of other objectives that will be served by the establishment of preclearance operations in such foreign country.

(6) A certification that representatives from U.S. Customs and Border Protection consulted publically with interested parties, including providers of commercial air service in the United States, employees of such providers, security experts, and such other parties as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, before entering into such an agreement with such foreign government.

(7) A report detailing the basis for the certifications referred to in paragraphs (1) through (6).

(c) MODIFICATION OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 30 days before substantially modifying a preclearance agreement with the government of a foreign country in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a copy of the proposed agreement, as modified, and the justification for such modification.

(d) REMEDIATION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall monthly measure the average customs processing time to enter the 25 United States airports that support the highest volume of international travel (as determined by available Federal passenger data) and provide to the appropriate congressional committees such measurements.

(2) ASSESSMENT.—Based on the measurements described in paragraph (1), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall quarterly assess whether the average customs processing time referred to in such paragraph significantly exceeds the average customs processing time to enter the United States through a prclearance operation.

(3) SUBMISSION.—Based on the assessment conducted under paragraph (2), if the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines that the average customs processing time referred to in paragraph (1) significantly exceeds the average customs processing time to enter the United States through a preclearance operation described in paragraph (2), the Commissioner shall, not later than 60 days after making such determination, provide to the appropriate congressional committees a remediation plan for reducing such average customs processing time referred to in paragraph (1).

(4) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 30 days after submitting the remediation plan referred to in paragraph (3), the Commissioner of United States Customs and Border Protection shall implement those portions of such plan that can be carried out using existing resources, excluding the transfer of personnel.

(5) SUSPENSION.—If the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection does not submit the remediation plan referred to in paragraph (3) within 60 days in accordance with such paragraph, the Commissioner may not, until such time as such remediation plan is submitted, conduct any negotiations relating to preclearance operations at an airport in any country or commence any such preclearance operations.

(6) STAKEHOLDER RECOMMENDATIONS.—The remediation plan described in paragraph (3) shall consider recommendations solicited from relevant stakeholders.

(e) CLASSIFIED REPORT.—The assessment required pursuant to subsection (a)(5) and the report required pursuant to subsection (b)(7) may be submitted in classified form if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that such is appropriate.

SEC. 5. AVIATION SECURITY SCREENING AT PRECLEARANCE AIRPORTS.

(a) AVIATION SECURITY STANDARDS AGREEMENT.—Prior to the commencement of preclearance operations at an airport in a foreign country under this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall enter into an agreement with the government of such foreign country that delineates and requires the adoption of aviation security screening standards that are determined by the Administrator to be comparable to those of the United States.

(b) AVIATION SECURITY RESCREENING.—If the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration determines that the government of a foreign country has not maintained security standards and protocols comparable to those of the United States at airports at which preclearance operations have been established in accordance with an agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a), the Administrator

shall require the rescreening in the United States by the Transportation Security Administration of passengers and their property before such passengers may deplane into sterile areas of airports in the United States.

(c) SELECTEES.—Any passenger who is determined to be a selectee based on a check against a terrorist watch list and arrives on a flight originating from a foreign airport at which preclearance operations have been established in accordance with an agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a), shall be required to undergo security rescreening by the Transportation Security Administration before being permitted to board a domestic flight in the United States.

SEC. 6. LOST AND STOLEN PASSPORTS.

The Secretary of Homeland Security may not enter into or renew an agreement with the government of a foreign country to establish or maintain U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations at an airport in such foreign country unless such government certifies—

(1) that it routinely submits information about lost and stolen passports of its citizens and nationals to INTERPOL's Stolen and Lost Travel Document database; or

(2) makes available to the United States Government such information through another comparable means of reporting.

SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except for subsection (c) of section 4, this Act shall apply only to the establishment of preclearance operations in a foreign country in which no preclearance operations have been established as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 3488. This legislation would require that the Secretary of Homeland Security meet certain conditions and requirements prior to establishing any new U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance operations in foreign countries.

The Customs and Border Protection's preclearance operations overseas inspect and examine travelers and their merchandise in foreign locations prior to their arrival in the United States. Once cleared on foreign soil, passengers do not have to clear customs upon arrival in the United States.

Now, Congress has a long history of supporting limited and specific preclearance operations. These serve to facilitate travel, and they improve homeland security. However, earlier this year, Customs and Border Patrol, or CBP, commenced preclearance operations in Abu Dhabi without prior notification to Congress, without concern to American jobs, and without a clear homeland security benefit.

This legislation ensures that the DHS takes into account the impact on American jobs and our global competitiveness as we enhance our security through future preclearance facilities. My bill requires DHS to meet a series of benchmarks to establish a preclearance operation and requires transparency and prompt notification to Congress while the Department negotiates preclearance agreements with foreign governments. This legislation will go a long way towards preventing a repeat of CBP's mismanaged rollout of the preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi earlier this year.

I have long had serious concerns about the agreement with Abu Dhabi, especially the way it was handled by the Department and, ultimately, the disregard DHS had for the domestic airline industry. To correct that error, this bill requires extensive consultation with key stakeholders so that that never happens again.

Abu Dhabi was the first new preclearance location established since 9/11. Prior to Abu Dhabi, the U.S. had preclearance locations in places like Ireland, the Bahamas, and Canada. We had an obligation to get this right, and CBP did not. Despite the security-focused rationale, this agreement was conducted without suitable congressional notification or a thorough explanation for the rationale of preclearance operations in Abu Dhabi.

We know that a significant number of watch list hits and suspicious travel pattern information originates from the region, but that does not excuse the lack of notification or, more importantly, not taking into account how such agreements affect American workers and their employers.

The establishment of a preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi, where no domestic carrier currently flies—let me repeat that, no domestic carrier currently flies—puts U.S. carriers at a competitive and significant disadvantage, as customs wait times are generally shorter at preclearance facilities compared to wait times in the United States.

This facility provides a clear facilitation benefit to foreign airlines at the expense of U.S. carriers and U.S. jobs, and this is particularly egregious where the foreign-based airline is given subsidies designed to tilt the market unfairly in their direction. By requiring the Secretary to consider the economic impact in establishing preclearance facilities, we protect American jobs and American workers.

I support giving our security professionals the tools needed in their effort to ''push out our borders,'' but we must do so in a way that makes us more secure, does not divert limited CBP staffing resources, or threaten U.S. jobs and a vital economic engine provided by U.S. carriers.

I am pleased that over 150 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle cosponsored this measure, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014.

As a Member who represents a major international airport, I had deep reservations about the Department of Homeland Security's decision to open a preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi earlier this year. I was concerned about the prospect that limited Customs and Border Protection personal resources would be diverted from domestic airports like Newark Liberty International Airport to overseas posts, which could result in wait times for clearing customs exceeding anyone's definition of reasonable. I also had concerns about DHS' decision to conduct preclearance at an overseas airport where U.S. carriers do not have a presence, thus giving a competitive advantage to a foreign-owned airline.

H.R. 3488 addresses both of my concerns. Regarding customs processing times, the bill requires DHS to certify to Congress that the establishment of preclearance operations in an additional country will not significantly increase processing times at airports in the United States. As for opening preclearance facilities at airports where U.S. carriers do not operate, this bill would prohibit DHS from doing so going forward.

United States airlines and the jobs they create and support across the country are critical to our economy. Efforts to ''push out our borders'' for security reasons must not come at the expense of the competitiveness of U.S.-owned and -operated airlines. I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) for recognizing this fact and for bringing forth this legislation before us today.

If enacted, H.R. 3488 will result in stricter requirements as well as enhanced oversight and accountability regarding how DHS decides to expand preclearance operations.

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I certainly want to thank Mr. MEEHAN for his diligent work on this issue—for quite a long time, actually. He raised concerns with the Department of Homeland Security preclearance operations very early on, and his leadership has been so important to the success of this bill and where we are today.

You know, really, I think there have been few issues that have kept CBP leadership busier over the last year

than preclearance. The troubled rollout of the preclearance in Abu Dhabi caused an awful lot of consternation in the Congress.

The preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi was the first such operation established since 9/11 based primarily on a security rationale. Therefore, the lack of appropriate congressional coordination and notification troubled many Members on both sides of the aisle.

In fact, preclearance operations were the subject of a limitation amendment to last year's Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill that I cosponsored with Mr. MEEHAN.

The bill under consideration today is sort of a fusion of Mr. MEEHAN's original text and then the FY14 Consolidated Appropriations Act, as well as Ms. JACKSON LEE's bill on this topic also, and it was very carefully crafted after numerous consultations with the Department of Homeland Security, the airline industry, and, again, Members from both sides of the aisle.

It really sets the contours for future preclearance operations which incorporate a series of notifications and certifications, including a justification that outlines the homeland security benefit and impact to domestic staffing and wait times that any new preclearance operations would have. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, this bill requires Congress to be notified in the event that the Department of Homeland Security modifies or changes an existing agreement.

I certainly want to be clear that the House Homeland Security Committee supports preclearance where it makes sense. Preclearance, of course, has been around as a security screening and trade facilitation tool since the early 1950s actually, and since 9/11, the security value of these operations has only been heightened. However, this bill makes it absolutely clear that the Department of Homeland Security cannot repeat the mistakes of the past.

I would also like to just thank Chairman CAMP of the Ways and Means Committee, who helped work with us with the Homeland Security Committee to get this bill to the floor today. Again, I certainly want to thank Mr. MEEHAN and other Members who have worked hard to make sure that the American airlines are not negatively impacted by future preclearance operations overseas.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014.

Earlier this year, the Department of Homeland Security decided to alter the focus of Customs and Border Protection's preclearance program from one aimed at passenger facilitation to one intended to enhance security—or, at least, that is what we were told when a bipartisan group of Members led by Representatives MEEHAN and DEFAZIO began asking hard questions about why a preclearance facility was being opened in Abu Dhabi, an airport at which no U.S. flag carriers operate.

Since preclearance operations commenced in Abu Dhabi earlier this year, representatives from DHS, including Secretary Johnson, have repeatedly stated that they are looking to expand the program to other high-risk overseas airports. Enactment of H.R. 3488 would ensure that, before DHS entered into another preclearance agreement, thoughtful consideration is given to the potential homeland security benefits of such an expansion, as well as the potential impacts to CBP staff at domestic ports of entry. Importantly, the bill also requires DHS to report to Congress on the potential economic, competitive, and job-related impacts opening such a facility would have on United States air carriers.

During committee consideration of the bill, an amendment that I offered was accepted that would require any passenger arriving in the U.S. who is determined to be a selectee to undergo security rescreening by the Transportation Security Administration before being permitted to board a domestic flight in the United States. This provision would ensure that any traveler that is determined to be potentially dangerous undergoes security screening on U.S. soil before being allowed to board a domestic flight.

Finally, the bill prohibits the opening of a new preclearance facility unless at least one United States passenger carrier operates at the airport where preclearance operations would be established. This provision will ensure that we do not see a repeat of the circumstances surrounding the opening of the preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi, where a foreign airline was provided a significant competitive advantage over U.S. carriers.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014.

□ 1630

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) for his hard work and leadership on this issue, this bill. He rallied more than 150 Members of Congress—no small feat in this institution—to express his concern over the way the DHS preclearance operations in Abu Dhabi were set up last year. The commonsense bill before us today should be supported by every Member of this body. Pushing out the border through operations like preclearance allows Customs and Border Protection to identify and intercept threats, including dangerous people and cargo, long before they ever reach our shores. So it is a noble concept.

Preclearance facilities have served America's interests by facilitating secure trade and travel since the 1950s. Since 9/11, the security value of these facilities has only increased.

However, I share the concerns of many of my colleagues regarding the rollout of a preclearance facility that was recently established in Abu Dhabi, which was the first such facility set up after 9/11. The process by which CBP announced and created this facility was not transparent, raising several questions about the suitability of that location.

I recently had the opportunity to visit this preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi on a delegation that I led to the region, and I came away convinced that there is real security value in putting our CBP officers overseas. However, I think it is appropriate that Congress weigh in on how we go about establishing future preclearance operations, given the controversy and mismanaged rollout of Abu Dhabi.

This bill strengthens the homeland security elements of preclearance operations by requiring that comparable aviation security screening standards are in place prior to beginning preclearance operations. It would also require rescreening of passengers and cargo if security standards are not maintained overseas.

This bill takes steps to reduce the potential for missteps by requiring a series of notifications and certifications to the Congress long before new preclearance facilities are established. Under the requirements of this bill, DHS must now certify that future facilities serve the national interests, stakeholders must be properly consulted, and U.S. airlines must have equal access to locations under consideration. This legislation we are considering is a result of extensive consultation with industry, the Department itself, and Members from both parties.

Again, I want to thank Chairman MEEHAN for his hard work and oversight on this important program. I want to thank the ranking member of the full committee, BENNIE THOMPSON, and the ranking member of the subcommittee for, once again, on our committee, showing great bipartisanship to get the will of the people done in this House.

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

Mr. Speaker, as you heard, H.R. 3488 enjoys the support of members of the Committee on Homeland Security. Indeed, this bill has a bipartisan collection of 154 cosponsors.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my deep appreciation to my

colleagues from both sides of the aisle for responding so collectively to the importance of this issue.

First and foremost, the principle that I think we stand for on both sides of the aisle is, when important issues like this are raised, that there be appropriate consultation with Congress and an appropriate understanding of the clear articulation by Homeland Security of the benefit that they expect to reach.

As the chairman has identified, once he visited Abu Dhabi, he came away convinced that there was a benefit. But the idea that that would not have been shared with us prior to entering that agreement is one of the critical things that we want to see addressed by this legislation.

But it is also the inability of the Department to appreciate or to take into consideration the impact that this will have, that it may have, and, in fact, it will have when there is no United States airline flying from Abu Dhabi. And the competitive disadvantage of that, which is generated by the fact that individuals who choose to fly the foreign airline currently get right into our country once they get into the preclearance facility, while those on American airlines coming into the same airport will wait in long lines. It creates a competitive disadvantage and the real possibility of a loss of American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and the Ranking Member of the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, I rise in support of H.R. 3488, the ''Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014.''

The legislation before the House today is the product of regular order, having been considered and approved by the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security in May and the Full Committee on Homeland Security in June.

H.R. 3488 stipulates the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish and conduct preclearance operations.

It is imperative that as we seek to ''push out our Nation's borders'' through preclearance and other programs, we do so in a risk-based manner that is mindful of impacts to our economy and the traveling public.

That guiding principle is what prompted me to introduce legislation last November, H.R. 3575, the ''Putting Security First in Preclearance Act.''

I am pleased that several of the provisions and policy goals contained in my legislation have been incorporated into the bill before the House today.

During subcommittee consideration of H.R. 3488, I offered two amendments that were adopted.

The first amendment requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to report to Congress on the anticipated homeland security benefits associated with establishing preclearance operations at a foreign airport.

As the Department of Homeland Security seeks to expand preclearance operations to potentially high-risk airports around the world, we should have a full understanding of the homeland security benefits associated with opening such facilities.

My second amendment, also adopted during subcommittee consideration of the bill, requires that any country seeking to enter into a preclearance agreement with the United States submit lost and stolen passport information to INTERPOL or another source that is searchable by the United States.

The tragic loss of Malaysian Airlines Flight 370 in March brought into focus a number of vulnerabilities in the international aviation arena, not the least of which is gaps related to lost and stolen passports.

On April 4th, the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security held a hearing on the vulnerabilities of passport fraud.

One of the major takeaways from that hearing was the need for more countries to regularly submit information about lost and stolen passports to INTERPOL.

The provision in H.R. 3488 requiring countries seeking to open Preclearance facilities to submit information on lost and stolen passports to INTERPOL will serve as an impetus for bringing would-be international partners into the fold and make the INTERPOL database more complete.

Enactment of H.R. 3488 will ensure greater Congressional oversight of the process associated with commencing preclearance operations and ensure the economic interest of U.S. airlines are considered when new Preclearance facilities are contemplated.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of H.R. 3488.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3488, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4007) to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4007

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 ''Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''TITLE XXI—CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI–TERRORISM STANDARDS

''SEC. 2101. CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM.

''(a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—There is in the Department a Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program. Under such Program, the Secretary shall establish risk-based performance standards designed to protect covered chemical facilities and chemical facilities of interest from acts of terrorism and other security risks and require such facilities to submit security vulnerability assessments and to develop and implement site security plans.

''(b) SECURITY MEASURES.—Site security plans required under subsection (a) may include layered security measures that, in combination, appropriately address the security vulnerability assessment and the risk-based performance standards for security for the facility.

''(c) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF SITE SECURITY PLANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall review and approve or disapprove each security vulnerability assessment and site security plan under subsection (a). The Secretary may not disapprove a site security plan based on the presence or absence of a particular security measure, but the Secretary shall disapprove a site security plan if the plan fails to satisfy the risk-based performance standards established under subsection (a).

''(2) ALTERNATIVE SECURITY PROGRAMS.—The Secretary may approve an alternative security program established by a private sector entity or a Federal, State, or local authority or pursuant to other applicable laws, if the Secretary determines that the requirements of such program meet the requirements of this section. A covered chemical facility may meet the site security plan requirement under subsection (a) by adopting an alternative security program that has been reviewed and approved by the Secretary under this paragraph.

''(3) SITE SECURITY PLAN ASSESSMENTS.—In approving or disapproving a site security plan under this subsection, the Secretary shall employ the risk assessment policies and procedures developed under this title. In the case of a covered chemical facility for which a site security plan has been approved by the Secretary before the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary may not require the resubmission of the site security information solely by reason of the enactment of this title.

''(4) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary may consult with the Government Accountability Office to investigate the feasibility and applicability a third party accreditation program that would work with industry stakeholders to develop site security plans that may be applicable to all similarly situated facilities. The program would include the development of Program-Specific Handbooks for facilities to reference on site.

''(d) COMPLIANCE.—

''(1) AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct the audit and inspection of covered chemical facilities for the purpose of determining compliance with this Act. The audit and inspection may be carried out by a non-Department or nongovernment entity, as approved by the Secretary.

''(B) REPORTING STRUCTURE.—Any audit or inspection conducted by an individual employed by a nongovernment entity shall be assigned in coordination with the head of audits and inspections for the region in which the audit or inspection is to be conducted. When in the field, any individual employed by a nongovernment entity shall report to

the respective head of audits and inspections for the region in which the individual is operating.

''(C) REQUIREMENTS FOR NONGOVERNMENT PERSONNEL.—If the Secretary arranges for an audit or inspection under subparagraph (A) to be carried out by a nongovernment entity, the Secretary shall require, as a condition of such arrangement, that any individual who conducts the audit or inspection be a citizen of the United States and shall prescribe standards for the qualification of the individuals who carry out such audits and inspections that are commensurate with the standards for a Government auditor or inspector. Such standards shall include—

''(i) minimum training requirements for new auditors or inspectors;

''(ii) retraining requirements;

''(iii) minimum education and experience levels;

''(iv) the submission of information as required by the Secretary to enable determination of whether the auditor or inspector has a conflict of interest;

''(v) the maintenance of a secret security clearance;

''(vi) reporting any issue of non-compliance with this section to the Secretary within 24 hours; and

''(vii) any additional qualifications for fitness of duty as the Secretary may establish.

''(D) TRAINING OF DEPARTMENT AUDITORS AND INSPECTORS.—The Secretary shall prescribe standards for the training and retraining of individuals employed by the Department as auditors and inspectors. Such standards shall include—

''(i) minimum training requirements for new auditors and inspectors;

''(ii) retraining requirements; and

''(iii) any additional requirements the Secretary may establish.

''(2) NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—

''(A) NOTICE.—If the Secretary determines that a covered chemical facility or a chemical facility of interest is not in compliance with this section, the Secretary shall—

''(i) provide the owner or operator of the facility with—

''(I) written notification (including a clear explanation of any deficiency in the security vulnerability assessment or site security plan) by not later than 14 days after the determination is made; and

''(II) an opportunity for consultation with the Secretary or the Secretary's designee; and

''(ii) issue an order to comply by such date as the Secretary determines to be appropriate under the circumstances.

''(B) CONTINUED NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the owner or operator continues to be in noncompliance after the date specified in such order, the Secretary may enter an order assessing a civil penalty, an order to cease operations, or both.

''(3) PERSONNEL SURETY.—

''(A) PERSONNEL SURETY PROGRAM.—For purposes of this title, the Secretary shall carry out a Personnel Surety Program that—

''(i) does not require an owner or operator of a covered chemical facility that voluntarily participates to submit information about an individual more than one time;

''(ii) provides a participating owner or operator of a covered chemical facility with feedback about an individual based on vetting the individual against the terrorist screening database, to the extent that such feedback is necessary for the facility's compliance with regulations promulgated under this title; and

''(iii) provides redress to an individual whose information was vetted against the terrorist screening database under the program and who believes that the personally identifiable information submitted to the Department for such vetting by a covered chemical facility, or its designated representative, was inaccurate.

''(B) PERSONNEL SURETY IMPLEMENTATION.—To the extent that a risk-based performance standard under subsection (a) is directed toward identifying individuals with terrorist ties—

''(i) a covered chemical facility may satisfy its obligation under such standard with respect to an individual by utilizing any Federal screening program that periodically vets individuals against the terrorist screening database, or any successor, including the Personnel Surety Program under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) the Secretary may not require a covered chemical facility to submit any information about such individual unless the individual—

''(I) is vetted under the Personnel Surety Program; or

''(II) has been identified as presenting a terrorism security risk.

''(C) RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECURITY SCREENING COORDINATION OFFICE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall direct the Security Screening Coordination Office of the Department to coordinate with the National Protection and Programs Directorate to expedite the development of a common credential that screens against the terrorist screening database on a recurrent basis and meets all other screening requirements of this title.

''(ii) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the progress of the Secretary in meeting the requirements of clause (i).

''(4) FACILITY ACCESS.—For purposes of the compliance of a covered chemical facility with a risk-based performance standard established under subsection (a), the Secretary may not require the facility to submit any information about an individual who has been granted access to the facility unless the individual—

''(A) was vetted under the Personnel Surety Program; or

''(B) has been identified as presenting a terrorism security risk.

''(5) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall share with the owner or operator of a covered chemical facility such information as the owner or operator needs to comply with this section.

''(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

''(1) IDENTIFICATION OF FACILITIES OF INTEREST.—In carrying out this title, the Secretary shall consult with the heads of other Federal agencies, States and political subdivisions thereof, and relevant business associations to identify all chemical facilities of interest.

''(2) RISK ASSESSMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this title, the Secretary shall develop a risk assessment approach and corresponding tiering methodology that incorporates all relevant elements of risk, including threat, vulnerability, and consequence.

''(B) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SECURITY RISK.—The criteria for determining the security risk of terrorism associated with a facility shall include—

''(i) the relevant threat information;

''(ii) the potential economic consequences and the potential loss of human life in the event of the facility being subject to a terrorist attack, compromise, infiltration, or exploitation; and

''(iii) the vulnerability of the facility to a terrorist attack, compromise, infiltration, or exploitation.

''(3) CHANGES IN TIERING.—Any time that tiering for a covered chemical facility is changed and the facility is determined to no longer be subject to the requirements of this title, the Secretary shall maintain records to reflect the basis for this determination. The records shall include information on whether and how the information that was the basis for the determination was confirmed by the Secretary.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this title:

''(1) The term 'covered chemical facility' means a facility that the Secretary identifies as a chemical facility of interest and, based upon review of a Top-Screen, as such term is defined in section 27.105 of title 6 of Code of Federal Regulations, determines meets the risk criteria developed pursuant subsection (e)(2)(B). Such term does not include any of the following:

''(A) A facility regulated pursuant to the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–295).

''(B) A Public Water System, as such term is defined by section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (Public Law 93–523; 42 U.S.C. 300f).

''(C) A Treatment Works, as such term is defined in section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Public Law 92–500; 33 U.S.C. 12920).

''(D) Any facility owned or operated by the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy.

''(E) Any facility subject to regulation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

''(2) The term 'chemical facility of interest' means a facility that holds, or that the Secretary has a reasonable basis to believe holds, a Chemical of Interest, as designated under in Appendix A of title 6 of the Code of Federal Regulations, at a threshold quantity that meets relevant risk-related criteria developed pursuant to subsection (e)(2)(B).

''SEC. 2102. PROTECTION AND SHARING OF INFORMATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, information developed pursuant to this title, including vulnerability assessments, site security plans, and other security related information, records, and documents shall be given protections from public disclosure consistent with similar information developed by chemical facilities subject to regulation under section 70103 of title 46, United States Code.

''(b) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—This section does not prohibit the sharing of information developed pursuant to this title, as the Secretary deems appropriate, with State and local government officials possessing the necessary security clearances, including law enforcement officials and first responders, for the purpose of carrying out this title, if such information may not be disclosed pursuant to any State or local law.

''(c) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH FIRST RESPONDERS.—The Secretary shall provide to State, local, and regional fusion centers (as such term is defined in section 210A(j)(1) of this Act) and State and local government officials, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, such information as is necessary to help ensure that first responders are properly prepared and provided with the situational awareness needed to respond to incidents at covered chemical facilities. Such information shall be disseminated through the Homeland Security Information Network or the Homeland Secure Data Network, as appropriate.

''(d) ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS.—In any proceeding to enforce this section, vulnerability assessments, site security plans, and other information submitted to or obtained by the Secretary under this section, and related vulnerability or security information, shall be treated as if the information were classified material.

"SEC. 2103. CIVIL PENALTIES.

"(a) VIOLATIONS.—Any person who violates an order issued under this title shall be liable for a civil penalty under section 70119(a) of title 46, United States Code.

"(b) RIGHT OF ACTION.—Nothing in this title confers upon any person except the Secretary a right of action against an owner or operator of a covered chemical facility to enforce any provision of this title.

"SEC. 2104. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.

"The Secretary shall publish on the Internet website of the Department and in other materials made available to the public the whistleblower protections that an individual providing such information would have.

"SEC. 2105. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.

"(a) OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to supersede, amend, alter, or affect any Federal law that regulates the manufacture, distribution in commerce, use, sale, other treatment, or disposal of chemical substances or mixtures.

"(b) STATES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.—This title shall not preclude or deny any right of any State or political subdivision thereof to adopt or enforce any regulation, requirement, or standard of performance with respect to chemical facility security that is more stringent than a regulation, requirement, or standard of performance issued under this section, or otherwise impair any right or jurisdiction of any State with respect to chemical facilities within that State, unless there is an actual conflict between this section and the law of that State.

"(c) RAIL TRANSIT.—

"(1) DUPLICATIVE REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to eliminate any provision of this title applicable to rail security that would duplicate any security measure under the Rail Transportation Security Rule under section 1580 of title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect as of the date of the enactment of this title. To the extent that there is a conflict between this title and any regulation under the jurisdiction of the Transportation Security Administration, the regulation under the jurisdiction of the Transportation Security Administration shall prevail.

"(2) EXEMPTION FROM TOP-SCREEN.—A rail transit facility or a rail facility, as such terms are defined in section 1580.3 of title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, to which subpart 3 of such title applies pursuant to section 1580.100 of such title shall not be required to complete a Top-Screen as such term is defined in section 27.105 of title 6 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

"SEC. 2106. REPORTS.

"(a) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards Program. Such report shall include each of the following:

"(1) Certification by the Secretary that the Secretary has made significant progress in the identification of all chemical facilities of interest pursuant to section 2101(e)(1), including a description of the steps taken to achieve such progress and the metrics used to measure it, information on whether facilities that submitted Top-Screens as a result of such efforts were tiered and in what tiers they were placed, and an action plan to better identify chemical facilities of interest and bring those facilities into compliance.

"(2) Certification by the Secretary that the Secretary has developed a risk assessment approach and corresponding tiering methodology pursuant to section 2101(e)(2).

"(3) An assessment by the Secretary of the implementation by the Department of any recommendations made by the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute as outlined in the Institute's Tiering Methodology Peer Review (Publication Number: RP12–22–02).

"(b) SEMIANNUAL GAO REPORT.—During the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this title, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a semiannual report to Congress containing the assessment of the Comptroller General of the implementation of this title. The Comptroller General shall submit the first such report by not later than the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this title.

"SEC. 2107. CFATS REGULATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized, in accordance with chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, to promulgate regulations implementing the provisions of this title.

"(b) EXISTING CFATS REGULATIONS.—In carrying out the requirements of this title, the Secretary shall use the CFATS regulations, as in effect immediately before the date of the enactment of this title, that the Secretary determines carry out such requirements, and may issue new regulations or amend such regulations pursuant to the authority in subsection (a).

"(c) DEFINITION OF CFATS REGULATIONS.—In this section, the term 'CFATS regulations' means the regulations prescribed pursuant to section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–295; 120 Stat. 1388; 6 U.S.C. 121 note), as well as all Federal Register notices and other published guidance concerning section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007.

"(d) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall exclusively rely upon authority provided in this title for determining compliance with this title in—

"(1) identifying chemicals of interest;

"(2) designating chemicals of interest; and

"(3) determining security risk associated with a chemical facility.

"SEC. 2108. SMALL COVERED CHEMICAL FACILITIES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide guidance and, as appropriate, tools, methodologies, or computer software, to assist small covered chemical facilities in developing their physical security.

"(b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on best practices that may assist small chemical facilities, as defined by the Secretary, in development of physical security best practices.

"(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term 'small covered chemical facility' means a covered chemical facility that has fewer than 350 employees employed at the covered chemical facility, and is not a branch or subsidiary of another entity.

"SEC. 2109. OUTREACH TO CHEMICAL FACILITIES OF INTEREST.

"Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall establish an outreach implementation plan, in coordination with the heads of other appropriate Federal and State agencies and relevant business associations, to identify chemical facilities of interest and make available compliance assistance materials and information on education and training.

"SEC. 2110. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title $81,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017.".

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

"TITLE XXI—CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI–TERRORISM STANDARDS

"Sec. 2101. Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.
"Sec. 2102. Protection and sharing of information.
"Sec. 2103. Civil penalties.
"Sec. 2104. Whistleblower protections.
"Sec. 2105. Relationship to other laws.
"Sec. 2106. Reports.
"Sec. 2107. CFATS regulations.
"Sec. 2108. Small covered chemical facilities.
"Sec. 2109. Outreach to chemical facilities of interest.
"Sec. 2110. Authorization of appropriations.".

(c) THIRD-PARTY ASSESSMENT.—Using amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 2110 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall commission a third-party study to assess vulnerabilities to acts of terrorism associated with the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program, as authorized pursuant to section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–295; 120 Stat. 1388; 6 U.S.C. 121 note).

(d) METRICS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a plan for the utilization of metrics to assess the effectiveness of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program to reduce the risk of a terrorist attack or other security risk to those citizens and communities surrounding covered chemical facilities. The plan shall include benchmarks on when the program will begin utilizing the metrics and how the Department of Homeland Security plans to use the information to inform the program.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 4007, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014. This bipartisan legislation continues our efforts to provide a sound plan and clear objectives for the Department of Homeland Security's Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards, or what we call CFATS.

Before I discuss the merits of the bill, itself, I would like to extend a special

debt of gratitude to Chairman UPTON and subcommittee Chairman SHIMKUS of the Energy and Commerce Committee, without whom H.R. 4007 would not be on the floor today.

The Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce share jurisdiction over the CFATS program, and our goal of ensuring that CFATS is doing what needs to be done to protect American chemical facilities from acts of terrorism is a common one. Therefore, our two committees work together to create this bill.

In fact, last summer, Chairman UPTON and Chairman MCCAUL sent a letter to then-Secretary Napolitano, expressing their frustration with the Department's delay in getting the CFATS program up and running. They vowed to work together as the program's authorizers to provide the guidance and direction the program needed and to do so immediately. H.R. 4007 represents the culmination of our collaborative efforts to fulfill the pledge.

Over the course of the past year, our two committees have worked in partnership with all of the CFATS key stakeholders, including both the regulated community and the Department itself, to assess the program's strengths and shortcomings, and develop a straightforward, practically minded piece of legislation to improve the CFATS program overall.

I am very proud of the partnership in getting H.R. 4007 done, and I am grateful for Chairmen UPTON and SHIMKUS and their support for allowing us to bring the bill to the floor swiftly in the interest of seeing this legislation enacted in this Congress.

I would like to note that the Energy and Commerce Committee's exchange of letters with the Homeland Security Committee in no way diminishes that committee's jurisdictional claim to or authority over the CFATS program.

This bill represents the result of the legislative process done right: committees and Members of Congress working in partnership with one another to do what is best for America. I am proud to share the credit of the bill with Chairman UPTON and Chairman SHIMKUS, and my good friends and colleagues from the other side of the aisle. Good governance is represented here today.

CFATS was created by the Department of Homeland Security in 2007 after Congress authorized the Department to develop a set of vulnerability assessment standards for chemical plants and to implement a corresponding set of regulations that will protect the highest risk facilities from a physical attack.

Prior to the attacks on 9/11, Congress had established an array of laws aimed at preventing environmental disasters at facilities that produce or store potentially dangerous chemicals. While those laws remain, Congress and the Department of Homeland Security developed CFATS specifically to prevent an intentional attack on chemical facilities.

The program uses risk-based performance standards in order to provide individual facilities the flexibility to address their unique security challenges. Importantly, the Department developed a tiering structure that permits CFATS to focus their resources on the higher-risk facilities. By partnering with industry, CFATS requires the covered chemical facilities to prepare security vulnerability assessments and develop and implement site security plans that are based on those assessments.

Despite what we would all agree are the best of intentions, it is no secret that CFATS has struggled throughout its 7-year history. From implementation problems to management flaws to insufficient feedback from facilities, highlighted in the aftermath of the West, Texas, disaster, CFATS has had a rocky start. However, let's be mindful that mismanagement is not synonymous with policy failure.

Our goal has been to identify both the major problems with the program and the progress made by DHS to correct them. The assessment has given us the ability to craft a set of benchmarks that are complementary to the President's Executive Order No. 13650 that was released after the tragic explosion at the West Fertilizer plant in West, Texas, last spring.

For the past 4 years, CFATS has relied on appropriations with no official guidance or authorizing statute from Congress. Past attempts to reauthorize the program have failed due to either overly ambitious proposals or sweeping overhauls that expand the scope of its intent. Let's first fix the program before we debate granting greater responsibility.

We have taken a modest, practical approach to reauthorization. We have determined that the site security plan approval process needs greater efficiency. The compliance process is greatly in need of better coordination. Implementing a sensible and effective methodology in assessing risk will help DHS better communicate with State and local officials, as well as other Federal agencies and industry associations, to identify facilities. This is important as we talk about issues like the West, Texas, plant. CFATS must remain on probation until the program proves its effectiveness. Therefore, the Government Accountability Office should continue to assess the program and report to Congress its findings on a biannual basis—all parts that are included in that bill.

The resulting legislation, H.R. 4007, does all of these things and, therefore, enjoys support from a wide array of stakeholders. Republicans and Democrats have voiced their support for the bill. In addition to having two Democratic cosponsors, Representatives GENE GREEN and FILEMON VELA, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson explicitly endorsed H.R. 4007 in February of this year. We have worked with the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to produce legislation that puts the security of Americans above politics and jurisdictional values.

This bill has support from the House; the Senate, which is in the process of crafting a companion bill, which they plan to mark up this month; DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson; and industry stakeholders, including the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, the American Chemistry Council, CropLife America, and a coalition comprised of a broad spectrum of agricultural, mining, petroleum, and transport organizations. At this time, I would like to enter those support letters into the RECORD.

AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. PATRICK MEEHAN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN MCCAUL AND MEEHAN: The American Chemistry Council (ACC) would like to thank you and your colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee for your work and leadership on the authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014, H.R. 4007. ACC strongly supports this bill, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to help secure final passage of this important and much needed legislation. Long term authorization of CFATS is critical to helping safeguard chemical facilities, and this bill would give the industry long overdue regulatory certainty.

ACC is the trade association for the chemical industry in the United States, which is a $770 billion industry and employs 784,000 Americans in high wage jobs. The industry is experiencing a renaissance in the United States thanks to the increase in shale gas production, and our members have announced over $100 billion in new planned capital expenditures that will provide tens of thousands of new jobs, and give manufacturers throughout the value chain a domestic supply of the chemicals they need to manufacture products in this country. Ensuring that clear and workable security regulations remain in place is an important part of creating an environment that will continue to foster these new investments.

DHS has dramatically improved its administration of the CFATS program, which has had a positive impact on enhancing security at US chemical sites, and ACC supports making this a permanent program for the approximately 4,500 sites that are regulated under CFATS. Congressional oversight via an authorization would help DHS with some of the challenges they have faced implementing the program, even as the agency has made progress with a new management structure. The industry has seen considerable increased activity from DHS, including improved quality of inspections and faster authorizations. Most importantly, DHS leadership has demonstrated a commitment to working with stakeholders to improve the implementation of the CFATS program. A long term authorization outside of the appropriation process will provide the regulatory consistency and operational stability to ensure the success of CFATS, while giving industry confidence in long term capital

commitments to this program. Ensuring the future of this important program will also help DHS recruit and retain top talent to effectively implement CFATS.

We are committed to continuing our work with you and your staff to help move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

CAL DOOLEY.

AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER AND LEADER PELOSI: The American Chemistry Council (ACC) urges you to vote yes today on H.R. 4007, The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014. ACC strongly supports this bill which would give much needed long term authorization to the CFATS program. CFATS regulates security for a wide variety of facilities that make, store, or use chemicals from farms to factories. The program allows facilities to tailor their security plans to meet their unique needs, and authorization of the program would give the industry long overdue regulatory certainty.

ACC is the trade association for the chemical industry in the United States, which is a $770 billion industry and employs 784,000 Americans in high wage jobs. The industry is experiencing a renaissance thanks to the increase in domestic shale gas production, and our members have announced over $110 billion in new planned capital expenditures that will provide tens of thousands of new jobs, and give manufacturers throughout the value chain a domestic supply of the chemicals they need to manufacture products in this country. Ensuring that clear and workable security regulations remain in place is an important part of creating an environment that will continue to foster these new investments.

DHS has dramatically improved its administration of the CFATS program, which has had a positive impact on enhancing security at US chemical sites, and ACC supports making this a permanent program for the approximately 4,500 sites that are regulated under CFATS. Congressional oversight via an authorization would help DHS with some of the challenges they have faced implementing the program, even as the agency has made progress with a new management structure. The industry has seen considerable increased activity from DHS, including improved quality of inspections and faster authorizations. Most importantly, DHS leadership has demonstrated a commitment to working with stakeholders to improve the implementation of the CFATS program.

A long term authorization outside of the appropriation process will provide the regulatory consistency and operational stability to ensure the success of CFATS, while giving industry confidence in their long term capital commitments to this program. Ensuring the future of this important program will also help DHS recruit and retain top talent to effectively implement CFATS.

Please contact Mike Meenan, Director of Federal Affairs at mike_meenan@americanchemistry.com or at (202) 249–6216 if we can be of any assistance while you consider this important vote.

Sincerely,

CAL DOOLEY.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, April 2, 2014.

Hon. PATRICK MEEHAN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MEEHAN: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, supports H.R. 4007, the ''Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014.''

This bill is a narrowly tailored measure that would authorize for two years the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program, which is administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The bill addresses several industry policy goals. First, rather than relying on the current cycle of yearly appropriations measures, the bill's dual-year authorization would give businesses and DHS more certainty when making planning and investment decisions. Second, H.R. 4007 would eliminate some of the major impediments that facilities owners and operators encounter when implementing CFATS. The bill would both enhance the efficiency of site security plan approvals and provide the flexibility needed to satisfy the program's personnel surety standard—which is a top Chamber priority. Third, H.R. 4007 would give DHS the option of using third parties to quicken the pace of chemical facility inspections. The measure would also require tighter coordination between state and local government and business to constructively address ''outlier'' sites. Importantly, the bill would refrain from mandating inherently safer technologies (ISTs).

The Chamber commends you and your staff for taking the lead in drafting a sensible measure that protects investments businesses have made in conjunction with CFATS, while making smart and necessary reforms. The Chamber encourages Homeland Security Committee members to support H.R. 4007 and looks forward to working with you as the bill advances in the House.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2014.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, supports H.R. 4007, the ''Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014,'' as reported out of committee by voice vote.

H.R. 4007 is a narrowly tailored measure that would authorize for three years the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program, which is administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The bill addresses several industry policy goals. First, rather than relying on the current cycle of yearly appropriations measures, the bill's three-year authorization would give businesses and DHS more certainty when making planning and investment decisions. Second, H.R. 4007 would eliminate some of the major impediments that facilities owners and operators encounter when implementing CFATS. The bill would enhance both the efficiency of site security plan approvals and the flexibility needed to satisfy the program's personnel surety standard—which is a top Chamber priority.

Third, H.R. 4007 would give DHS the option of using third parties to quicken the pace of chemical facility inspections. The measure would also require tighter coordination between state and local government and business to constructively address ''outlier'' sites. Importantly, the bill would refrain from mandating inherently safer technologies (ISTs).

The Chamber commends the Homeland Security Committee for taking the lead in drafting a sensible measure that protects investments businesses have made in conjunction with CFATS, while making smart and necessary reforms. The Chamber urges you and your colleagues to support H.R. 4007, and may consider including votes on, or in relation to, this bill in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

THE FERTILIZER INSTITUTE,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2014.

Re Vote yes on H.R. 4007 today.

To Members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: I am writing to you today to urge you to support H.R. 4007, the ''Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014.'' H.R. 4007 is a bipartisan, streamlined, bill that provides a three year authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program. The bill provides clear and important guidance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on key issues of chemical facility security.

As the trade association representing the domestic fertilizer industry, The Fertilizer Institute's members are producers, wholesalers, and retailers of crop nutrients, some of which are classified by DHS as chemicals of interest and thus covered by the CFATS program

H.R. 4007 addresses several important policy goals that will help ensure an efficient and effective CFATS program. First, it provides companies with a necessary level of flexibility that will facilitate improved security by ensuring that standards for facility access can be modified to meet site-specific conditions. Specifically, the bill allows for third-party inspections and the utilization of DHS approved site security plans by covered facilities. This is important to the fertilizer industry due to the broad diversity in the types and sizes of facilities our members operate.

Additionally, H.R. 4007 addresses certain concerns surrounding the personnel surety program which establishes requirements needed for facility access. It directs DHS to leverage existing federal security programs that require screening through the Terrorist Screening Database to satisfy compliance under the CFATS program and avoid needlessly requiring additional background security checks or resubmission of workers' personal identifying information.

Also of importance, the legislation ensures better coordination between DHS and state and local officials. Communication and coordination at all levels is key to ensuring that facilities and communities are prepared to respond to an incident at a chemical facility.

The CFATS Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014 will also eliminate the

need for year-to-year program budget extensions, which are subject to the annual appropriations process, and provide industry with the certainty needed to make long-term planning and investment decisions regarding facility security. In addition, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will be able to effectively establish programs and make necessary changes to existing ones without worrying about whether or not the resources to administer them will be available in the future.

While the CFATS program has certainly had its share of flaws in the past, we believe that this bipartisan legislation will provide DHS with the necessary tools to improve implementation while at the same time providing Congress with the ability to conduct proper oversight of the program by monitoring implementation activities and making necessary changes when the program is subject to reauthorization.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, The Fertilizer Institute urges you to vote YES on H.R. 4007.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

J. CLARK MICA.

APRIL 29, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.
Hon. PATRICK MEEHAN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies, Washington, DC.
Hon. BENNIE THOMPSON,
Ranking Member, House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.
Hon. YVETTE CLARKE,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL, RANKING MEMBER THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN MEEHAN, AND RANKING MEMBER CLARKE: We, the undersigned organizations would like to express our support for H.R. 4007, the CFATS Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014 and urge the House Committee on Homeland Security to quickly consider and pass the bill. H.R. 4007 is a streamlined bill that provides a three year authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program and guidance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on key issues of chemical facility security.

The bill addresses several important policy goals. First, it provides a multi-year authorization to allow DHS to confidently implement CFATS and industry to make important investments with the certainty that goes along with knowing the program will be authorized. The current practice of year-to-year extensions, or worse, short-term continuing resolutions through the appropriations process, is a destabilizing force in the implementation and investment process.

Secondly, the legislation also addresses some of the major impediments to completing site security plans and full implementation of the program. It addresses certain concerns surrounding the personnel surety requirements needed for access; gives covered facilities the ability to meet site security plans through alternate security plans approved by DHS and an option to use 3rd parties as inspectors; improves Congressional oversight regarding the tiering methodology; and ensures better coordination with state and local officials.

We recognize the complexities in implementing a program like CFATS and are fully aware of some of the flaws in management exposed over the past few years. This multi-year authorization will give DHS the time and stability it needs to improve its implementation, but at the same time, will ensure that Congress has the ability to monitor the program and make any necessary changes to it before the next authorization.

The organizations and companies listed below represent thousands of American businesses that employ millions of American workers. We are manufacturers, producers, processors, distributors, transporters, and retailers in agriculture, chemistry, energy, forest products, medicine, and other businesses that form our nation's infrastructure. We support H.R. 4007, and urge the Committee on Homeland Security to quickly consider and pass this important legislation.

Thank you for your timely consideration.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association, American Chemistry Council, American Coatings Association, American Forest & Paper Association, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Gas Association, American Petroleum Institute, American Trucking Associations, Association of Oil Pipe Lines, CropLife America, Edison Electric Institute, Global Cold Chain Alliance, Institute of Makers of Explosives, International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses, International Liquid Terminals Association, International Warehouse Logistics Association, National Agricultural Aviation Association, National Association of Chemical Distributors, National Association of Manufacturers, National Mining Association, National Pest Management Association, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates, The Fertilizer Institute, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

APRIL 1, 2014.

Hon. MIKE MCCAUL,
Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.
Hon. BENNIE THOMPSON,
Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN AND RANKING MEMBER: As the Committee on Homeland Security considers legislation to promote the security of chemical facilities, we would like you to know that we share your interest and support your efforts to ensure that homeland security and the protection of America's food supply is a top priority. The nation's agricultural industry continues to take proactive steps to properly secure crops and livestock as well as vital crop input materials such as fertilizer and pesticides throughout the distribution chain. The agricultural industry has worked closely with U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials in order to establish appropriate standards and ensure compliance with the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) regulations.

Because agribusiness is unique in its use, distribution and storage of chemicals, so are its security needs. To address these unique needs, agricultural companies and trade associations formed an Agribusiness Security Working Group in 2002 to address security concerns. The members of this working group participate in DHS workgroups, such as the Chemical Sector Coordinating Council, to help coordinate agribusiness' response to DHS's requests for comments and to facilitate our industry's ability to communicate threat information, report suspicious activity and respond to emergencies.

America's agricultural industry supports passage of H.R. 4007, ''The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014'' introduced by Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies Subcommittee Chairman Patrick Meehan. We believe the extension of the current CFATS program for two years will help create regulatory certainty for the agricultural community and we support a workable Personnel Surety Program included in the bill.

The regulatory and economic impact on American agriculture and the consumer for whom essential food, fiber and bioenergy is provided is of great concern to the agricultural industry. It is our hope that any bill that comes out of the Committee on Homeland Security will recognize these unique challenges and seek to mitigate the costs of regulation to our agricultural producers while also ensuring facility security.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and perspectives shared within the broader agriculture sector. We look forward to working with you to pass chemical facility legislation that ensures the security of our vital infrastructure and that does not have unintended consequences for American agriculture.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation, Agricultural Retailers Association, Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology, CropLife America, National Agricultural Aviation Association, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, The Fertilizer Institute.

JULY 8, 2014.

DEAR MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: We, the undersigned organizations would like to express our support for H.R. 4007, the CFATS Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014 and urge you to vote in favor of the bill. H.R. 4007 is a streamlined bill that provides a three year authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program and guidance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on key issues of chemical facility security.

The bill addresses several important policy goals. First, it provides a multi-year authorization to allow DHS to confidently implement CFATS and industry to make important investments with the certainty that goes along with knowing the program will be authorized. The current practice of year-to-year extensions, or worse, short-term continuing resolutions through the appropriations process, is a destabilizing force in the implementation and investment process.

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We recognize the complexities in implementing a program like CFATS and are fully aware of some of the flaws in management exposed over the past few years. This multi-year authorization will give DHS the time and stability it needs to improve its implementation, but at the same time, will ensure that Congress has the ability to monitor the program and make any necessary changes to it before the next authorization.

The organizations and companies listed below represent thousands of American businesses that employ millions of American workers. We are manufacturers, producers, processors, distributors, transporters, and retailers in agriculture, chemistry, energy, forest products, medicine, and other businesses that form our nation's infrastructure.

We support H.R. 4007, and urge the House of Representatives to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association, American Chemistry Council, American Coatings Association, American Forest & Paper Association, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Gas Association, American Petroleum Institute, American Trucking Associations, Association of Oil Pipe Lines, Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology CropLife America, Global Cold Chain Alliance, International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses.

International Liquid Terminals Association, International Warehouse Logistics Association, National Agricultural Aviation Association, National Association of Chemical Distributors, National Association of Manufacturers, National Mining Association, National Pest Management Association, Petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates, The Fertilizer Institute, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

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Mr. MEEHAN. I would specifically like to thank my cosponsors, as well as Homeland Security Committee staff, for their hard work and tireless efforts to ensure that the views of the regulated community and the administration were properly reflected and implemented in a realistic and achievable way, with strict goals which will lift this program from stagnation to success.

I am proud of this legislation and its bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass H.R. 4007, so we can ensure that the proper measures are in place to secure our communities from the devastating potential of a terrorist attack.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4007, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4007 authorizes the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program within the Department of Homeland Security. At the outset, I would acknowledge that, during consideration in committee, a somewhat inclusive approach was taken, and, as a result, a number of amendments offered by Democratic Members were accepted.

It is regrettable that, now that H.R. 4007 is before us today, this same opportunity is not being afforded to my colleagues in the House. The decision of the Republican leadership to bring this measure up under suspension of the rules limits debate on the measure and effectively prevents any Member from offering an amendment to make further improvements to the bill.

Despite my reservations about process, I am generally supportive of H.R. 4007, as it would give DHS and chemical facility owners and operators some measure of confidence about the program's future. Since coauthoring legislation in the 109th Congress to grant DHS authority to regulate the chemical sector for security, I have consistently supported efforts at enacting a comprehensive freestanding authorization bill.

As those who have followed the CFATS program know, jurisdictional challenges have consistently complicated authorization efforts. As a result, renewal of the program has been at the mercy of the appropriations process since 2006.

H.R. 4007 is the Committee on Homeland Security's latest effort at achieving the goal of enacting CFATS legislation. The most significant prior effort was back in the 111th Congress, when the House approved H.R. 2868, legislation that I introduced with then-Energy and Commerce Chairman HENRY WAXMAN, after a year and a half of intense negotiations.

That bill eliminated the regulatory exemptions on water and wastewater facilities that have been a major concern of every Secretary of Homeland Security, especially Secretary Michael Chertoff in the Bush administration.

The bill under consideration today bears little resemblance to H.R. 2868, but, I suppose, reflects the political realities of the 113th Congress. I am disappointed that it does not directly tackle the water and wastewater exemptions that put communities and neighborhoods that are near these facilities at risk, though I note that the bill requires a security assessment of those exemptions, so that the next time Congress looks at reauthorizing CFATS, the debate will be better informed.

I am pleased that, in response to the deadly April 2013 explosion at a plant in West, Texas, H.R. 4007 gives DHS now authority to compel action by facilities that, to date, have not participated in the program that DHS views as potentially high-risk facilities.

I am also pleased that H.R. 4007 includes language authored by Representative YVETTE CLARKE to ensure the Department takes a commonsense approach to vetting transportation workers who service chemical facility shipping needs.

That said, there are a couple of areas that should be addressed before this measure reaches the President's desk. Specifically, H.R. 4007 should provide adequate whistleblower protections for those risking their jobs to report violations of law or security vulnerabilities, ensure workers have a meaningful role in developing the security plans for their facilities, and promote greater adoption of best practices and inherently safer and securer technologies among high-risk facilities.

The bill before us today is a good start, but there is more work to be done.

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4007, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act introduced by Chairman MEEHAN and myself, along with my good friend, Representative GENE GREEN from Texas. I want to thank Chairman Meehan for his very hard work on this legislation over the last year to get to the point where we are today.

I also want to thank Chairmen UPTON and SHIMKUS on the Energy and Commerce Committee for allowing this bill to go forward for a vote today, as well. Finally, we don't thank our staff enough for what they do every day. Joan O'Hara on our staff worked tirelessly on this bill with both the administration and industry to, I think, deliver a very good product.

This bipartisan bill provides the stability and the certainty that both the Department and industry have been calling for, while also making fundamental improvements to the CFATS program.

It is no secret that CFATS has had a troubled history, but this bill will allow the Department to build off its successes while correcting many of its shortcomings. After the tragic events of West, Texas, in my home State, it is imperative that we pass this bill.

Specifically, the bill ensures that DHS coordinates with other Federal agencies, State and local officials, and industry associations to make sure facilities aren't off the grid and ensure first responders are properly trained to deal with emergency incidents at CFATS facilities.

It also improves the site security plan approval and DHS accountability by requiring the Secretary to certify the Department's progress and by authorizing GAO to regularly conduct assessments and report to Congress.

In addition to being good policy, this bill enjoys widespread support by the stakeholder community and was passed unanimously out of both the subcommittee and the full committee, something I think, Mr. Chairman, is almost unheard of in this Congress here today, and I am glad that it came out of our committee, the Homeland Security Committee.

In fact, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson explicitly endorsed this bill in his first appearance testifying on the Hill before our committee.

I would also finally like to, again, thank Chairman MEEHAN, as well as all the cosponsors of this bipartisan legislation, and I urge their support.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York, Ms. YVETTE CLARKE, the ranking member on the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee on the Homeland Security Committee.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the

ranking member who has done a yeoman's job in helping alongside our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to move this forward.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Homeland Security has a great stake and a long history of trying to help the troubled Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards, or CFATS, program succeed. Consideration of H.R. 4007 today is our latest effort.

While I feel that it would have been better to bring this bill before the full House under a rule, so that Members could offer amendments, I want to commend my counterpart on the Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies Subcommittee, Mr. MEEHAN, for his diligence and commitment to moving the legislation through regular order in committee.

Upon introduction of this bill, I had a number of concerns with the bill. Amazingly, the original legislation had a requirement that required CFATS to terminate after 2 years.

It also did not provide an authorization of appropriations or codify the critical infrastructure protection program within the Homeland Security Act. This was corrected by Democratic amendments, many of which I offered, that were accepted in committee.

A major impetus for action to authorize the CFATS program was certainly the explosion last April in West, Texas, at a fertilizer facility containing a huge amount of ammonium nitrate. As we later learned, the facility was willfully off the regulatory grid and unknown to DHS.

Through the committee process, language was adopted to give DHS new authority to bring so-called outlier facilities into compliance. We had an energetic debate at subcommittee with respect to whether nongovernmental third-party contractors should be utilized to carry out compliance visits and inspections.

I appreciate the majority's view that augmenting the DHS inspector workforce in this fashion could be helpful with respect to the massive backlog of security inspections that exist in the CFATS program. However, there are other ways to increase capacity without contracting out jobs.

Further, there is a troubled history with the CFATS program of overreliance on contractors. I believe that, if DHS goes down this path, there need to be structures in place to ensure that work done by contractors is promptly and accurately fed into the regulatory system. That is why I offered language in committee to build in oversight and accountability. I am pleased to say that it was accepted.

A lingering concern—underscored by the Steelworkers, Teamsters, and others—is even if there is broad recognition that, for CFATS to work, we need chemical workers to come forward to report security vulnerabilities and CFATS compliance issues, no guaranteed whistleblower protections attach.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Men and women that risk their positions and paychecks to make their workplace, their communities, and the Nation more secure deserve access to meaningful whistleblower protections. Should H.R. 4007 be approved today, I would put whistleblower protections high on the to-do list for the Senate.

Then there is the matter of the statutory exemptions barring DHS from regulatory water, wastewater, and other critical infrastructure chemical facilities. The bill perpetuates the exemption without consideration of the arguments that former DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff and others have made about the risks.

Encouragingly, the committee accepted the amendment offered by Ranking Member THOMPSON to require an independent study of the terrorism vulnerabilities associated with the limited authority granted to DHS and the exemption on water and wastewater facilities. The results of that study will be important to inform Congress when the CFATS is up for reauthorization in 3 years.

Overall, I would say that, through the committee process, the bill has been improved. Is there more work to be done? Certainly—that is why I am profoundly disappointed that H.R. 4007 is being considered on suspension.

Many Members of this body that do not have the privilege to sit on the Homeland Security Committee have concerns about the vital, critical infrastructure program that affects their districts, towns, and neighborhoods.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. WAXMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, since before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, experts have been concerned about the vulnerability of chemical plants to attack. These facilities hold large stores of industrial chemicals which pose a safety and security risk to the American people if they are released or detonated.

A recent report found that more than 134 million Americans live in the vulnerability zones around these chemical facilities. I have such a facility in my district, which is a very serious concern for the surrounding community.

These risks have not been addressed adequately, and this bill falls short of what is needed. The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program at the Department of Homeland Security has not been successful. It was set up through an appropriations rider that did not give the Department the tools it needed to succeed.

The original statute blocked effective enforcement, leading to a lack of compliance. We saw the dangers of noncompliance when the West Fertilizer Company facility in West, Texas, exploded. Unfortunately, those limitations on enforcement would be preserved by this bill.

The original statute blocked the Department from requiring measures to reduce the consequences of a terrorist attack and, in the process, created serious obstacles to disapproving site security plans that failed to meet the program's standards.

□ 1700

This led to an approval process so complicated that it took more than 5 years for the Department to complete its review of the first facility. This bill preserves those obstacles.

There have been significant issues with the background check requirements promulgated under the existing program, and this bill would preserve and codify some of those problems.

The President should be commended for recognizing this program's deficiencies and taking strong action to address them, including issuing an executive order on chemical safety and security last year. The working group created by that executive order has looked at how best to secure these facilities with fresh eyes, and the administration is now moving to revise and improve the program.

These reforms are important and necessary, but they are not reflected in this bill. Instead, this bill could limit the Department's ability to improve the program. That just doesn't make sense.

In its current form, this bill is simply not adequate to provide real protections for the public. My view is that we should strengthen this bill before sending it to the Senate. If this bill passes today, we should work with the Senate to strengthen the bill and enact legislation we can all support.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania, and I thank him for working with me on H.R. 4007. I rise in support of H.R. 4007, the CFATS Authorization and Accountability Act, legislation I introduced with Congressman MEEHAN and my friend Chairman MCCAUL.

This bipartisan legislation would, for the first time, codify the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program that DHS has been operating through appropriations funding since 2007.

Last October, during the government shutdown, the American people saw that without authorization of the CFATS program there would be no

legal binding regulations in place to protect our Nation's chemical facilities from criminal and terrorist attacks once the appropriations expired.

I have the honor of representing north and east Harris County and the Houston Ship Channel, at the heart of our Nation's petrochemical industry. The expiration of the CFATS program puts the safety of my constituents who work in and live in the communities that surround these facilities in danger, and it is our obligation as the people's elected representatives to do everything we can to protect them from harm's way.

I have heard the concern of those on my side of the aisle who do not support this legislation. I agree that this is not perfect legislation. It does not solve every problem that exists in the CFATS program, but a number of Congresses since 2007 have had the opportunity to do this but we haven't.

The main purpose of this bill is to reauthorize CFATS for 3 years and give Congress the opportunity to oversee DHS' progress or lack thereof. This bill will solve the personnel surety issue by allowing workers who have TWIC or HME cards to have access to chemical facilities without having to get another Federal credential. Representing those plants, I saw what happened with the TWIC card and the concern of folks who have to pay more money for another Federal ID card. This bill, if passed, would protect the folks who work in those plants. That is important to my constituents who already have TWIC cards and work in the petrochemical plants and drive the trucks that deliver the raw materials and products they produce.

I urge my colleagues to join the Homeland Security Committee, which passed this legislation by voice vote, and Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, who has been vocal in support of the legislation, and vote in support of H.R. 4007.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and if the gentleman from Pennsylvania has no more speakers, I am prepared to close.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers and reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, while I am supportive of advancing this legislation to the Senate in the hopes of moving the process forward to provide a multiyear authorization for the CFATS program, there is more work to be done.

Should H.R. 4007 be approved today, I will work with my colleagues in the other body to work towards ensuring that the legislation provides adequate whistleblower protections for those risking their jobs to report violations of law or security vulnerabilities, ensures workers have a meaningful role in developing the security plans for their facilities, and promotes greater adoption of best practices and inherently safer and securer technologies among high-risk facilities.

The bill before us today is a good start, but there is more work to be done.

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

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

I want to express my deep appreciation to my colleagues on my side of the aisle, but particularly to my colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee and subcommittee, the ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON, and the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentlelady from New York. As both have articulated, there is more work to be done, and nobody disputes that particular issue; but we also appreciate that this is an issue which has been laying for a long period of time without resolution, and we are taking very responsible steps to take a big step forward in the authorization of this program.

We worked with both sides of the aisle to try to handle as many issues as we could. As has been articulated, 15 Democratic amendments have been made part of this bill. The wastewater issue was an important one, but mature security programs do exist for that. It is one of the original critical infrastructures as part of the Sector Coordinating Council for DHS. But I agree, there is still more work to be done in that particular area.

We are worried about outliers as well. One of the gentlemen raised the issue of the chemical facilities that have avoided scrutiny, which led to the West, Texas, situation, but it is for that reason that this bill is so critically important and we act now. It is because it gives DHS the ability to affirmatively reach out to those facilities that are not compliant, and what this bill does is it rewards those who have taken responsible steps towards identifying and creating the kinds of plans that are contemplated underneath this bill, but it also calls to challenge those who have been avoiding scrutiny.

So the issues still may be there for future resolution, but we will, in 3 years, be able to bring this bill back up for reconsideration, and during that period of time we can work together on both sides of the aisle to ensure that it is done appropriately. I encourage my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I rise in support of H.R. 4007, the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act is a step forward in securing our nation from potential terrorist attacks or threats to the homeland.

I want to acknowledge the work of Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member THOMPSON that resulted in this bill being considered by the Full House.

During Full Committee consideration of H.R. 4007, two Jackson Lee Amendments were unanimously agreed to for inclusion in the bill.

The first Jackson Lee Amendment directs the Secretary to establish an outreach plan to facilitate collaboration between the Department and the owners and operators of small chemical facilities for the purpose of assisting them with the development of physical security best practices.

This collaboration will begin with established relationships, which exists among local and state authorities; and small chemical facility owners and operators.

The Secretary will create opportunities to incorporate Regional Directors and Protective Security Advisors within the collaborative framework that is developed with the full cooperation and input of small chemical facility owners and operators who elect to participate.

Large chemical facilities will have access to nearly unlimited resources to meet their own security needs, but smaller chemical facilities may not have the resources to protect themselves from similar terrorist threats.

The second Jackson Lee Amendment creates opportunities for small chemical facility operators and owners to gain more insight or guidance on improving their facility's physical security.

The third Jackson Lee Amendment allows the Secretary Homeland Security to consult with the Government Accountability Office to investigate the feasibility and applicability of a third party accreditation program that would work with industry stakeholders to develop site security plans.

This amendment would allow chemical facility owners and operators to devise challenging tests, and exercises that pit their knowledge against what terrorists may attempt to do should their facility become a target.

These amendment's will assist chemical facility security experts in thinking of potential threats before terrorists do so that they may take steps to eliminate them before terrorists could exploit discovered vulnerabilities.

Since September 11, 2001, security experts have warned of vulnerabilities that exist should terrorists plan to attack a chemical facility located within the United States or far worse use unlawful access to a facility, pipelines, or transit routes to steal chemicals for an attack.

The 18th Congressional District which I serve is home to some of the world's largest Chemical producers which employ thousands of Houston area residents to provide the nation with products are vital to our nation and its economy.

Chemicals are a vital and common presence in the lives of all of our nation's citizens, but we often forget how dangerous they can be under the wrong conditions.

On April 17, of last year the small town of West Texas felt the power and destructive force of ammonium nitrate when an accidental fire ignited what is believed to have been between 140 to 160 tons of the chemical.

This was no terrorist attack, but a very tragic accident.

The accident in the town of West Texas reminded all of us who represent districts that count chemical plants or their owners and operators as constituents—that these facilities should have the resources necessary to protect their property from potential terrorists' threats or attacks.

H.R. 4007 reestablishes the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Program, under which the Secretary of Homeland

Security (DHS) is required to: establish risk-based performance standards designed to protect covered chemical facilities from acts of terrorism; require such facilities to submit security vulnerability assessments and develop and implement site security plans; review and approve or disapprove each such assessment and plan; arrange for the audit and inspection of covered chemical facilities to determine compliance with this Act; and notify, and issue an order to comply to, the owner or operator of a facility not in compliance.

The legislation is based upon feedback and information the Homeland Security Committee and the Committee on Energy and Commerce received through countless meetings with industry stakeholders, the regulated community, first responders, union representatives, the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, and the Department of Homeland Security itself.

Among the benefits H.R. 4007 provides are:

Greatly improved coordination and communication between DHS and the owners and operators of chemical facilities.

Enhanced information sharing with the first responders who put themselves in harms way dealing with chemical facility incidents, like the tragedy at West, TX.

A more workable employee-screening methodology, that allows facility owners and operators to implement procedures that make sense and ensure maximum security.

The elimination of the problem of "outlier" chemical facilities (currently, there are thousands of facilities still unknown to DHS) to ensure no facility remains "off the grid".

The certainty that chemical infrastructure security will no longer hang in the balance with each year's appropriations cycle.

Ensures that whistleblower protections available to facility workers who report security issues to DHS are clearly articulated in all CFATS media and materials.

Greater Department accountability through mandatory biannual GAO audits of the CFATS program to provide for informed and thorough Congressional oversight.

I ask my colleagues from both side of the aisle to support this bipartisan bill, which received strong support from the Committee on Homeland Security.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.
Hon. PATRICK MEEHAN,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies, Washington, DC.
Hon. BENNIE THOMPSON,
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, DC.
Hon. YVETTE CLARKE,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL, RANKING MEMBER THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN MEEHAN, AND RANKING MEMBER CLARKE:

We, the undersigned organizations would like to express our support for H.R. 4007, the CFATS Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014 and urge the House Committee on Homeland Security to quickly consider and pass the bill. H.R. 4007 is a streamlined bill that provides a three year authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program and guidance to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on key issues of chemical facility security.

The bill addresses several important policy goals. First, it provides a multi-year authorization to allow DHS to confidently implement CFATS and industry to make important investments with the certainty that goes along with knowing the program will be authorized. The current practice of year-to-year extensions, or worse, short-term continuing resolutions through the appropriations process, is a destabilizing force in the implementation and investment process.

Secondly, the legislation also addresses some of the major impediments to completing site security plans and full implementation of the program. It addresses certain concerns surrounding the personnel surety requirements needed for access; gives covered facilities the ability to meet site security plans through alternate security plans approved by DHS and an option to use 3rd parties as inspectors; improves Congressional oversight regarding the tiering methodology; and ensures better coordination with state and local officials.

We recognize the complexities in implementing a program like CFATS and are fully aware of some of the flaws in management exposed over the past few years. This multi-year authorization will give DHS the time and stability it needs to improve its implementation, but at the same time, will ensure that Congress has the ability to monitor the program and make any necessary changes to it before the next authorization.

The organizations and companies listed below represent thousands of American businesses that employ millions of American workers. We are manufacturers, producers, processors, distributors, transporters, and retailers in agriculture, chemistry, energy, forest products, medicine, and other businesses that form our nation's infrastructure. We support H.R. 4007, and urge the Committee on Homeland Security to quickly consider and pass this important legislation.

Thank you for your timely consideration.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association, American Chemistry Council, American Coatings Association, American Forest & Paper Association, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers, American Gas Association, American Petroleum Institute, American Trucking Associations, Association of Oil Pipe Lines, CropLife America, Edison Electric Institute, Global Cold Chain Alliance, Institute of Makers of Explosives.

International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses, International Liquid Terminals Association, International Warehouse Logistics Association, National Agricultural Aviation Association, National Association of Chemical Distributors, National Association of Manufacturers, National Mining Association, National Pest Management Association, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates, The Fertilizer Institute, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER AND LEADER PELOSI: The American Chemistry Council (ACC) urges you to vote yes today on H.R. 4007, The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014. ACC strongly supports this bill which would give much needed long term authorization to the CFATS program. CFATS regulates security for a wide variety of facilities that make, store, or use chemicals from farms to factories. The program allows facilities to tailor their security plans to meet their unique needs, and authorization of the program would give the industry long overdue regulatory certainty.

ACC is the trade association for the chemical industry in the United States, which is a $770 billion industry and employs 784,000 Americans in high wage jobs. The industry is experiencing a renaissance thanks to the increase in domestic shale gas production, and our members have announced over $110 billion in new planned capital expenditures that will provide tens of thousands of new jobs, and give manufacturers throughout the value chain a domestic supply of the chemicals they need to manufacture products in this country. Ensuring that clear and workable security regulations remain in place is an important part of creating an environment that will continue to foster these new investments.

DHS has dramatically improved its administration of the CFATS program, which has had a positive impact on enhancing security at US chemical sites, and ACC supports making this a permanent program for the approximately 4,500 sites that are regulated under CFATS. Congressional oversight via an authorization would help DHS with some of the challenges they have faced implementing the program, even as the agency has made progress with a new management structure. The industry has seen considerable increased activity from DHS, including improved quality of inspections and faster authorizations. Most importantly, DHS leadership has demonstrated a commitment to working with stakeholders to improve the implementation of the CFATS program.

A long term authorization outside of the appropriation process will provide the regulatory consistency and operational stability to ensure the success of CFATS, while giving industry confidence in their long term capital commitments to this program. Ensuring the future of this important program will also help DHS recruit and retain top talent to effectively implement CFATS.

Please contact Mike Meenan, Director of Federal Affairs at mike___meenan@americanchemistry.com or at (202) 249–6216 if we can be of any assistance while you consider this important vote.

Sincerely,

CAL DOOLEY.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4007, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP ACT OF 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4263) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4263

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 ''Social Media Working Group Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 318. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish within the Department a social media working group (in this section referred to as the 'Group').

''(b) PURPOSE.—In order to enhance information sharing between the Department and appropriate stakeholders, the Group shall provide guidance and best practices to the emergency preparedness and response community on the use of social media technologies before, during, and after a terrorist attack or other emergency.

''(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall serve as the permanent chairperson of the Group, and shall designate, on a rotating basis, a representative from a State or local government who is a member of the Group to serve as co-chairperson. The Under Secretary shall establish term limits for individuals appointed to the Group pursuant to paragraph (2). Membership of the Group shall be composed of a cross section of subject matter experts from Federal, State, local, tribal, and nongovernmental organization practitioners, including representatives from the following entities:

''(A) The Office of Public Affairs of the Department.

''(B) The Office of the Chief Information Officer of the Department.

''(C) The Privacy Office of the Department.

''(D) The Federal Emergency Management Agency.

''(E) The Office of Disability Integration and Coordination of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

''(F) The American Red Cross.

''(G) The Forest Service.

''(H) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

''(I) The United States Geological Survey.

''(J) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

''(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall appoint, on a rotating basis, qualified individuals to the Group. The total number of such additional members shall—

''(A) be equal to or greater than the total number of regular members under paragraph (1); and

''(B) include—

''(i) not fewer than three representatives from the private sector; and

''(ii) representatives from—

''(I) State, local, and tribal entities, including from—

''(aa) law enforcement;

''(bb) fire services;

''(cc) emergency management services; and

''(dd) public health entities;

''(II) universities and academia; and

''(III) non-profit disaster relief organizations.

''(d) CONSULTATION WITH NON-MEMBERS.—To the extent practicable, the Group shall work with existing bodies in the public and private sectors to carry out subsection (b).

''(e) MEETINGS.—

''(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Group shall hold its initial meeting. Such initial meeting may be held virtually.

''(2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—After the initial meeting under paragraph (1), the Group shall meet at least twice each year, or at the call of the Chairperson. Such subsequent meetings may be held virtually.

''(f) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Group.

''(g) REPORTS.—Not later than March 30 of each year, the Group shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

''(1) A review of current and emerging social media technologies being used to support preparedness and response activities related to terrorist attacks and other emergencies.

''(2) A review of best practices and lessons learned on the use of social media during the response to terrorist attacks and other emergencies that occurred during the period covered by the report at issue.

''(3) Recommendations to improve the Department's use of social media for emergency management purposes.

''(4) Recommendations to improve public awareness of the type of information disseminated through social media, and how to access such information, during a terrorist attack or other emergency.

''(5) Recommendations to improve information sharing among the Department and its components.

''(6) Recommendations to improve information sharing among State and local governments.

''(7) A review of available training for Federal, State, local, and tribal officials on the use of social media in response to a terrorist attack or other emergency.

''(8) A summary of coordination efforts with the private sector to discuss and resolve legal, operational, technical, privacy, and security concerns.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 317 the following new item:

''Sec. 318. Social media working group.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4263, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2014. As chairwoman of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I introduced this bill, along with Ranking Member PAYNE, Chairman MCCAUL, and Representatives PALAZZO and SWALWELL, in response to testimony we received at two social media hearings the subcommittee held last year.

Social media is transforming the way the Nation is communicating before, during, and after a disaster. There are countless examples from recent disasters of how citizens are turning to Facebook, Twitter, and even Instagram for public safety information to comfort survivors and request assistance. We have seen how vital social media is becoming in preparedness and response efforts, particularly during Superstorm Sandy and in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings.

I recently sent out tweets to inform my own constituents about a tornado warning and recommended that they follow local news outlets for the most up-to-date information. And just last week, FEMA, the National Weather Service, and emergency management agencies along the east coast used social media to alert citizens about Hurricane Arthur, the first named storm of the 2014 hurricane season.

This morning I had the opportunity, along with Chairman MCCAUL, to visit the American Red Cross' Digital Operations Center, the first ever social media center for humanitarian relief. I was impressed to hear that during Superstorm Sandy, the Red Cross analyzed over 2.5 million pieces of social data and sent over 300 different pieces of information to operation teams to help with decisionmaking.

Last year, the subcommittee held two hearings that focused on this new reality. One of the key takeaways from these hearings was that during and after a disaster there needs to be better communication between the public and private sector, specifically with how to utilize social media as a communications tool. H.R. 4263 addresses this recommendation by authorizing and enhancing the Department of Homeland Security's Virtual Social Media Working Group to ensure information sharing between the Department and appropriate stakeholders and the leveraging of best practices.

Additionally, this bill will increase stakeholder participation, particularly among the private sector and Federal response agencies, creating a ''whole community'' dialogue on this issue. The bill will require the group to submit an annual report to Congress highlighting best practices, lessons learned, and any recommendations.

Lastly, this bill will require the group to meet in person or virtually at least twice a year and will not be a financial burden on the Department.

In today's day and age where new social media platforms and technologies can change the game almost instantly, we must ensure our first responders are nimble enough to adapt to an ever-changing landscape. This group is but one way to help facilitate this.

The Committee on Homeland Security approved H.R. 4263 last month by a bipartisan voice vote. I certainly appreciate the manner in which my ranking member, Mr. PAYNE, has worked with me on passage of this with our committee. I urge Members to join me and the rest of our committee in supporting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 4263, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2014.

The Internet has changed the world. It has changed how the government

serves its citizens, how businesses serve their customers, and how the public engages in activism.

□ 1715

The responses to the Boston Marathon bombings and Hurricane Sandy, which devastated my State, underscores the power and the potential of social media. After each of these devastating events, we saw the Internet used to galvanize ordinary citizens into action.

In the wake of the Boston bombings, Boston residents used Google Docs to let marathoners know that their homes were open to those who were unable to return to their hotels. After Hurricane Sandy, survivors posted the horrific images of homes washed away on Twitter and Facebook to help the world understand the strength of the storm. Survivors also used social media to reconnect with loved ones and to share information about which gas stations, grocery stores, and pharmacies were open.

In my district, the local utility PSE&G used social media to communicate with customers about how to prepare for the storm to mitigate damage and about power restoration afterwards. Public Service Electric and Gas' use of social media was so effective that it was recognized by J.D. Power and Associates as a ''best practice.'' And CS Week, a nonprofit that focuses on customer service for utilities, gave PSE&G an award for innovation and customer service.

Although PSE&G's use of social media was incredibly successful, there were important lessons learned that should be shared among organizations utilizing social media during a disaster response. For example, PSE&G exceeded the allowable number of tweets per day and needed to reach out to Twitter leadership for a temporary expansion of capacity. In addition to spikes in social media use during the disaster, PSE&G learned important lessons related to the tone of communications and the demand for information during a disaster.

H.R. 4263 would authorize the Social Media Working Group that sits with the Science and Technology Directorate to facilitate the exchange of best practices and lessons learned related to the use of social media during disasters. The measure would also ensure that the Federal Government and first responders continue to fully utilize the capabilities of the Internet and social media to communicate with more people during disasters.

I would like to congratulate Subcommittee Chairwoman BROOKS on the success of her efforts to ensure the way government officials and first responders communicate with the public before, during, and after disaster strikes keeps pace with evolving technology.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4263.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers as well, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen the rise in the use of social media both before, during, and after disasters. This legislation will help to ensure we are leveraging best practices, sharing and incorporating lessons learned for the use of social media in this area.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 4263, ''The Social Media Working Group Act of 2014,'' would establish within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) a social media working group.

The Social Media Working Group would provide guidance and best practices to the emergency preparedness and response community on the use of social media technologies before, during, and after a terrorist attack.

Today, people are relying more on Internet enabled communications to engage and be engaged in communications.

Since September 11, 2001, our nation has committed resources toward the preparation of our first responders and citizens in preventing, mitigating and responding to terrorist events.

As these efforts continue, we must keep up with the times. Part of that requires that Congress makes sure that the Department of Homeland Security and especially the Federal Emergency Management Agency can engage citizens in ways that they receive and send information.

In 2012, smartphones, most particularly phones running Apple Computer's iOS and the open source Android operating system, accounted for at least 40 percent of the mobile devices used in the United States.

In the first quarter of 2012, mobile phone consumers spent over $109 billion, while consumers of landline-telephone service spent $64.4 billion.

The Federal Communication Commission reports that this trend is expected accelerate as United States consumers participate in a worldwide trend towards mobile communication devices and away from traditional means of receiving and sending information.

Electronic tablet computers and e-readers, the other fully enabled portable Internet devices, smartphones are increasingly a resource for people to access information, share content, and communicate their views.

Social media is quickly emerging as a major source of information that citizens rely upon to receive news and engage government.

The number of people using social networking sites has nearly doubled since 2008.

In a 2011, a Pew Internet Center Research Project reported that 79 percent of American adults said they used the Internet and 59 percent of all Internet users say they use at least one of social networking service, such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or Instagram.

The reasons for supporting this bill are obvious and I ask my colleagues in the House to vote for its passage.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4263, the Social Media Working Group Act.

Since I arrived in Congress, I have seen the destruction caused by man-made and natural disasters.

From the September 11th attacks—to Hurricane Katrina—to the mass shootings that have devastated communities across America, one truism that has repeatedly been identified is that early alerts and timely information saves lives.

Toward that end, the Committee on Homeland Security has worked hard to support the Department's efforts to harness all means of communication to ensure that that public can take appropriate action before, during, and after disaster strikes.

To date, Federal efforts have focused on the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, and the Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System.

But, as we have seen during recent disasters, social media allows the government and private sector to disseminate useful information to hundreds of thousands of people.

I support the innovative use of social media in disaster preparedness and response because it has the ability to make more people safer, faster.

It can also help first responders work more quickly and more efficiently.

That said, we must work to implement practices to ensure that social media is used appropriately and effectively, and that the information distributed is reliable.

It is critical that information after a disaster must be accurate. There needs to be guidance and policies in place to ensure that widely-distributed disaster-related information is accurate, or to correct the information when it is not.

I am hopeful that H.R. 4263 would provide a forum for government officials and the private sector to come together to address this and other challenges related to the use of social media during disasters and to share best practices.

I congratulate Subcommittee Chairwoman BROOKS and Ranking Member PAYNE, Jr. on their work to ensure that government officials and first responders take full advantage of the technology available to communicate with the public during a disaster.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4263, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS ACT

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4289) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable

communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4289

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 ''Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act'' or the ''DHS Interoperable Communications Act''.

SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITIES IN RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.

Section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4) of subsection (a), by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', including policies and directives to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among the components of the Department''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'interoperable communications' means the ability of components of the Department to communicate with each other as necessary, utilizing information technology systems and radio communications systems to exchange voice, data, and video in real time, as necessary, for acts of terrorism, daily operations, planned events, and emergencies.''.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a strategy, which shall be updated as necessary, for achieving and maintaining interoperable communications (as such term is defined in subsection (d) of section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2 of this Act) among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, including for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies, with corresponding milestones, that includes, at a minimum the following:

(1) An assessment of interoperability gaps in radio communications among the components of the Department, as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) Information on efforts and activities, including current and planned policies, directives, and training, of the Department since November 1, 2012, to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among the components of the Department, and planned efforts and activities of the Department to achieve and maintain such interoperable communications.

(3) An assessment of obstacles and challenges to achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of the Department.

(4) Information on, and an assessment of, the adequacy of mechanisms available to the Under Secretary for Management to enforce and compel compliance with interoperable communications policies and directives of the Department.

(5) Guidance provided to the components of the Department to implement interoperable communications policies and directives of the Department.

(6) The total amount of funds expended by the Department since November 1, 2012, and projected future expenditures, to achieve interoperable communications, including on equipment, infrastructure, and maintenance.

(7) Dates upon which Department-wide interoperability is projected to be achieved for voice, data, and video communications, respectively, and interim milestones that correspond to the achievement of each such mode of communication.

(b) SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL.—Together with the strategy required under subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Management shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate information on any intra-agency effort or task force that has been delegated certain responsibilities by the Under Secretary relating to achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of the Department by the dates referred to in paragraph (9) of subsection (a), and on who, within each such component, is responsible for implementing policies and directives issued by the Under Secretary to so achieve and maintain such interoperable communications.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 220 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and biannually thereafter, the Under Secretary for Management shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the status of efforts, since the issuance of the strategy required under section 3, to implement such strategy, including the following:

(1) Progress on each interim milestone referred to in paragraph (9) of subsection (a) toward achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the components of the Department.

(2) Information on any policies, directives, guidance, and training established by the Under Secretary.

(3) An assessment of the level of compliance, adoption, and participation among the components of the Department with the policies, directives, guidance, and training established by the Under Secretary to achieve and maintain interoperable communications among such components.

(4) Information on any additional resources or authorities needed by the Under Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4289, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act, introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, Mr. PAYNE. I am happy to be an original cosponsor of this important legislation, which the Committee on Homeland Security also approved last month by a bipartisan voice vote.

This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to include, among the responsibilities of the Department of Homeland Security's Under Secretary for Management, achieving and maintaining interoperable communications among the Department's components.

H.R. 4289 addresses the findings and recommendations of a November 2012 DHS Office of Inspector General report, which stated that the Department does not have the appropriate oversight or governance structure to ensure communications interoperability among its own components.

The Department has been in the forefront on working with stakeholders to provide our Nation's first responders with the resources and tools needed to have effective interoperable communications. Now the Department needs to practice what they preach. It is vital that the Department's own components are able to effectively communicate day to day and, most importantly, during emergencies.

In order to ensure the Department is taking the necessary steps to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities, H.R. 4289 requires the Department's Under Secretary for Management to submit an interoperable communications strategy to the Department of Homeland Security no later than 120 days after enactment.

I applaud the ranking member for his work and leadership on bringing this to the floor.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of H.R. 4289, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act.

Mr. Speaker, when I began my work on this subcommittee last year, I was shocked to learn how much money had been spent on interoperable communications since the September 11 terrorist attacks. Nationwide, we have spent over $13 billion to achieve interoperable communications at the State and local level, and we are not there yet.

Given the degree of attention that the Federal Government, in general, and DHS, in particular, have devoted to interoperability, I was surprised to learn that DHS has not achieved Department-wide interoperability.

Police officers and firefighters from Newark to Jersey City and across the

10th Congressional District of New Jersey never leave my office without reminding me how important interoperable communications are. Nevertheless, according to a November 2012 inspector general report, DHS has invested over $430 million into communications capabilities for its 123,000 radio users since 2003, but Department ''personnel do not have reliable interoperable communications for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies.''

Indeed, the inspector general testified before the committee in May that in 2012 it asked 479 DHS field radio users to access and use the specified channel to communicate. Only one of those 479 radio users—one of 479—could get on the common channel. That is a 99.8 percent failure rate.

The problem is not technology. Instead, the inspector general found that the Department had not established and implemented protocols to ensure that components put practices in place to achieve interoperability.

H.R. 4289, the DHS Interoperable Communications Act, which I introduced with my colleague on the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, Chairwoman BROOKS, requires that certain actions be taken by DHS leadership to drive components in the field towards interoperability. The legislation directs the Under Secretary for Management to issue policies and directives related to interoperability, develop a strategy to achieve DHS-wide interoperability, and report to Congress biannually on the Department's progress.

Interoperable communications capabilities are critical to the mission DHS carries out and to first responders across the United States. DHS must lead by example.

Toward that end, I was encouraged that the Department's acting Under Secretary for Management, Chris Cummiskey, expressed his commitment to addressing this issue when he appeared before the subcommittee last month. It is my hope that this legislation will bolster his efforts and make it clear to everyone in the Department that Congress is looking to DHS to achieve interoperability.

Before reserving my time, I would like to thank Subcommittee Chairwoman BROOKS for working with me on this measure. We have found that there are many issues in terms of this matter, and we have worked in a bipartisan manner to make sure that interoperability is achieved.

I would also like to thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their help in addressing this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we have looked at this issue. We continue to talk to first responders throughout my district and throughout the Nation. We know that these issues around homeland security are bipartisan, and we have been able to work on this committee in a manner which we all have the same goal, which is to make sure this Nation is safe and the homeland is secure.

I urge my colleagues to support improving the interoperable communications at DHS by voting for H.R. 4289. Our communities are safer when DHS has the capabilities necessary to effectively carry out its mission. Mr. Speaker, we always have to make sure that we keep our first responders safe.

Mr. Speaker, interoperable communications capabilities are essential to DHS' ability to carry out its mission on a day-to-day basis when disaster strikes. H.R. 4289 would put DHS on the path to achieving cross-component interoperable communications, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure. We must protect our protectors. Our first responders deserve the ability to communicate with each other.

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that the various component agencies of the Department of Homeland Security are able to communicate on a daily basis, and particularly in times of crisis. As the ranking member has pointed out, it is not only our first responders, but all of our Federal agencies that deal with crisis daily.

Right now, numerous components, including being led in part by ICE, FEMA, and CBP, are working together to respond to the influx of unaccompanied alien children across our southern border. They must communicate together with one another. It is so important as they address this crisis. This is just one example of the latest reason why communications interoperability must be achieved and maintained between and among Department of Homeland Security's components.

I urge all Members to join the ranking member and myself in supporting this very important bipartisan legislation.

□ 1730

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me just indicate that I have just arrived and I wanted to support all of the bills, including yours.

If I might just make one comment about the preclearance bill, which we have all worked very hard on. I want to thank Mr. PAYNE and Mrs. BROOKS for their leadership, and just make the point that we have worked in a bipartisan manner in Homeland Security very effectively.

I also wanted to make mention in particular of the bill that I worked on extensively, H.R. 3488, the Preclearance Authorization Act, and to indicate that this is a bill in which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish and conduct preclearance operations. It is imperative, as we seek to push out our Nation's borders.

So we have had a vigorous discussion about how you utilize these preclearance sites. I think it comes to mind with some of the sites in the Middle East. And in light of where we are today, with TSA having to put in place new requirements because of the potential threat, I think this is a very positive step, as I do of all the bills, including ones dealing with interoperability, which we dealt with during the tragedy of 9/11.

I want to again thank Ranking Member PAYNE and the full committee chair and ranking member for their leadership.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Reclaiming my time, I reiterate that I urge all Members to join Ranking Member PAYNE and I in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

The gentlewoman from Texas has been very involved as well on the issues involving the unaccompanied alien children and interoperable communications issues. I appreciate her comments, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 4289, the ''Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act.''

One of the major lessons of the September 11th attacks was that operable and interoperable communications are imperative to an effective response.

Simply put, when law enforcement and other first responders have interoperable communications during an incident or disaster, lives are saved.

As a Nation, we have invested over $13 billion on interoperable communications. However, the goal of achieving interoperability continues to evade us—even at the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal agency that is in charge of driving efforts to achieve interoperability at the Federal, State, and local levels.

In November 2012, the Office of the Inspector General reported that DHS' interoperable communications capability was deficient.

For example, of the radios examined during the OIG's audit, only 20 percent of them were set up to use the common channel.

The Inspector General recommended that stronger Departmental governance be established to ensure communications policies are fully implemented.

At the time, DHS explicitly rejected the OIG recommendation that a stronger governing structure be established and, instead, insisted that its existing structures were sufficient.

Nevertheless, the interoperability problem at DHS persists to this day.

This past May, Inspector General John Roth appeared before the Committee on Homeland Security and said: ''I am frankly concerned that as we speak today a Secret Service agent in New York can't get on his radio and talk to a Federal Protective Service officer in New York or a CBP officer in El Paso can't talk to a Homeland Security Investigations Agent in the same city.''

H.R. 4289 would require the Department to undertake the planning and oversight necessary to ensure that achievement of interoperability within DHS.

I would like to congratulate Subcommittee Ranking Member PAYNE, Jr. and Chairwoman BROOKS for their commitment to addressing this critical issue. I wish them success in their efforts and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4289.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 4289, the ''Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act,'' which will help ensure the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) achieves cross-component interoperability.

This bill implements several recommendations contained in a 2012 report of the DHS Inspector General on the status and quality of interoperable radio communications.

A major finding of the report is that DHS has spent over $430 million in the past 9 years for communication purposes but it still does not ''have interoperable communications for daily operations, planned events, and emergencies.''

The IG report also found that 99% (478 out of 479) of radio users surveyed could not find the DHS common channel because the components did not ''effectively inform them'' of the correct channel.

That is why it is important that we vote today to implement the following specific recommendations from the report:

1. Create a structure with the necessary authority to ensure that the components achieve interoperability.

2. Create a structure with the necessary authority to ensure that the components achieve interoperability.

Because the mission of DHS is to ensure that our homeland is safe, secure, and resilient against terrorism and other hazards, effective communication within the organization is crucial.

According to the IG, the reason for this lack of communication is that DHS's efforts to achieve department-wide interoperable communications capability have been undermined by excessive reliance upon on Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) and voluntary participation by communications task forces and working groups.

This means that various agencies within DHS do not have a standardized set of policies regarding radios and the department's leadership has not been successful in enforcing adherence to those policies by all department components.

Although the IG urged DHS to implement a stronger enforcement structure, DHS has not adopted this recommendation, insisting instead that its existing structure is effective.

Plainly, it is not.

H.R. 4289 follows the recommendation from the report and ensures that DHS can achieve cross-component interoperability by:

Directing the Undersecretary to submit to Congress a strategy for achieving Department-wide interoperability within 120 days of enactment.

Report to Congress within 220 days, and bi-annually thereafter, on the progress of efforts to implement the Department-wide interoperability strategy.

Since its founding, the Department of Homeland Security has overcome many challenges as an organization but much more progress must be made regarding effective inter-operable communication between the federal, state, and local agencies.

Athough not a panacea, H.R. 4289 is a step in the right direction because it will help improve DHS' overall functions so that it can more effectively protect our people.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4289.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

TAKING ADDITIONAL STEPS TO ADDRESS THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE CONFLICT IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113–128)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the ''order'') taking additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006 (E.O. 13413).

In E.O. 13413, it was determined that the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability and was addressed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1596 of April 18, 2005, Resolution 1649 of December 21, 2005, and Resolution 1698 of July 31, 2006, constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. To address that threat, E.O. 13413 blocks the property and interests in property of persons listed in the Annex to E.O. 13413 or determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to meet criteria specified in E.O. 13413.

In view of multiple additional United Nations Security Council Resolutions including, most recently, Resolution 2136 of January 30, 2014, I am issuing the order to take additional steps to deal with the national emergency declared in E.O. 13413, and to address the continuation of activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the surrounding region, including operations by armed groups, widespread violence and atrocities, human rights abuses, recruitment and use of child soldiers, attacks on peacekeepers, obstruction of humanitarian operations, and exploitation of natural resources to finance persons engaged in these activities.

The order amends the designation criteria specified in E.O. 13413. As amended by the order, E.O. 13413 provides for the designation of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

To be a political or military leader of a foreign armed group operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that impedes the disarmament, demobilization, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or reintegration of combatants;

To be a political or military leader of a Congolese armed group that impedes the disarmament, demobilization, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or reintegration of combatants;

To be responsible for or complicit in, or to have engaged in, directly or indirectly, any of the following in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

Actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Actions or policies that undermine democratic processes or institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

The targeting of women, children, or any civilians through the commission of acts of violence (including killing, maiming, torture, or rape or other sexual violence), abduction, forced displacement, or attacks on schools, hospitals, religious sites, or locations where civilians are seeking refuge, or through conduct that would constitute a serious abuse or violation of human rights or a violation of international humanitarian law;

the use or recruitment of children by armed groups or armed forces in the context of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

the obstruction of the delivery or distribution of, or access to, humanitarian assistance;

attacks against United Nations missions, international security presences, or other peacekeeping operations; or

support to persons, including armed groups, involved in activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo or that undermine democratic processes or institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, through the illicit trade in natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Except where intended for the authorized support of humanitarian activities or the authorized use by or support of peacekeeping, international, or government forces, to have directly or indirectly supplied, sold, or transferred to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or been the recipient in the territory of the Democratic Republic of

the Congo of, arms and related materiel, including military aircraft and equipment, or advice, training, or assistance, including financing and financial assistance, related to military activities;

To be a leader of (i) an entity, including any armed group, that has, or whose members have, engaged in any of the activities described above or (ii) an entity whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13413;

To have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, logistical, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of (i) any of the activities described above or (ii) any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13413; or

To be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13413.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and the United Nations Participation Act as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All agencies of the United States Government are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *July 8, 2014*.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) 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 XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4263, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4289, by the yeas and nays.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4263) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 19, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 369]

YEAS—375

Amodei
Bachmann
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—19

Amash
Barton
Bridenstine
Broun (GA)
Conaway
Fincher
Hartzler
Hensarling
Jones
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lankford
Lummis
Massie
McClintock
Mullin
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Stockman

NOT VOTING—38

Aderholt
Bachus
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Campbell
Capps
Carter
Cassidy
Costa
Culberson
Deutch
Doyle
Fortenberry
Gerlach
Graves (MO)
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Kind
Kingston
Kirkpatrick
Maloney, Carolyn
Marchant
McCarthy (NY)
McNerney
Miller, Gary
Neugebauer
Nunnelee
Pastor (AZ)
Perlmutter
Polis
Rahall
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Royce
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sherman
Westmoreland

□ 1857

Messrs. BRIDENSTINE, RICE of South Carolina, AMASH, FINCHER, and HENSARLING changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. PETERS of California and MEEKS changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4289) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 0, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 370]

YEAS—393

Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—39

Aderholt
Bachus
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Campbell
Capps
Carter
Cassidy
Coffman
Costa
Culberson
Deutch
Doyle
Fortenberry
Gerlach
Graves (MO)
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Kind
Kingston
Kirkpatrick
Maloney, Carolyn
Marchant
McCarthy (NY)
McNerney
Miller, Gary
Neugebauer
Nunnelee
Pastor (AZ)
Perlmutter
Polis
Rahall
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Royce
Rush
Sherman
Westmoreland

□ 1904

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEMCO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

(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, I rise today to recognize FEMCO, a small business located in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, which later this month will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1964, FEMCO began as a technical services company catering to the coal industry. During the past two decades, the company has diversified to keep pace with the growing demand in oil and gas, construction, recycling, and industrial manufacturing.

Over the years, FEMCO has relied upon a strong local workforce, which includes welders, engineers, mechanics, business managers, and support staff, among other positions. These talented professionals manufacture and rebuild a wide range of technical components, including drilling rigs for the energy industry, balers, shears, and shredders for the recycling and scrap industry, and also sustain a full-service support team for a wide array of industries that rely on immediate technical expertise and support.

Today, FEMCO is a strong base of economic support for the Punxsutawney area and has over 130 employees.

I want to offer my praise to FEMCO for 50 years of constant innovation and offer my thanks to the extraordinary men and women who work to make their continued success possible.

ADDRESSING THE TRADE DEFICIT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration appears to be negotiating the latest job-killing trade deal, as happened under the prior two Bush administrations and the Clinton administration with NAFTA.

Our Nation can't employ the nearly 20 million unemployed and underemployed citizens without addressing what is happening to growing imports and lessening exports.

Here is a bumper sticker: Out of a Job Yet? Keep Buying Foreign.

That was on a car in Michigan as we came back here today.

In 2013, America imported—get this—$369 billion in petroleum products alone, $309 billion in automotive vehicles, and $533 billion in consumer goods, which are not completely offset by exports. We are exporting jobs and importing products from other places.

Think of the jobs we could create here if we could really live the slogan, ''Made in America.''

For every $1 billion in goods exported, our economy creates 5,000 jobs; but for every $1 billion in goods imported, we lose 9,000 jobs. That is why we have been in the hole for the last 25 years.

Our middle class is shrinking. People are struggling out there. They can't make ends meet. We have a budget deficit because we have a trade deficit. America doesn't need any more job-killing trade deals.

HAMAS MUST BE STOPPED ONCE AND FOR ALL

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share an email from a friend who is in Israel with his wife right now. He writes:

> Hamas has been sending rockets into Israel for days now trying to kill any Israeli they can—120 in the last 2 days.
>
> Just a few minutes ago, the red alert was sounded. Thank God Congress wanted to build the Iron Dome, as it brought down that rocket.
>
> Will we hear the red alert tonight as we sleep? Will we get to the bomb room in time? What about tomorrow night?
>
> Speak out on the floor of the House: Hamas must be stopped once and for all.

My friend, Hamas must be stopped once and for all. President Obama, please say these words with us: Hamas must be stopped once and for all.

EQUALITY FOR WOMEN

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, 22 years ago, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor stated:

> The ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives.

Over the past week, that fact has not only been lost by the Supreme Court, it has been under attack. The Court's decisions undermine women's ability to pursue economic opportunity and equality.

Tonight, thousands of people are rallying in Boston to protect these basic rights. I stand in solidarity with them. We will not back down and will not accept anything less than full equality in our access to health care, the workplace, and the ability to determine the trajectory of our own lives.

This esteemed body would do well to heed Justice O'Connor's words, because the women of America will settle for no less.

□ 1915

PRESIDENT OBAMA NEEDS TO VISIT THE BORDER

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, the President needs to come to the Texas border. There is a crisis occurring there.

I just returned from a trip to McAllen. The situation is grave. The influx of people is putting a strain on our resources and threatening our system of public health.

Last week marked my second trip to tour the processing and holding facilities. I know other Members of the Texas delegation have made the trip as well. But President Obama, despite being in Texas for fundraising this week, refuses to come to the Texas border.

The President's remarks from the Rose Garden last week did little to deter Central Americans from sending their children to the Texas border. His message was correct, but his tone was wrong. The President needs to be clear and direct. He needs to send a clear and direct message to the parents in Central America: Don't send your children across the deserts of Mexico into Texas.

As a Texan, I felt compelled to make this trip, but I realize my influence in this realm is limited. The President has the bully pulpit. The President can make the point.

The President of the United States needs to come to the border and speak in a clear and direct fashion to the parents of Central America.

HELP THE CHILDREN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over the last week, besides wishing this wonderful Nation a happy birthday over the Fourth of July, I spent time in Brownsville, Harlingen, and McAllen visiting the detention centers. Most importantly, I saw the faces of innocent children who have come because of fear for their lives.

In a hearing in Homeland Security, I listened to State officials and to a bishop from El Paso who indicated that the world is watching. These children need our help. They are not America's enemy. They are not a threat to national security.

I want to thank those many cities who have offered places. I believe the President is right to seek the amount of money to enforce the border and to provide more judges, more immigration lawyers, and resources for these cities for these children. I believe that we have it in our heart to do it, and we can protect the border.

I will say as well, Mr. Speaker, that children come in all sizes. I want to say that the crisis in Nigeria with the kidnapped girls still remains on our minds—#bringbackourgirls. Let us put an end to the terrorism of Boko Haram, and let us help children wherever they are.

SKILLS ACT

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, each year, hardworking American taxpayers send $18 billion to Washington for Federal job training and workforce development programs. While training unemployed Americans is a worthy goal, even after spending billions of dollars, only a fraction of workers receive and complete the necessary training to get a job.

That is not only an unacceptable return on investment, Mr. Speaker, but that is an unacceptable outcome for the millions of Americans who are trying to get ahead in this economy.

A bipartisan majority in the House and Senate are working to take action to close the skills gap that is keeping Americans from filling the nearly 4 million American jobs right now. This week, the House will finalize work on a bill that originated in this Chamber. We will vote on final passage of the SKILLS Act, which modernizes and reforms Federal job training programs to be more efficient and effective.

This bipartisan action is a true jobs bill. I hope this serves as a starting point for further Senate action on the dozens of other jobs bills waiting in that Chamber that would invest in our Nation's competitiveness.

MERIDIAN HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RICE of South Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, 48 years ago this August marks my first practice as a football player for the famed Meridian, Mississippi High School Wildcats. After almost a half century, I still remember the fragrance of freshly cut dew-covered grass juxtaposed against the pungent odor of skin balm and the human stink of a sweaty locker room.

1966 was the first year of our newly appointed head coach, Bob Tyler, from a small town in north Mississippi. My initial thought and first reading of him was a Meridian Star news article in which he was quoted as saying he believed in maintaining a high level of physical conditioning. I immediately knew that meant we would be running our butts off. And we did.

Our first August practice was everything I expected, and much more. We practiced twice a day, sometimes three times a day, first in shorts and then in full pads. Temperatures approached 100 degrees, with 100 percent humidity. Prayers for a quenching rain usually went unanswered.

Coach Tyler kept some of the existing assistants such as Jerry Foshee and

the late Earl Morgan, and brought in new ones, including Charles Garrett and Robert Turnage. Charles McComb, Jim Redgate, Don Evans, and Doug Marshal were also assistants under Tyler.

August, 1966, practices under Coach Tyler and staff seemed unique, even from the beginning. The level of organization, the level of excitement of over 100 young men coming out to join our team, and the professionalism and commitment to a strong work ethic and Christian principles were evident from the beginning.

There was also something else quite unique in the history of the football program. After the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Meridian, Mississippi, deep in the segregationist South, began to slowly integrate its public schools.

That first Tyler August of 1966, we were joined by James Williams, the first black athlete in the Wildcat football program's history. The following year, several more African Americans, including Robert Bell, a defensive tackle, joined us. Not very tall, but very wide and athletic, Bell proved to be quite immovable, and hitting him seemed like slamming into rebar filled with concrete. He went on to play for Mississippi State.

Our relatively unknown head coach then, Bob Tyler, led Meridian High to a fully undefeated season in his first year. The championship game was also quite unique in a couple of ways. Our opponent, the Jackson Provine Rams, still ran the old single-wing offense popular during the 1930s. The secret to Provine's success was high school coaches of the 1960s had no experience defending against the—even then—archaic style of football.

Bob Tyler had an old secret weapon, too, which was defensive line coach Earl Morgan, who played college football during the single-wing era. He knew exactly how to destroy it.

The other surprise of the game was a touchdown from the very first play of scrimmage when a ''long bomb'' was lobbed from Bob White to George Ranager. Meridian High won the game and the Big Eight championship, equivalent to today's 6–A championship.

The 1967 season under Tyler went much the same way. We had another perfect season, except for a tie game with Columbus. Nonetheless, we went to the State championship and defeated Biloxi High to make it two State championships in a row.

With such a sterling resume, Bob Tyler received considerable notice from colleges, as you can imagine. SEC coaches pursued him, and the great Johnny Vaught, head coach of Ole Miss, recruited Tyler to become assistant at Tyler's alma mater and favorite team ever.

It was rumored that Vaught was grooming Tyler to succeed him as head coach. Vaught ultimately retired with health problems, and Tyler left for the opportunity to coach under the legendary Bear Bryant of the famed Crimson Tide. It wasn't long before Bob got his shot to become head coach of an SEC football team. He went on to Mississippi State, where he found great success during his 5-year tenure.

Bob Tyler was not only noted for his coaching, but for the talent he developed. Smylie Gebhart, a great defensive end, went on to become an All-American at Georgia Tech. David Bailey, a wide receiver, went on to set reception records under Bear Bryant. George Ranager caught the winning touchdown for Alabama in the famous 33–32 shootout with Ole Miss in 1969.

Coach Charles Garrett, Tyler's right-hand man, took the helm for the 1968 season and had big shoes to fill. With Tyler promoted to the SEC, Garrett proved he had what it takes. Meridian High School had a third undefeated regular season, but lost out in the State championship rematch against a very fast Biloxi High School team.

Garrett developed stars, too. In his 3 years as an Ole Miss running back, Greg Ainsworth ran for 1,361 yards and 17 touchdowns. Mac Barnes, Garrett's quarterback for the 1969 season, became a coaching star in his own right. He went on to coach Meridian High championship teams as well.

Mr. Speaker, though of mediocre athletic ability, I gained tremendously from my experience as a Meridian High Wildcat under both Bob Tyler, Charles Garrett, and their very able assistant coaches. Any achievements I have made in my life and career must be credited to a large extent to what I learned on the practice field—concepts such as personal discipline, commitment to excellence, personal sacrifice for a unified team goal, preparation for success, and the meaning of teamwork.

Morris Stamm said:

It is a commitment to a bigger goal, an opportunity for a young man to learn more than blocking and tackling.

Don May offered this:

My life lessons learned from the MHS football days proved positive. Hard work and dedication can enable an individual to accomplish any goal and achieve success throughout a lifetime. Applying those lessons to my career and personal relationships has helped me achieve things I would not have thought possible.

I now look forward, Mr. Speaker, to the scheduled gathering with many of my teammates and coaches of the Meridian High Wildcats who coached or played under Tyler during the football season of 1966 and 1967. Therefore, I now hereby declare the period of 1966 and 1967 to be the ''Coach Bob Tyler Era.''

What is likely to be our final roll call will be held on August 23, 2014, Meridian. Amazingly, most of the coaches and players, including Tyler himself, after nearly a half century, are still living and will attend the reunion.

Some have gone on to glory before us, however, and will miss that final roll call and we will miss them. They include coaches Earl Morgan and Byron McMullen, as well as players such as Smylie Gebhart, David Bailey, Mike Cumberland, David Murray, Gary Saget, Maurice Ross, Mike Magee, Woodson Emmons, and possibly others.

Mr. Speaker, I now close with these words.

To a man, each of my brother Wildcats, I am sure, feel as I do that every moment of the hard work, sweat, pain, and sometimes disappointment was worth it, and we are all better men because of it. Such a common experience even a half century ago bonds us together forever. Indeed, we were then, as we are today, and always, even when we no longer answer that roll call, will be known as the Meridian High Wildcats, a true ''band of brothers.''

Mr. Speaker, today I want to express a heartfelt tribute to the leaders of our Wildcat band of brothers—Coaches Bob Tyler, Charles Garrett, and all Wildcat coaches, living and not, and to all of my brother players living and not—for all you have done for our town, our school, and especially for me.

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

□ 1930

AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM WITHIN A CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 50 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives and to take up these topics that I appreciate your attention to.

As the other Members disperse across this Hill and over to their offices and as their staffs are tuned in on television and for those who are here in person, we have got some serious issues to discuss. This country has been led down a path that has been, I think, in the end, destructive to our Republic, and it is important that we focus on these issues that are getting out of hand.

We are a great country. For the Fourth of July, I sent out a tweet that morning to celebrate the Fourth of July: ''Happy Independence Day.''

The United States of America is the unchallenged greatest nation in the world, and we derive our strength from Western civilization, Judeo Christianity, and free enterprise capitalism. There are many other components to those three parts that I mentioned. Of course, as I send out that message, there are those who disagree.

First, they don't think of America as an exceptional nation. They don't believe in American exceptionalism. Our President makes the statement that: oh, yes, I believe in American exceptionalism in the way the British believe in British exceptionalism and

the Greeks believe in Greek exceptionalism.

That is an entirely different concept. There are many countries out there that are proud of who they are, and they should be. They are proud of their nationalities. They are proud of the history of who they are. Borders, culture, and language are what tie a country together.

The other countries that see themselves as such and are proud to be so, as the British and as the Greeks are, are not like the United States of America. They do have borders, they do have culture, they do have language, but none of them were formed around an ideal, an ideal of God-given liberty.

None of them were formed around the idea of the rule of law. None of them have a bill of rights like we have a Bill of Rights, where you can look at the pillars of American exceptionalism and read most of them as you read down through the first 10 amendments, our Bill of Rights.

Pillars of American exceptionalism: freedom of speech, religion, the press, and the right to peaceably assemble and petition the government for the redress of grievances—there are four pillars in one, in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The right to keep and bear arms is another pillar of American exceptionalism. Whatever our pain is as the result of people who are dying due to gun violence—and if I counted the casualties right, in Chicago, over the Fourth of July weekend, it was 14 murdered and 82 wounded in gun violence. It is a product of lawless people who are violating gun laws.

They don't respect their gun laws, but we have the right to keep and bear arms because it is an obligation to keep our society in a position where we can defend against tyranny; yet some don't understand that. They think, somehow, the Second Amendment is about having the right to defend ourselves or the right to hunt or the right to collect or the right to target shoot.

All of those things are ancillary benefits that come along with the Second Amendment, and they are necessary so that we continue the culture of respect for arms and gun safety, but the real reason that we have the right to keep and bear arms is to defend against tyranny.

So far, we haven't seen a tyrant emerge in America who has brought about the need to utilize our Second Amendment, to defend ourselves from a tyrant who would lord over us and our God-given liberty.

Now, history moves on, and different personalities emerge, so I couldn't rule that out for the future, and I couldn't rule it out, actually, for the current either, Mr. Speaker.

With all of these pillars of American exceptionalism—the First Amendment, the Second Amendment, the property rights that used to exist with utter clarity in the Fifth Amendment, but, because of the Kelo decision, have been somewhat eroded—and along through our protection against double jeopardy and a quick and speedy trial and a right to face a jury of our peers and the powers of the Federal Government that devolve down to the States or the people respectively in the Ninth and 10th Amendments—we couldn't have built a country without these.

We couldn't have built a great country, Mr. Speaker, if we didn't have that foundation that I mentioned in the beginning—if we didn't have the core of Western civilization that emerged here on this continent at the dawn of the industrial revolution, if we didn't have the age of reason that accompanied old English common law, which is a descendant of Roman law, which is a descendant of Mosaic law—if we hadn't had those pieces, America would have never been, just as if we were not a Judeo-Christian nation, with a sense of morality and a sense of justice, a sense of forgiveness, a sense of redemption—yes, and a sense of confession.

If we hadn't had those pieces that are part and parcel of our culture and our civilization, America would have never been. We wouldn't have held together, and we wouldn't have been formed in the first place, so we wouldn't have sustained ourselves through all of these trials and tribulations of the centuries in the 238 years since the founding of our Republic.

That is how important this country is; yet we have many who don't understand this, many who refuse to believe the reality of history that has brought us to this point, many who don't respect this reality of history.

When I say that our Founding Fathers were almost universally of a solid faith—in fact, of a solid Christian faith—I hear from the other side of the aisle over here that: no, they were deists, they really had a different way of looking at this.

Thomas Jefferson a deist? Go look at the memorial. You will find more references to God in the Jefferson Memorial than you will see as typos in there, and there are two typos.

Thomas Jefferson was a moral and a religious man, and it anchored much of what he did as was true for all of our Founders. They were not atheists, they were not agnostics, they were not deists. They were rooted in a strong faith and a deep understanding of history, and they understood the flow of history.

On one of my trips out here to Washington—before I came here, Mr. Speaker, to serve in this Congress—I went to the National Archives. There was a long line waiting to see the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, which are on display underneath glass at the Archives today—8 inches of glass in between there and 8 inches of.

It is that Declaration of Independence in which our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. As I waited to walk through there to see the original documents—for me, it was the first time—I read through the display that was at the National Archives. This was a display of artifacts from the Greek city-state era.

There, I learned with the real examples before me of how the Greek city-states had the purist form of democracy, at least at the time, and that men of age had an opportunity to speak and to have their voices heard with their votes in the Greek city-states, but they had a problem with this pure form of democracy, and our Founding Fathers understood this.

They learned that, if it is just the masses, if the majority can rule over the minority and if there are no foundational or fundamental rights, then it is the tyranny of the majority that rules over the minority.

There was also the tyranny of the demagogues, the demagogues that had perfected their artful oratory in such a way that they could move the masses in an emotional way, often against the best interests of the Greek city-states.

When a demagogue emerged who drove the city-state in a direction that wasn't prudent, but was emotional and put the city-state at risk, then they had the Greek blackball system. The blackball system was that they would all line up to vote. There would be a gourd here or a piece of pottery here that had a little neck in it and enough room to contain all of the marbles, and there was a discard pottery as well.

When the Greeks decided they were going to see if they were going to banish a demagogue from the city-state, each one of those in the city-state who could vote—each one of these adult males—got a white marble and a black marble in his hand.

As they walked through—one of these potteries was the voting one, and the other one was a discard, and no one could tell whether they voted to keep this demagogue in our city-state by voting white or to banish this demagogue from our city-state by voting black.

It was maybe 100, maybe 1,000, or however many were there to vote in the Greek city-state—maybe several thousand. As they walked through, if three of them voted a blackball in the voting pottery—in that voting container—and discarded their marbles in the other one, if only three of them said banish this demagogue from the city-state, they would banish him for 7 years because he was a poisonous influence on their civilization, on their culture, and on their society.

That was one of the ways they held in check this raw, pure democracy that existed back during the Greek era, and our Founding Fathers understood that.

They understood also that these pure democracies had a way of essentially imploding and expiring. They understood that they had a limited lifespan—they thought, perhaps, a couple hundred years, so they didn't devise a democracy, Mr. Speaker. America was not devised to be a democracy.

As a matter of fact, you can take a look here in this Constitution and read in here that it guarantees a republican form of government. That is a representative form of government. It is not that everybody goes to the city center—to the coliseum—and votes on national policy.

We had that proposal, by the way. Let's see. We had a Presidential candidate from Texas who pledged that we should actually go on the Internet and all vote these policies, so America could become close to a pure democracy. I didn't like that. I thought that that was a bad idea.

Our Founding Fathers had a bright idea. It was a good, solid, principled idea: give us a republican form of government.

When Benjamin Franklin walked out of the Constitutional Convention, a lady there asked him: What have you given us? His answer was: A republic, ma'am, if you can keep it.

The Republic is a representative form of government where you elect Representatives to come to the House and be reelected or not every 2 years and go to the United States Senate for 6-year terms, with the idea that we would be a quick reaction force here in the House and of a longer-term view, maybe a little cooling effect, over in the Senate, with the balance of these two bodies.

In article I of our Constitution, the most powerful and influential component of our three branches of government is Congress—the United States Congress. That is why it is article I. All legislative power exists here between the House and the Senate.

In article I, the legislative powers of the United States Government are here—here, Mr. Speaker, in this House and over at the other end of the Capitol building, which is through the rotunda—over to the United States Senate—all legislative powers, article I.

Our Founding Fathers started, when they drafted the Constitution, with article I because our power comes from God, and it is granted to those of us who represent this government from the people—of, by, and for the people of the United States.

Their powers that they derived from God are transferred here into this Congress, so that we can express their will and bring forth the policies that they believe are the best and most prudent for the United States of America. It isn't just our being a reactionary force—a barometer, a taking of the temperature of our constituents—and somehow come here and reflect that in national policy. That is not exactly the definition of our job, Mr. Speaker.

Here is what I owe my constituents—and I would entreat all of my colleagues to adopt this policy and philosophy—I owe everyone whom I have the honor and privilege to represent my best effort and my best judgment.

My best judgment includes be home; be among the people whom I have the privilege to represent; listen, listen, listen; take into account their concerns, their dreams, their aspirations, their grievances; and bring that back here with the best ideas that have emerged from that and couple with that the things that I am able to have the time to pay attention to on policy to analyze because I have the privilege to represent a lot of constituents who work for a living.

They are busy. They turn in 50, 60, 70, 80, or more hours a week. They do that to take care of their families. They do that to build a nest egg. They do that to prepare for their futures and, perhaps, for their retirements. They do that to build the capital so that they can reinvest, which creates jobs and increases the standard of living.

The people I have the privilege to represent are busy. They don't have time to spend 60, 70, 80 hours a week paying attention to public policy, but they do have time to pay attention to whether I am paying attention to public policy.

That is my pledge: my best effort and my best judgment, including incorporating all of their best judgments into the things that I can do and all of the other things that I have the opportunity to learn.

If I find myself at odds with the constituents in my district, it is time to have an eye-to-eye, heart-to-heart conversation. I should do what is right for God and country and State and district—in that order.

I have never found a conflict between that order of priority. When my mother was alive, I had told her: Mom, if there is a policy that is not so great for you, but that is right for America, sorry, but we are going to do what is right for America, and we are going to find another way to take care of you, Mom.

That is the way we need to do business in this country. We need to look to the long-term best interests of the United States of America.

We need to look back in our rearview mirror and say: How did we get here? What made us this great Nation? What were the principles that our predecessors adhered to that became such a foundational rock that we could be this unchallenged, greatest nation in the world? What were they? What are they? What are they that exist today? What are those principles that are being eroded, so that America isn't as strong in some of these areas as we used to be?

□ 1945

Do we still have this freedom of speech?

Well, maybe not quite, Mr. Speaker. And I say maybe not quite because this freedom of speech that used to compel us to utter the things that we believed to be true is now restrained by the political correctness, the political correctness where a CEO of a major corporation donated $1,000 to support a man or woman joined together in, hopefully, holy matrimony, and loses his job as a CEO because there are people that believe that marriage is something other than between a man and a woman.

That is not what you call a free speech. That erodes us all when you see that happen.

When you see the attacks that come—and I see them come primarily from the left. There will be people that will take issue with the tone of remarks or the word choices of remarks, but they aren't so much aggrieved by the actual function of what we are describing.

For example, there are people that don't like the way some of us talk about abortion. They don't like to be reminded that I and millions of Americans believe that human life is sacred in all of its forms, that it begins at a moment, and that is the moment of conception, and it needs to be protected with that great reverence for that sacred unique human life created in God's image from every moment of its conception until natural death. They don't like that kind of dialogue. You will never see a video of an actual abortion performed because the very sight of it is so appalling that the other side would object to the freedom of speech to demonstrate such a thing.

They don't like the idea that we call illegal immigrants ''illegal immigrants.'' They don't like the idea that they get labeled as ''illegal aliens'' or ''criminal aliens,'' but never mind that this is actually the legal term for those who are breaking our immigration laws.

Mr. Speaker, you will know that one of the top topics that we are faced with, as we went back to the Fourth of July, as we go across this country, is the immigration issue. It is in front of us now again.

It is not a new experience for a lot of us. We were at this topic at this time last year. We went through this debate in 2005, 2006, and 2007 before it finally died away and we bought a little bit more time to come back and revere and respect the rule of law again. But it has been so eroded.

Wherever I go, the immigration topic comes up, Mr. Speaker. And we are watching the video now of the images of people coming across the border, many of them at McAllen, Texas.

Now, I would take people back to what we have experienced in the past in that intense immigration debate that took place, started when President George W. Bush gave his amnesty speech, his comprehensive immigration reform speech.

My memory says that it was January 5, 2004. It was the launch of his reelection campaign. It was a calculation that he needed to reach out to the Hispanic community and, therefore, calculated that if he would grant some form of amnesty and start the process of legalizing people that are here illegally, that somehow they would embrace him as a Presidential candidate.

I think it was an overreaction to what they saw happen in the year 2000

when George W. Bush and Al Gore ran against each other, and when they got down to the recount in Florida, with 537 votes being the deciding difference between who would be the President of the United States and who would drift off into history, that election, I believe, they looked at the county-by-county election returns on which counties went for George Bush and which counties went for Al Gore and saw, I believe, what I know I saw, Mr. Speaker. It was the blue, southern tip of Texas. South Texas went for Al Gore.

Now, how could it be that a Presidential candidate of the stature of George W. Bush, a favorite son of Texas, a Governor of Texas, could lose such a big chunk of Texas on a county-by-county basis to Al Gore? I think they drew a conclusion that it was the Hispanic vote that he had not done very well with in Texas and decided this is how we are going to do better with the Hispanic vote, and so they turned it up.

They announced, after George W. Bush was reelected in 2004, that George W. Bush had carried 44 percent of the Hispanic electorate. But, upon further analysis, by the time you slice and dice and take that formula apart and put it back together, it comes down to an objective analysis that it couldn't have been 44 percent. It had to have fallen between 38 and 40 percent. Whatever that real number is, I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, it wasn't 44.

But we then saw JOHN MCCAIN, who was long known as an ''open borders'' JOHN MCCAIN, run for President, and he picked up 31 percent of the Hispanic vote. So 7 percent—or 8 or maybe as much as 9 percent—of the Hispanic vote was lost between George W. Bush and JOHN MCCAIN. It never was 44. If it was, it was even a lot more. Then it was 13. But I am going to say instead that I will pick that number at 39 and say that JOHN MCCAIN watched an 8 percent drop in the Hispanic vote from George W. Bush's high watermark, where he reached out in a very positive and proactive way, down to JOHN MCCAIN at 31 percent.

Four years later, for the reelect of Barack Obama, Presidential candidate Mitt Romney came forward and he garnered 27 percent of the Hispanic vote. That is really not disputed. So he dropped 4 percent from the 31 percent of JOHN MCCAIN, the ''open borders'' JOHN MCCAIN, to 27 percent for Mitt Romney.

What happened, Mr. Speaker?

We ended up with an autopsy report that said that somehow it was a calamity, a free fall, a loss of a big chunk of the Hispanic vote because Mitt Romney had said a couple of words that seemingly allegedly had offended people, those two words being ''self-deport.''

Now, if the language is so sensitive that you can't use a term like ''self-deport'' without losing the Presidency, how in the world, Mr. Speaker, are we going to enforce the law? How are we going to reinforce the respect for the rule of law if we can't, in a delicate way, say, you know, if we really do enforce the law, a lot of people will decide that they don't have a legal presence here and they might decide they are happier if they would wake up in their home country. Somehow that is offensive to people?

Instead, I would say there has been a loss in the Hispanic vote, certainly not from 44 percent for George W. Bush but from, say, 39 percent down to JOHN MCCAIN. That is an 8 percent loss—31 percent for JOHN MCCAIN, 8 percent loss. Only a 4 percent drop from that down to Mitt Romney. Who knows which direction that is going to go, but it completely disregards, Mr. Speaker, the tens of millions of dollars that Democrats spent calling Republicans racists and getting a return on their investment by watching that be an effective, however sinful tactic it is.

I have watched this for a number of election cycles. I have watched it in my own race.

When you pit people against each other, Mr. Speaker, when you identify people and say you are in one class here, you are in another class here, you are in a group here, you are in a group over here—and the Democrats know. They will sort you out. They will say, well, your hair is blonde and your eyes are blue, so you belong here; and yours is dark and your eyes are brown, you belong over here; and you have a melanin content in your skin, and I am going to put you there.

We are all created in God's image, every one of us, and He has given us the distinction so we can tell each other apart. For us to identify those distinctions that are God-given identifying characteristics and use those to categorize people as something different than other people for political gain, Mr. Speaker, I believe is a sin. It is against the interests of this country, and we have fallen prey to those kind of tactics, and we have a President who falls prey to those kind of tactics.

I would remind you, when you had Officer Crowley and Professor Gates and that instance in Cambridge, Massachusetts, when the President jumped in on what looked like was a home burglary circumstance, upon review, Officer Crowley conducted himself just fine; Professor Gates got a little bit out of control. The President jumped in on something he never should have weighed in on and concluded that, because the professor was of one skin color and the officer was of Irish descent, that somehow there had to be some kind of racism involved rather than the humanity of an officer who puts his life on the line to bring our safety to us and to protect and preserve the rule of law. So the President, to get out of that deal, had to have a beer summit at the White House.

Well, that lasted a little while, until Arizona passed its S.B. 1070 law, which is their immigration law that was designed to exactly mirror Federal law—not exceed it, not go beyond it, but exactly mirror Federal law. And what happened? The President weighs in and says, well, you know, if are you a mother, a Hispanic mother taking your daughter out for ice cream, you could potentially be pulled over and checked for your papers. That was a statement that brought a focus on to race and ethnicity, and the law specifically prohibits such a thing, but he brought race into this equation again.

Now we have a President who has two of his family members who have received some form of amnesty, his Auntie Onyango and Uncle Omar. Auntie Onyango has now passed away, but she lived in public housing for a long time on the government dole. She was adjudicated for deportation at least once, perhaps more times than that. The President's presence in this country and hers in this country got her an amnesty.

So did drunken Omar, President Obama's uncle, who nearly ran over a police officer up in that same neighborhood and received his form of amnesty, too, because, after all, if you send him back to Kenya and he happens to be related to the President, somebody will kidnap him and maybe he becomes held hostage for profit. So we surely couldn't send somebody back, no matter how many times they had been adjudicated for deportation, no matter how much they were on the government dole, no matter what kind of an unexemplary citizen—well, a resident of the United States. I have to retract that citizen piece. A resident of the United States.

Illegal immigrants, the President's uncle, the President's aunt, they get asylum. They get amnesty. And the President reaches out and says, essentially to the world, we are not going to enforce immigration law. It is a progression on his part.

It was Bill Clinton that did the most deportations. In the year 2000, he had more deportations than anybody in history, before or since, more than George W. Bush, more than Ronald Reagan, more than George H.W. Bush. But those high deportations that took place under Bill Clinton diminished substantially under this President. They diminished under George W. Bush. They diminished again substantially under this President.

Mr. Speaker, this President has put the welcome mat out. He has essentially advertised to people in foreign countries: if you can get into America, you get to stay in America. That has been his policy. While they will announce that he has more deportations than anybody else, it wasn't true the moment they uttered that. It is not true today. The President has confessed that they count differently than any other administration.

We have a circumstance on the southern border that adopts involuntary return. If someone sneaks into America and they are caught at the border, they are offered a couple of options.

One of them is, well, today, we will take your prints and your picture. But if you will voluntarily return to your home country, then you will not be barred from coming back into the United States on either a 3- or a 10-year bar. That is the deal. So a lot of them take that voluntary return and go back to Mexico and try again.

In fact, we checked the records down at Nogales at the border station, and this was several years ago. They had a single individual that had attempted to come into the United States and had been caught 27 times. No penalty. Here are your prints. We will take your picture. We will send you back to Mexico. You can go. Sometimes they come back in the same day and they are caught again the same day.

We had testimony before the Judiciary Committee in the Immigration Subcommittee where the Border Patrol came before us, and I asked them: What percentage of illegal immigrants do you interdict, do you stop at the border? Their testimony said, well, perhaps 25 percent. Well, 25 percent is an abysmally low number, Mr. Speaker. Only 25 percent interdiction at the border.

Now, I go down to the border and I ask them down there, the Border Patrol, Customs, Border Patrol and ICE: What percentage are you interdicting here at the border? Are you getting—are you stopping 25 percent? They would laugh and say 10 percent has to come first. Ten percent was the most consistent number that I heard, sector after sector, agent after agent. They think they are stopping about 10 percent. One of the ICE supervisors said: I think it is 2 to 3 percent.

So this 25 percent number, even if we accept it, then you have to multiply it times four to come up with the number of people that are coming across our border. If we stop 25 percent, that means 25 people come across, there is really 100 of them. When you do the math, at the peak of our interdictions, which was during the Bush administration, that came to about 11,000 a night, 11,000 illegal aliens, criminal aliens coming into the United States across our southern border every night.

That traffic has slowed down a little bit because there are fewer economic opportunities. So that 11,000 was about twice the size of Santa Anna's army. Now the nightly border traffic is about exactly the size of Santa Anna's army.

Now, of course, they aren't all armed. In fact, very few of them are. But we are watching what is going on in McAllen as we are watching tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors come into the United States.

□ 2000

And that number was predicted more than 6 months ago by Chris Crane, the president of the ICE union, who has said, we are going to see more than 50,000—I believe the number he gave was actually 60,000—unaccompanied minors coming into the United States in the next year. Well, we have already crossed over 50,000. And for this full year, we are going to see that number—July, August, September—and that number is increasing. We think in the next fiscal year, it is predicted that it will be 120,000, not this 50,000 that we have crossed so far.

And, by the way, these unaccompanied minors, these are kids under the age of 18. These unaccompanied minors represent about 20 percent of the illegal aliens that are coming into America. And those are the ones that we catch.

So that is 100,000. Perhaps that number, approaching 120,000 illegal aliens that they catch, it is a number bigger than that. We have got a number that goes to some 300,000 criminal aliens to be interdicted in this fiscal year, and I think that number will go higher. That is one of those snapshot estimates. I am going to predict that it is going to be closer to 600,000.

But still, this President has refused to send people back. If you come into the United States, if you are able to set a foot in the United States, get into America, if you get into the interior, you are almost home-free. If you are not caught at the border, you are almost home free.

But something less than 2 percent of those who come into the United States who are interdicted, who get caught, are actually sent back home. And now, when you slice and dice that number down, you see the trend: that is going down to something like 0.1 percent that are faced with the enforcement of the law against them.

This is the wholesale destruction of the rule of law, Mr. Speaker. The wholesale destruction of the rule of law. This is a President who has rolled out the welcome mat and has sent the message across the continent, across the hemisphere and, actually, the world: if you can get into America, we aren't going to bother to remove you from America.

He has prohibited local law enforcement from enforcing Federal immigration law. He has gone to court to enforce such a thing. They have canceled 287(g) agreements, which are cooperative agreements between political subdivisions and the Federal Government so that local government could help enforce immigration law. He has sent his Attorney General hither and yon to file lawsuits against political subdivisions that simply want to enforce the rule of law and reflect Federal immigration law.

There is no other law that I know in this country that doesn't ask for, receive, and appreciate the full cooperation of all levels of law enforcement, whether they are city police, county sheriffs, whether they are State officers, criminal investigation personnel, or Federal officers of any kind. All levels cooperate at all levels, with the exception of immigration law, which has been carved out to be separate by this President.

And now we have a President that a year ago last summer, in the middle of the summer, some time in July, introduced what we call the DACA language, or the Morton Memos. And those memos are written in a bit of a—let's say a deft, convoluted, legalistic way, signed by John Morton, presented by Janet Napolitano. I promised her that she would be sued over them, and she is.

But these Morton Memos create four different classes of people. They grant an effective de facto. That is, they grant an amnesty to people that are in the United States. And it is the idea that if you came into America, and you were under the age of 18, you weren't responsible for your actions.

Some people on my side of the aisle will argue that you can't form intent if you are young. If you are too young to form an intent, then you can't be held accountable for breaking the law. I would point out, how young is that? Because a 2-year-old who reaches their hand in the cookie jar in my house knows that is wrong. And if you holler at them and say, Johnny, they will hide that cookie behind them and act like they didn't do anything wrong. You can't convince me that a 17-year-old can't form an intent when a 2-year-old can at the cookie jar and know it is wrong.

But this President somehow believes that if you came into this country before you were 18 years old, or at least say you did, that it was through no fault of your own that somehow your parents brought you in. And now, we have 50,000 kids from countries other than Mexico—Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras—who are being pushed up into the United States of America, who are attracted to come here. Why? Because of the powerful magnet of no enforcement of the law, no effective enforcement of the law here in the United States. The magnet of family members that have already been beneficiaries of no enforcement of the law.

We had a case that was decided in December of 2013. I introduced it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in the Judiciary Committee a couple of weeks ago. An illegal alien mother in Virginia had abandoned her 10-year-old daughter in Guatemala. She had hired a human smuggling coyote to smuggle her 10-year-old daughter across Mexico into the United States. They were supposed to deliver this child to this illegal home in Virginia. They were caught at the border. The human smuggler had charges brought against her. She had been in trouble for this same kind of activity in the past. So they brought charges for trafficking and human smuggling against the coyote, the human coyote. But the 10-year-old girl, what did she do with her? They loaded her up—she is an illegal alien, too—and delivered her up to Virginia, to her illegal alien mother into a household full of illegal aliens. ICE completed the crime. Immigration and Customs Enforcement completed the crime.

And when the judge rendered his decision on the prosecution of the human trafficker, he wrote that he had had a case like that in each preceding week in the previous month, at least four of those similar cases where ICE had completed the crime of human trafficking and had delivered this child—which may or may not be the daughter of the resident of the illegal household in Virginia—delivered this child into that household.

Now, that message went out, Mr. Speaker, all over Central America: If you are from somewhere other than Mexico, send your children to America. And they are coming across. They are climbing up on trains. They are riding that dangerous track. Some of them are walking. All of them are subject to being victims of the drug cartels and the violence. And yes, they are leaving violent countries.

The violent death rate in Guatemala, according to a Web site that tracks that, is 74.9 violent deaths per 100,000. The U.S. violent death rate is 6.5 per 100,000. That will tell you about the ratio of how much more dangerous it is in a place like Guatemala. Honduras, according to the United Nations report that just came out a few months ago, has the highest murder rate in the world, with 92 homicides per 100,000. But their numbers have grown in the last couple of years. They don't show the violent deaths rates as being that high.

But we do know by the U.N. records that eight of the 10 most violent countries in the world are in the Western Hemisphere. They are in Central America or northern South America, not Mexico.

America's violent death rate is 6.5 per 100,000. Mexico's violent death rate is 18.2 per 100,000. It is not quite three times that of the United States. But still, if you think of a country that has triple the violent death rate, and you send a lot of their young men here, there are going to be people in this country that die as a result of those decisions. And I am not picking on Mexico because it is far more violent south of Mexico, multiple times more violent south of Mexico.

In Honduras, there are 92 homicides per 100,000, compared to Mexico's 18.2. In Guatemala, the rate is 74.9 in violent deaths, not homicides. And in El Salvador, some years you don't get records because it is so violent there.

However, when you look at those countries and the homicide rates that they have, only Honduras has a higher violent death rate than Detroit. We should put this in perspective, Mr. Speaker. If we are going to move kids out of Central America to the United States of America because they live in a violent society, we dare not send them to Detroit because we would be putting them in an environment that is more dangerous than the one they left. But if you look at the universe of unaccompanied minors, let alone those who are accompanied coming into America that are getting this Presidential de facto asylum, you will see a reflection of what showed up in the Guatemala newspaper here a couple of weeks ago, a Spanish language newspaper, interpreted to say thus: 80 percent of the unaccompanied minors are male; 83 percent of the unaccompanied minors are the ages of 15, 16, or 17. When they turn 18, they are no longer an unaccompanied minor—15, 16, or 17.

Mr. Speaker, I would challenge anyone to go anywhere in the world and identify a demographic group of people that are more likely to become gangbangers, to be violent, to perpetrate and prey upon innocence, than those that come from the most violent societies in the world. Eight of the 10 most violent societies in the world are south of Mexico, and they are coming here as OTMs, ''other than Mexicans.''

If you pick 15-, 16-, and 17-year-olds from the most violent societies in the world and you drop them into another society by the tens of thousands and perhaps substantially more than that, there isn't any rational person that would think that there aren't going to be victims in the United States as a result of this policy.

And yet, the policy that I talked about, that had ICE completing the crime of hauling the 10-year-old illegal alien to Virginia to be rejoined with her illegal alien mother in Virginia, completing the crime, that has happened dozens or scores of times until now.

So now the President has his administration that is doing this thousands of times. They are taking these unaccompanied minors, housing them, coming through McAllen, in particular, but a lot of other places as well, putting them in temporary warehouses, loading them on buses and hauling them to places where they can process them. And then picking them up and, if they have a phone number in their pocket, some of them have a phone number memorized, wherever they say a relative or an extended family lives, ICE, or now Health and Human Services, delivers them there.

They pull up in front of a household. It might be a crack house. It might be a meth house. It might be a gangbanger's house. This is the address. They slide the door of the van open. Boom, out you go, you 17-year-old unaccompanied minor that we don't have a provision where we can deport you back to your home country. Let's see if we can get you to be a productive member of society by dropping you in this environment.

There are no checks and balances on this. There is no prudence to this. And, in fact, the ones younger than 14, they are not even printed. They don't have their fingerprints taken. They don't have their pictures taken. We don't know who they are. And about 50 percent of them were not born in a hospital so they don't have a birth certificate. They don't have a legal existence in their home country. There is not a way to track them. We don't know who we are handing them over to. We don't know who they are. We don't know if we pick them up next week or next year or 10 years from now if they actually were somebody that was processed through a warehouse in McAllen. These kids cannot be spread across this society in this fashion and infused across the illegal households in America. You grow more lawlessness, more lawlessness.

We are not relieving the pain and suffering. It is the parents that have abandoned their children. It is the parents that have endangered their children.

There was a little child in my district about 3 years old, a little girl who walked out of her house during the day. Her mother was working in the packing plant at night, and she needed to sleep during the day.

Yes, I trusted her mother was an immigrant—legal or illegal, I don't know. But this little girl wandered down the street several blocks. And somebody found this little girl and picked her up. And they looked around and asked questions and finally found out that, well, she came from this house where this mother was sleeping. So our Department of Human Services, our Iowa HHS, sat this mother down and said, this can't continue. You have got to care for this child. You can't let this child wander off on the street. Even while you are sleeping during the day—she needed to because she was working at night. But the child could not be left to wander because it is child endangerment. It is child abandonment. And they told this mother, you take care of your child, or we will take your child and put your child into foster care. And if you don't shape up, we will put this child into adoption so this child has a real chance in life.

We do not tolerate people who abandon or endanger their children in Iowa, and I don't believe we do that in any other State in this Union.

But the people who send their children across 1,000 miles of Mexico on the death train, exposed to drug cartels and human trafficking and the kind of slavery and exploitation that takes place on the victims that are coming up here, the parents who sent them along that path, they have abandoned their children. They have endangered their children. Over 1,000 miles of Mexico, not a few blocks down the street in a little safe Iowa town; 1,000 miles in Mexico.

□ 2015

And we, this great, benevolent Obama administration, will pick these children up and deliver them anywhere in America that they want to go because they have a phone number in their pocket, or an address that they memorized, and pull the van up in front of the crack house, open the sliding door and say, okay, here you are, fend for yourself? We should never put those children back in a household, an illegal household, never back into a law-violating environment.

These kids need to go home. There is another solution if we can't send them home. But putting them in these illegal households is not the right thing to do.

The President can solve this problem. Mr. Speaker, this is all in the President's head. The President sent out the advertisement that we are not going to enforce immigration law against you. He sent out the advertising that this government will take care of you, that we will make sure that you are living in a house where you have heat subsidy, rent subsidy, where you have food stamps, where you get an education, where you have health care, all paid for by somebody else, the sweat of somebody else's brow. And, by the way, now he wants $3.7 billion from Congress so he can hire every one of them a lawyer. Give them ObamaCare and hire them a lawyer, and now they will have everything that is the dream of every American—your own lawyer, your own government-issued health insurance policy, a rent subsidy, a heat subsidy, oh, and an Obama phone. Who wouldn't come to America if they believe all that is true? That is what this President is doing.

If he needed a place to put these kids back to their home countries, we have a bill. In fact, I have a bill here, and I will include it for the RECORD, Mr. Speaker.

H.R. _____

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 ''Keeping Families Together Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. REPATRIATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

Section 235(a) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', or in the case that a child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence cannot be determined, safely removed to a country described in paragraph (6)''

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by amending the heading to read as follows: ''RULES FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''who is a national or habitual resident of a country that is contiguous with the United States'';

(C) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by inserting before the period the following: '', or in the case that the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence cannot be determined, remove such child to another country described in paragraph (6)''; and

(D) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by amending the heading to read as follows: ''AGREEMENTS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES'';

(ii) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''countries contiguous to the United States'' and inserting the following ''any foreign country that the Secretary determines appropriate'';

(iii) in clause (i), by inserting after ''last habitual residence'' the following: ''or removed to a country described in paragraph (6)'';

(iv) in clause (ii)—

(I) by inserting after ''last habitual residence'' the following: ''or removed to a country described in paragraph (6)'';

(II) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(v) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(vi) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) subject to clauses (i) and (ii), a child shall be returned to the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence, or in the case that the child's country of nationality or of last habitual residence cannot be determined, removed to a country described in paragraph (6) not later than 5 days after a determination is made under paragraph (4) that the child meets the criteria listed in subparagraph (A); and'';

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''48 hours'' and inserting ''10 days'';

(B) by inserting after ''last habitual residence,'' the following: ''or removing the child to a country described in paragraph (6),'';

(C) by striking ''or if no determination can be made within 48 hours of apprehension,''; and

(D) by inserting at the end the following: ''If no determination can be made within 10 days of apprehension, the child shall be treated as though the child meets the criteria listed in paragraph (2)(A).''

(4) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting after ''last habitual residence,'' the following: ''and the safe and sustainable removal of unaccompanied alien children to countries described in paragraph (6),'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting after ''repatriate'' the following: ''or remove'';

(C) in subparagraph (C)(iii), by inserting after ''last habitual residence,'' the following: ''or safely and humanely removed to a country described in paragraph (6),''; and

(D) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking '', except for an unaccompanied alien child from a contiguous country subject to the exceptions under subsection (a),'' and inserting ''who does not meet the criteria listed in paragraph (2)(A)''; and

(ii) in clause (i), by inserting before the semicolon the following: ''not later than 5 days after the Secretary of Homeland Security makes the determination to seek removal of the child''; and

(5) by inserting at the end the following:

''(6) COUNTRY TO WHICH AN UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD MAY BE REMOVED DESCRIBED.—A country is described in this paragraph if—

''(A) the government of the country will accept an unaccompanied alien child into that country; and

''(B) the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, determines that—

''(i) there is no credible evidence that the child is at risk of being trafficked in the country; and

''(ii) there is no credible evidence that the child will be persecuted in that country.''.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, the title of the bill is the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, an amendment to it, and it addresses this topic. The topic is how we reach an agreement with the countries that are noncontiguous like Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras; just to be able to get an agreement to send their children back to their home country.

We can maybe direct this out of Congress if you get HARRY REID to go along with it, Mr. Speaker, but the President can do this on his own. All he needs to do is call up the president of any one of those three countries and say that you need to be on the tarmac in, say, Guatemala City airport; I am sending a planeload of your unaccompanied minors back. You repatriate them back into your country and your society. If you don't do that, we are going to freeze up the foreign aid, and we are going to freeze up the trade. We are not going to be subsidizing a country that won't cooperate and sends their children up here for us to put on the public dole.

The President can solve this thing. It wouldn't take one day to solve this. It has taken him 5½ years to create this problem. It is the President's problem. The President refuses to solve it. He just wants more money to expand government and hire more lawyers and more judges, but he has no intention of resolving this.

He is going to infuse tens of thousands—in the end hundreds of thousands—of people into America in an effort to turn Texas blue, to do what the Bush administration feared would happen if they didn't do that outreach in the first place.

I don't believe we should do identity politics. I think we should reach out to everybody and say that you are created in God's image, that is good enough for me. You are one of us if you want to work and earn your way, if you want to pay some taxes and carry your share of the load, because when you shoulder that harness, you make the load lighter for everyone else, and you increase the average per capita GDP of our people. When that happens, we all live better. But there are 104.1 million Americans of working age who are simply not in the workforce.

That is going in the wrong direction. And the last thing we need to do is have tens of millions of unskilled and especially illiterate people who are going to compete for the lowest skills jobs. This country is going exactly in the wrong direction. We need a President who will move this country in the right direction. The President can fix this problem he created. He can fix it. This Congress probably can't force the President to fix the problem, but the bill that I have just filed into the RECORD takes us a ways along that, Mr. Speaker, and judging from the time, I appreciate your attention.

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

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH INVESTMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, we have just heard a very interesting 1 hour on an issue that is important, and

I would like to bring to this floor another issue that affects every American family either directly or indirectly, but in a very profound, and in most cases, a very sad, very sad way. One in five American seniors are affected by this disease called Alzheimer's.

I know it has affected my family. My wife's mother at the age of 92 died of Alzheimer's. She spent the last 2 years of her life living with my wife and me in our home, where we were able to provide care for her. I think that that is just one story among the millions of American families that are trying to find a way of dealing with this devastating disease.

In the last years of her life, my mother-in-law always had what seemed to be a bright outlook. She was never a complainer, and she always seemed to recognize her grandchildren, particularly the very young grandchildren. I will never forget a day where our youngest grandchild—her youngest great-grandchild—was climbing into bed with her, and my mother-in-law was, what I thought, was babbling. And that young child who could just barely speak was translating in a very real way what my mother-in-law was saying. It was my wife and I that were unable to understand. Just one moment in a long period of time that my mother-in-law lived with us in her final years.

This story is replicated time after time across America. One in five seniors will have Alzheimer's and will die of it.

If we take a look at the well known diseases that affect Americans, here is the death rate: cancer, clearly, clearly a problem. Heart disease, cancer, and stroke. Over the last 10 years, we are seeing a decline in the death rate for all of these well known and devastating diseases. We have seen the progress of research and the application of medical practices to these diseases, cancer, heart disease, and stroke, all declining, stroke by some 23 percent. HIV/AIDS, another devastating disease in this country, an incredible 42 percent decline in the death rate between 2000 and 2010.

And here is Alzheimer's, the same period of time, a 68 percent increase. My mother-in-law was one of the people that made up this statistic.

Deaths from major diseases. This is a clear indication of what happens when the public, acting through Congress, and governments, State, local, and private organizations, put their shoulder to the wheel and decide that it is time to do something about cancer, heart disease, stroke, and HIV/AIDS.

What is happening here? What is happening with Alzheimer's? Well, part of the answer is the aging population, the baby boomers. That is part of the answer, but it is not the complete answer.

What does this mean to the American taxpayer and the American families? It means it is a very, very expensive disease. In fact, it is the most expensive disease in America. Medicare, the principal source of health insurance for the elderly, 1 in 5 dollars in Medicare is spent on Alzheimer's, well over $240 billion a year for Medicare and Medicaid alone.

And where is this going? Well, here is where the costs are going. The cost of Medicare and Medicaid, 2010, $122 billion; 2022, $195 billion; 2050, $880 billion. So what are we going to do here? Well, we are going to spend an awful lot of money unless we get ahead of this devastating disease.

Looking at it another way, a different graph, same story, the skyrocketing cost of Alzheimer's care. This is not the peak, this is just where we stop counting in 2050. Baby boomers coming on and then this disease taking hold and literally bankrupting the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

So what do we do? Well, here is what we are doing, a neat little chart here, treatment shown here, this is the Medicare portion, this is the Medicaid portion. We are looking at a huge expenditure, $150 billion. This is from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Oh, down here, this is the comparison for research. This year, $566 million of research. Extraordinary expense, a lot of research, but not nearly enough to address the problem.

For example, back to that first graph that showed the decline in cancer research, HIV, heart—I wonder why it happened? Look where we are investing: cancer research, $5.481 billion; HIV/AIDS, $2.978 billion; cardiovascular, $2.15 billion; Alzheimer's, $566 million.

This is a very, very good graph. This is what happens when we invest in research and treatment protocols. Let me remind you of what those investments have meant. Cancer, decline in death rate; heart disease, decline in death rate; stroke, decline in death rate; HIV, decline in death rate. The major reason for it is the investment in research and treatment protocols. Cancer, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular, Alzheimer's.

So where are we going to go here? Are we going to stay with this and see an increase in Alzheimer's disease and death over the next years? Or are we going to go with something that can solve the problem? And that is investment, investment by the people of America and around the world in addressing this devastating illness for which today there is no cure, there is no way to slow down the progress, and we don't know when it is coming on until it is with us.

And so families across this Nation find themselves in a devastating situation. I would like to recount just one devastating situation. It was on National Public Radio in the Sacramento region. A gentleman from the State park system retired at the age of 65, thinking that he and his wife would be able to spend their next years traveling, enjoying themselves and the benefit of the years of work they had put in.

□ 2030

His wife was 1 year younger. No sooner had he retired, his wife came down with early onset of Alzheimer's. The result is a devastation in their family, obviously, to the lady. She doesn't even know today that she is married to her husband of 42 years, but he cares for her, day in and day out, every day, 24/7.

There are many pieces of legislation that are here in the Congress that deal with this caregiving situation. There is also legislation that would ramp up the research necessary to get at the disease to fully understand what it is all about and how we might treat it and prevent it. These pieces of legislation deserve our attention.

Joining me tonight is a colleague from California who is carrying one of those pieces of legislation, a woman who has spent her entire career—public and private—in Congress and in the California legislature, addressing the problems of health care, the problems of the underinsured and the underserved, an incredible woman who has her own story to tell.

Let me introduce to you MAXINE WATERS, my colleague from California.

Ms. WATERS. I would first like to thank my colleague from California, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, for this time, and I congratulate him for organizing this evening's Special Order on Alzheimer's disease.

JOHN, I would like to tell you that those charts that you just presented tell the story very clearly. It identifies the extent of this disease, and it also lays out that we need to do more with research.

We need to invest more in research, but you also showed, for those diseases where we have invested in, that they have reduced the death rates dramatically. I think your presentation needs to be seen by everybody because it does paint the picture of what is going on with this disease.

As the cochair of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, I know how devastating this disease can be on patients, families, and caregivers. The task force works on a bipartisan basis to increase awareness of Alzheimer's, strengthen the Federal commitment to improving the lives of those affected by the disease, and assist the caregivers who provide their needed support.

I am pleased that the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) has decided to take an active role in the work of the task force, and what a great job he has done.

Alzheimer's disease has touched millions of American families. However, most of us are probably unaware of the statistics behind the disease and the significant public health threat it poses to our Nation.

In the United States, someone develops Alzheimer's every 67 seconds. According to recent data, women have a one in six estimated lifetime risk of developing the disease at age 65, while the risk for men is nearly one in 11.

The Alzheimer's Association estimates as many as 16 million Americans over age 65 could suffer from Alzheimer's by 2050. It is now the fifth leading cause of death in California.

Right now, nearly 15 million people—mostly family members—provide unpaid care for individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia, a market value of more than $220.2 billion.

In California alone, approximately 1.5 million unpaid caregivers grapple with the tremendous challenges of Alzheimer's disease or dementia every day. Caregivers include spouses, children, even grandchildren.

Caregivers face a variety of challenges, ranging from assisting patients with feeding, bathing, and dressing, to helping them take care of their medications, manage finances, and make legal decisions.

I want you to know that I have friends who are taking care of both their father and their mother who have Alzheimer's. Caregiving is something that we have to pay attention to.

We have to give support to these families because not only is it a tremendous responsibility that so many people are taking on—as compared to caregivers for other diseases, Alzheimer's caregivers disproportionately report being forced to miss work, reduce work hours, quit their jobs, and change jobs due to caregiving demands. They are more likely to experience financial hardship, report health difficulties, experience emotional stress, and suffer from sleep disturbance.

These are just some of the reasons why I introduced the Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Act, H.R. 2975, last year. This bill authorizes grants to public and nonprofit organizations to expand training and support services for families and caregivers of Alzheimer's patients.

With the majority of Alzheimer's patients living at home under the care of family and friends, it is important that we ensure these caregivers have access to the training and resources needed to provide proper care.

The families and communities facing Alzheimer's also must deal with the difficult problem of wandering. According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 60 percent of Alzheimer's patients are likely to wander away from home. In addition to being distracting for law enforcement, wanderers are vulnerable to dehydration, weather conditions, traffic hazards, and people who prey on vulnerable seniors.

In fact, the Alzheimer's Association estimates that up to 50 percent of wandering Alzheimer's patients will become seriously injured or die if they are not found within 24 hours of their departure from home.

To combat this, I have introduced H.R. 2976, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, a small but effective Department of Justice program that helps local communities and law enforcement agencies quickly identify persons with Alzheimer's disease who wander or are missing and reunite them with their families.

The program is a valuable resource for first responders, and it enables law enforcement officers to focus their attention on other security concerns in our communities.

Of course, nothing can be more valuable for Alzheimer's patients, their families, caregivers, and communities than a cure for this terrible disease.

To that end, we must significantly expand the government's insufficient investment in Alzheimer's research. It is essential that Congress appropriate robust funding for cutting-edge research at the National Institutes of Health.

The private sector also has a role to play in funding Alzheimer's research, as do donations from concerned individuals. A simple way for Congress to encourage the public to contribute is to require the U.S. Postal Service to issue and sell a semipostal stamp, with the proceeds helping to fund Alzheimer's research at NIH.

This would be similar to the popular and successful breast cancer research semipostal stamp. A bill to do this, H.R. 1508, was introduced by now-Senator ED MARKEY prior to his election to the Senate, and I am working very hard to pass it.

So as we continue to search for a cure, our Nation is at a critical crossroads that requires decisive action to ensure the safety and welfare of the millions of Americans with Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

Together, let us commit to take every possible action to improve treatment for Alzheimer's patients, support caregivers, and invest in research to find a cure for this disease.

Once again, I want to thank my colleague, JOHN GARAMENDI from California, for organizing tonight's Special Order. It is important that we do as much as we can to educate the public, to gain widespread support, to make sure that we have the support that is necessary to get more funding for research.

You are doing a fine job of getting us focused. I appreciate that.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank Congresswoman WATERS. A couple of things come to mind as we were talking about the research effort.

We will very soon appropriate well over $80 billion—$80 billion—for ongoing military actions in Afghanistan. We make choices here, and it seems to me that we need to understand the import and the importance of the choices we make.

Now, that does not include the CIA and the State Department and the USAID—those are additional expenses over and above that the military will be using—at a time when, presumably, we are pulling out of Afghanistan. What would $1 billion of that $80 billion mean to the Alzheimer's research programs here in the United States?

Well, first of all, we shouldn't appropriate $1 billion because you can't ramp up that fast; but if we spread that over 2, 3, 4 years and go from $566 million to $1.5 billion, what could be accomplished?

I know that, in my own district in the Sacramento Valley, the University of California, Davis, has a very robust and breakthrough opportunity on brain research. I know in your own area of Los Angeles, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California are, together, operating major research programs on the mind, on the human brain, and how it is harmed, what is it that sets off Alzheimer's.

We can do this, but these are choices that your Representatives, the American people, your Representatives are making choices here in this House about how to spend your money. When one in five seniors comes down with Alzheimer's and we make a choice to spend $80 billion in Afghanistan, you should be questioning this. As to our rationality, are we making the right choice? I think not.

Let me just comment on your legislation, Congresswoman WATERS. Your Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act, H.R. 2975, I am thinking what it would have meant to Patty and I as we took upon the task of caring for her mother.

We really didn't know much about Alzheimer's and really didn't know much about the kind of care and the kind of reaction and different things we might do and she might do.

It would have been so helpful to us to have had that kind of information available, that kind of support. Now, we got through it very well. We had a lot of ability to search out information, and we are not unique, but I think the general public who is facing this personal crisis of a husband or a wife—and as you said, two out of three are going to be women—as they face that crisis, if they had the support that your bill would give to them, here is what you should expect, here is what you can do, here is where you can get help.

It is a good bill. We ought to pass it. We ought to pass this bill. So, Congresswoman WATERS, thank you for doing that. If you want to comment back on how you came to put this bill in, what was your motivation? How did you come to see it, from your own experiences? I know you have friends and, perhaps, even family that faced this situation.

Ms. WATERS. Absolutely. I have been watching for some time what caregivers go through in an attempt to provide the care that is needed by Alzheimer's patients, and you hit it on the head when you said: If only these individuals had had a little help in understanding the disease—what is it like? What is likely to happen? What can you anticipate? How should you react, and what can you do to get some help?

If that information simply was available, it would be of tremendous help to caregivers, but in addition to that, many of the caregivers put their own well-being at risk in so many ways.

Not only do they oftentimes have to lose time from work—which causes difficulties—but many times, the caregivers themselves have health problems that they are addressing that are exacerbated by the fact that they have additional responsibilities in giving care to their Alzheimer's relatives.

Yes, I have seen a lot of this, and I know the pain that families go through. As I saw my own mother age—and they said: Ms. WATERS, what you are seeing now is dementia.

I watched this very vibrant, energetic woman, who lived to be 97 years old, eventually go into a state of being that certainly was not the woman that I had known that had reared me, had been so energetic all of her life.

The lapses in memory and finally, toward the end, the inability to recognize her family was a very traumatic and heartbreaking thing to see.

□ 2045

So I want for every family the ability to deal with this. I want their government to be of help to them. As you have said, we have got to get our priorities in order. That $80 billion that you mention is a tremendous amount of American taxpayer money that is going toward an effort that most of us don't even understand. There is no reason that we should be in this situation.

I am looking at this chart, ''Investments in Health Research.'' That is shameful what I am looking at, only $566 million as compared to what we are putting into other diseases. We don't mind the money that is being put into other diseases. We see how it has reduced debt. We just want attention also to Alzheimer's. I think you have made it very clear this evening with the information that you have presented.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, this chart clearly shows—clearly shows—what happens when you make an investment: cancer, HIV, cardiovascular. I remember, 20 years ago, nobody thought you could solve HIV. It was there and it was going to devastate the entire planet, but research—research—paid off. While this disease is not under control and is still all too prevalent, there is an ability to stem the impact of it and to be able to live with that disease. We can make progress here.

I am just thinking again about your piece of legislation, about the kind of help that people need and, really, education beyond just what you have talked about in your bill. Every family goes through this in either their own family or a neighboring family in the early onset, early in the progress of the disease. The change in the way in which a person functions and works and interacts with the family is profoundly disturbing to the family, even more so if the family doesn't understand and doesn't know what is happening.

So the ability to diagnose Alzheimer's early becomes very, very important to the well-being of the family, as you said. If that family understands what is happening, they are better able to cope with a very, very difficult situation. If they have no idea and Mama or Dad just suddenly seems to be off in some strange and unimaginable direction, the family can be torn apart. I know we have seen this many, many places across the people that I have known over the years. But your bill ought to be law, and we ought to be funding those kinds of nonprofit and social organizations that can address and help an individual understand what is going on in the Alzheimer's situation.

Another one, your second bill dealing with the Patient Alert Program, I remember very well a situation that occurred years ago where a neighbor simply wandered off and it created a community crisis: Where did he go? Where is he? After a couple of days, it turned out to not be a devastating situation. Your bill would provide assistance in tracking and keeping track of and finding those men and women that will and have wandered off. This is very much a part of this illness. So thank you for introducing these pieces of legislation.

My plea to my colleagues here is let's focus on this. There are many, many things we focus on here. All too often it is just political one-upmanship. This is not a Democratic issue; it is not an Republican issue. This is an American issue affecting nearly every American family. I like your legislation. I would hope the President would have this on his desk tomorrow morning, would sign this and get the help that people need.

There are several other pieces of legislation that are also introduced. I would like to introduce my colleague, who is carrying a piece of legislation on this matter, and yield to him for his exposition. So if you would care to join us, we will hear from, actually, the other side of the aisle. It is a bipartisan 1-hour, so please.

Mr. ROSKAM. Thank you very much. I want to thank you for yielding and thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

To your point, Alzheimer's is a devastating illness, and it is absolutely ravaging our Nation. Five million Americans are suffering from it, and the cost of Alzheimer's is in the billions and billions and billions of dollars. In fact, there are some estimates that suggest it will be in the trillions of dollars between 2010 and 2050.

There is some good news and there is some hopeful news that we are on the verge of some new treatments, but we need effective coordination to ensure that the money is spent on research that is being utilized effectively. The devastating cost of this disease is proof in the numbers.

Nearly 1 in 5 Medicare dollars is spent on a person with Alzheimer's and other dementias. This year, the total cost of Alzheimer's will be $214 billion, including $150 billion on Medicare and Medicaid expenditures, and this will skyrocket in the years ahead.

This is not just a dollars-and-cents issue. Yes, it is very important, and, yes, we discuss dollars and cents in this Chamber and we all bring strong feelings and strong opinions, but setting aside, for a moment, the dollars-and-cents issue, this is inextricably linked to the health of our families, to the health of our communities, and the burden that goes not just on the person who is struck with Alzheimer's, but the burden on the caregiver and the family that has to come along. It is an overwhelming thing. Frankly, it is too overwhelming to bear alone.

So we all have stories of either family members or people that we are close to or people that we knew. I think fondly of a schoolteacher and a Sunday school teacher of mine growing up who was struck down by this disease. To watch her just atrophy over the years was an incredible heartache, and to watch her family come around and love her and care for her and do everything they could to lift that burden and to bear that burden alongside from her.

Now we have an opportunity. We have an opportunity in this Chamber to do something that is transformational, that brings us all together, that brings a sense of hope and optimism and possibility about trying to wrestle this disease to the ground. What an incredible time to see the science come together in ways that transcend normal partisan politics, and we can put those things aside and really cling to this notion of giving hope to people.

I want to thank the gentleman for his leadership. I want to thank him for his attention in driving this issue and to bringing all of us together around it. I definitely, on behalf of myself and my constituents in Illinois' Sixth Congressional District, want to be part of the solution moving forward.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank you so very, very much.

One of the challenges that I find in the House, there are 435 of us, and I never had the opportunity to work with you directly on committees. We just are not on the same committees, so I hardly know you, but I already like where you are headed. I like the way in which you speak to this issue and the way in which you show your compassion. I really look forward to working with you. These are bipartisan issues.

If you just hang on a few seconds, there are about seven bills that have been introduced thus far. Representative MARKEY, who is now a Senator, introduced H.R. 1507, which I think one of our colleagues has picked up here. That deals with the Social Security Act and makes this illness, a comprehensive Alzheimer's disease diagnosis, part of the Medicare program.

There is a bill introduced by a Republican, Mr. GUTHRIE. It is the Alzheimer's Accountability Act. This one basically says, okay, there is a plan. How are we doing with the plan? What is the plan to deal with Alzheimer's research, the support necessary? And it would require that a report be prepared

every year so that we can keep track of progress or lack thereof. I like that bill because I think accountability is really important for us. Ultimately, these will be our decisions.

You can jump in on any one of these you may be involved in.

Mr. ROSKAM. I am a cosponsor of both of those pieces of legislation, one authored by a Republican, one authored by a Democrat.

I think the point is there has got to be a sense of clarity. We have limited resources here. There is an incredible upside in the outyears in particular if we wrestle this disease to the ground and that notion of a holistic approach, because that is really what you are talking about. You are talking about not taking a rifle shot, not saying, well, let's do this, that, or the other thing, but, instead, take a step back, look at it in its entirety; let's use the full weight and influence of research dollars and health care dollars on the Federal side and leverage this to the best of our ability.

If you begin to think that way about some of these problems and we begin to think about, well, what is it that brings us together, there is real optimism here. Unfortunately, people look at Congress and say why can't you people get along and so forth, yet they don't see maybe some of this type of work where we are able to come together and we are able to represent constituents who are struggling mightily under this.

I think both of those bills that you referenced, I am honored to cosponsor them and to support the Members that are playing a leadership role. One of the things that you and I can do as Members of Congress is to bring attention to things and to talk to our colleagues and to lead our districts and to persuade people and try and bring people together.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, we are doing some of that tonight.

There is another one. This issue is not an American issue. This issue is a worldwide issue. Every society, every ethnic group in the world faces Alzheimer's, some more severely than others. There is another piece of legislation introduced by CHRIS SMITH, who is the cochair of the Alzheimer's Caucus here in Congress. This one is H. Res. 489, the Global Alzheimer's resolution by Mr. SMITH. It says it is the policy of the U.S. Government to encourage and facilitate the following efforts concerning Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. This goes to the World Health Organization and other nations that are involved in research, the sharing of knowledge and research.

We can, as you just said, leverage, leverage what we are doing with what is going on in other countries—certainly the European countries; we know China is doing a lot of research on this—together the whole world facing a common issue, and perhaps we can find a much better and a faster solution.

Mr. ROSKAM. Can you imagine what it would be like if, instead of waiting for this disease to wake up with a slow awakening or a realization that either you have been struck with Alzheimer's yourself or you are observing this in a loved one, if, instead, there is a day that would come in the future where there was a cure for this and you are able to anticipate it and say: Look, you don't have to walk this journey. You don't have to walk that difficulty and that turmoil and bear that burden. There is something that, based on the work that people did in 2014 and the predecessor years and all the incredible progress that has been made, that there is some day in the future. That was sort of pie-in-the-sky talk a few years ago. That is not pie in the sky anymore. That is a possibility.

If we are advancing this legislation that you referenced earlier, the legislation on a global basis that brings in worldwide partners that Congressman SMITH is advocating, the cumulative effect of all of those things can lead to, really, a transformational moment.

Mr. GARAMENDI. No doubt about it. There is research going on all around the world. Major drug companies are involved. Countries are doing their own research. It is all possible.

One other bill that I would like to bring up, this one is introduced again by CHRIS SMITH, and this is called the PACE Pilot Act. This is a program for all-inclusive care for the elderly, which currently helps those over 55, to provide a continuity of care and comprehensive care for them. It is more than just Alzheimer's. We know that nursing home care is extraordinarily expensive. This is an effort to try and keep people in their home with appropriate care and support.

So this is another piece of the puzzle, together with the two bills that our colleague MAXINE WATERS had introduced, giving us a package of legislation that we ought to work on.

The other piece of legislation which is not among these bills is the annual appropriation bill. Last year, we increased Alzheimer's research by $100 million, a very, very good thing.

□ 2100

But, again, we could do much more. And if we were to do that, I am convinced we would be able to advance the knowledge, the early detection, and, as you said a moment ago, a cure for this devastating illness. It is there. The only thing we need is to focus our attention and the world's attention on this, put the money into research, and then we can see a solution.

If you would care to wrap up, I have had my say on this.

Mr. ROSKAM. I want to compliment you and say thank you to the gentleman from California for your leadership on this issue, your leadership on the Alzheimer's Task Force, and your bringing people together on both sides of the aisle and trying to leverage resources, be wise in how we do this, but recognizing the responsibility that you and I and our colleagues have—and that responsibility is to do everything that we can to try and alleviate this burden and ultimately drive towards a cure.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Representative ROSKAM, it is a pleasure working with you this evening. We will call this a beginning, working across the aisle on a program that affects everyone and every family in this Nation.

We can deal with Alzheimer's. We just need to put our shoulder to the wheel and push forward with the programs that we know are successful, many of them introduced by our colleagues here. I, too, am happy to be a cosponsor of all of these pieces of legislation.

So much for this night on this very, very important piece of legislation. We will come back to it in a few weeks and see what progress has been made in perhaps the appropriations process or in the passage of these pieces of legislation.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we have had our discussion this evening on this important illness, and I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of travel delays.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on July 7, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2388. To take certain Federal lands located in El Dorado County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, July 9, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the second quarter of 2014, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PATRICK CONROY, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 11 AND MAY 19, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Rev. Pat Conroy	5/12	5/13	Turkey		1,530.00		(3)				1,530.00
	5/14	5/14	Jordan		403.00		(3)				403.00
	5/15	5/17	UAE		1,608.00		(3)				1,608.00
	5/18	5/18	Italy		325.00		(3)				325.00
Committee total					3,866.00						3,866.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

REV. PATRICK CONROY, June 18, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO CANADA, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 6 AND JUNE 9, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Bill Huizenga	6/6	6/9	Canada		897.00		1,481.00				2,378.00
Hon. Bill Owens	6/6	6/8	Canada		598.00		0.00				598.00
Hon. Tom Petri	6/6	6/9	Canada		897.00		985.00				1,882.00
Hon. Paul Tonko	6/6	6/8	Canada		598.00		0.00				598.00
Janice Robinson	6/6	6/9	Canada		897.00		985.00				1,882.00
Joske Bautista	6/6	6/9	Canada		897.00		985.00				1,882.00
Eric Jacobstein	6/6	6/9	Canada		897.00		985.00				1,882.00
Committee total					5,681.00		5,421.00				11,102.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BILL HUIZENGA, June 24, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO LITHUANIA, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 28 AND JUNE 2, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Mike Turner	5/31	6/2	Lithuania		608.00		8,924.00				9,532.00
Hon. Tom Marino	5/31	6/2	Lithuania		608.00		8,924.00				9,532.00
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	5/31	6/2	Lithuania		608.00		8,924.00				9,532.00
Janice Robinson	5/31	6/2	Lithuania		608.00		5,962.00				6,570.00
Jeff Dressler	5/29	6/2	Lithuania		1,216.00		5,962.00				7,178.00
Ed Rice	5/31	6/2	Lithuania		608.00		5,962.00				6,570.00
Committee total					4,256.00		44,658.00				48,914.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER, June 26, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Paul Ryan	4/20	4/22	Japan		374.00		(3)				374.00
	4/22	4/23	South Korea		120.00		(3)				120.00
	4/23	4/23	China		331.00		(3)				331.00
Karen Robb	4/12	4/18	Tanzania		1,236.00		6,817.50				8,053.50
Committee total					2,061		6,817.50				8,878.50

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation

HON. PAUL RYAN, Chairman, June 18, 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6251. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Charles R. Davis, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6252. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Brigadier General John P. Horner, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6253. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Keith C. Walker, United States Army, and his advancement on the retired list to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6254. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter notifying that the Department intends to assign women to previously closed positions in the Navy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6255. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting

the 2011 Workplace and Equal Opportunity Survey of Reserve Component Members; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6256. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRA, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Integration of National Bank and Savings Association Regulations: Interagency Rules [Docket ID: OCC-2014-0006] (RIN: 1557-AD75) received May 23, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6257. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting the Bank's report on export credit competition and the Export-Import Bank of the United States for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013; to the Committee on Financial Services.

6258. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Spirulina Extract; Confirmation of Effective Date [Docket No.: FDA-2012-C-0900] received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6259. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revisions to Rules Authorizing the Operation of Low Power Auxiliary Stations in the 698-806 MHz Band; Public Interest Spectrum Coalition, Petition for Rulemaking Regarding Low Power Auxiliary Stations, Including Wireless Microphones, and the Digital Television Transition; Amendment of Parts 15, 74 and 90 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Low Power Auxiliary Stations, Including Wireless Microphones [WT Docket No.: 08-166] [WT Docket No.: 08-167] [ET Docket No.: 10-24] received June 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6260. A letter from the Chairman, Southeast Compact Commission for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management, transmitting the Commission's 2012-2013 Annual Report and Annual Audit; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6261. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-16, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6262. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 14-25, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6263. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Corrections and Clarifications to the Export Administration Regulations: Conforming Changes to the EAR Based on Amendments to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations [Docket No.: 140221165-4165-01] (RIN: 0694-AG11) received June 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6264. A letter from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting the Commission's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6265. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2013 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.

6266. A letter from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, transmitting the 2013 management report and statements on system of internal controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6267. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's semiannual report from the office of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6268. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting two reports pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6269. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events, Atlantic Ocean; Ocean City, MD [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0056] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6270. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; BMA Media Group Fireworks, Presque Isle Bay, Erie, PA [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0258] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6271. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Fifth Coast Guard District Fireworks Display Cape Fear River; Wilmington, NC [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0148] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6272. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Jones Beach Air Show; Atlantic Ocean, Sloop Channel through East Bay, and Zach's Bay; Wantagh, NY [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0250] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6273. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Belt Parkway Bridge Construction, Gerritsen Inlet; Brooklyn, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0471] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6274. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Stuart Sailfish Regatta, Indian River; Stuart, FL [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0089] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6275. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Elizabeth River, Elizabeth, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0285] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6276. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX [Docket Number: USCG-2014-0134] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6277. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Captain of the Port Boston Fireworks Display Zones, Boston Harbor, Boston, MA [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0503] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 6, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6278. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Blairsville, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0731; Airspace Docket No.: 13-ASO-18] received June 12, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6279. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the final report on the Medicare Gainsharing Demonstration; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6280. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Application of the General Welfare Exclusion to Indian Tribal Government Programs That Provide Benefits to Tribal Members (Rev. Proc. 2014-35) received June 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 5020. A bill to amend the Indian Land Consolidation Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to contract with eligible Indian tribes to manage land buy-back programs, to authorize that certain amounts be deposited into interest bearing accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CAMP (for himself and Mr. SHUSTER):

H.R. 5021. A bill to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Science, Space, and Technology, Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 5022. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve dental health care for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama (for himself and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 5023. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide additional points to competitive service entrance exam of preference eligibles applying for positions at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MOORE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 5024. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to credit prospectively individuals serving as caregivers of dependent relatives with deemed wages for up to five years of such service; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 5025. A bill to amend chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, to condition the receipt of certain highway funding by States on the enactment and enforcement by States of certain laws to prevent repeat intoxicated driving; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 5026. A bill to prohibit closing or repurposing any propagation fish hatchery or aquatic species propagation program of the Department of the Interior unless such action is expressly authorized by an Act of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. SCHRADER):

H.R. 5027. A bill to promote energy savings in residential and commercial buildings and industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5028. A bill to establish grant programs to provide for the establishment of a national hate crime hotline and a hate crime information and assistance website, to provide training and education to local law enforcement to prevent hate crimes, and to provide assistance to victims of hate crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. ESTY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 5029. A bill to provide for the establishment of a body to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the domestic science and technology enterprise and support United States foreign policy goals; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. YOHO, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. MICA, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. JOLLY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. GARCIA):

H.R. 5030. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13500 SW 250 Street in Princeton, Florida, as the ''Corporal Christian A. Guzman Rivera Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Ms. ESTY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 5031. A bill to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H. Res. 657. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States support for the State of Israel as it defends itself against unprovoked rocket attacks from the Hamas terrorist organization; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 658. A resolution expressing support for a whole child approach to education and recognizing the role of parents, educators, and community members in providing a whole child approach to education for each student; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ENYART, Mr. WALZ, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. FOSTER):

H. Res. 659. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to prohibit the Committee on Ethics from waiving any requirement that Members, officers, and employees of the House include information on reimbursements for travel in the financial disclosure reports such individuals are required to file under the Ethics in Government Act of 1978; to the Committee on Rules.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 5020.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 5021.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1, Clause 3, Clause 7, and Clause 18.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 5022.

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

To raise and support Armies and to provide and maintain a Navy, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clauses 12 and 13 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama:

H.R. 5023.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 ''To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces'' and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 5024.

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

Article I of the Constitution

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 5025.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 5026.

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

This legislation is constitutionally appropriate pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (the Spending Clause). The Supreme Court, in South Dakota v. Dole (1987), reasoned that conditions and limitations on funds were constitutional and within the power of Congress under the Spending Clause. Thus, conditioning the use of federal funds in order to direct appropriate spending goals and purposes are constitutionally permissible. As the spending is national in scope and pertains to all National Fish Hatcheries, and the conditions are clear, the legislation is constitutional.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 5027.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution provides Congress the authority to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper to carry 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. ISRAEL:

H.R. 5028.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to the Congress by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 5029.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 5030.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution: ''The Congress shall have Power to establish Post Offices and post Roads''

By Mr. SMITH of Texas:

H.R. 5031.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes; and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 32: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 50: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 118: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 217: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 270: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 279: Mr. KEATING, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 281: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 425: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 463: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 494: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 543: Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 692: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 702: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 715: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 920: Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 958: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 1020: Mr. GIBBS.
H.R. 1125: Mr. LOEBSACK and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1129: Mr. ROSS and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 1179: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 1225: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 1226: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 1239: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 1250: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 1252: Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1289: Mr. MEEKS and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 1318: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 1339: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 1354: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 1449: Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 1461: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1462: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1507: Mr. GRIMM.
H.R. 1563: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1594: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 1795: Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 1812: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1827: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 1852: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 1893: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 1905: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 1918: Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 1998: Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 2012: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 2084: Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 2116: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 2144: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ
H.R. 2313: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 2315: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 2317: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2376: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 2415: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 2453: Mr. HOLDING and Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2500: Mr. MCALLISTER.
H.R. 2502: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 2529: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2536: Mr. JOYCE, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 2538: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 2543: Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 2553: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 2607: Mr. MICA, Mr. ROSS, Mr. DENT, and Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 2638: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 2647: Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 2673: Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 2697: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 2734: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2745: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 2791: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 2852: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 2856: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2869: Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 2874: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2955: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3040: Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 3077: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 3082: Mr. COTTON and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 3229: Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 3245: Mr. SCHRADER.
H.R. 3318: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 3320: Mr. CASSIDY and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 3367: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 3391: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 3485: Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 3490: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 3531: Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 3556: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 3579: Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 3690: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 3710: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 3712: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 3717: Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 3899: Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 3930: Mr. COHEN and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 3978: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 3991: Mr. SCHRADER and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 3992: Mrs. ELLMERS and Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 4041: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. YARMUTH, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 4103: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 4119: Mr. POCAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. RICHMOND.
H.R. 4122: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 4188: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 4190: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 4208: Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 4234: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 4250: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 4252: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 4333: Mr. MICHAUD and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 4351: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4365: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 4385: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4395: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 4411: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 4423: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4427: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 4450: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. HANNA, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 4462: Ms. HAHN.
H.R. 4469: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 4510: Mr. HANNA, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DENT, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 4577: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 4590: Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 4605: Mr. COOK and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 4608: Mr. BLUMENAUER
H.R. 4612: Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H.R. 4623: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4625: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 4651: Mr. VELA.
H.R. 4653: Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 4678: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 4706: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 4720: Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 4749: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 4771: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 4775: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 4781: Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 4782: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 4783: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 4790: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 4792: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 4808: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 4814: Ms. BASS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. NEAL, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4837: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4853: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 4864: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 4882: Mr. ROSS and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 4885: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 4920: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 4934: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4942: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4948: Mr. ENYART, Mr. JONES, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 4962: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 4964: Mr. HIGGINS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 4965: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 4966: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4970: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 4971: Mr. HURT, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BARBER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GARCIA, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 4979: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 4988: Mr. JONES and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 4999: Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 5002: Mr. NEAL.
H.J. Res. 68: Mr. HONDA.
H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. RUSH.
H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. MEADOWS.
H. Con. Res. 95: Mr. CRAMER.
H. Res. 35: Mr. RIBBLE.
H. Res. 109: Mr. HONDA and Mr. RANGEL.
H. Res. 281: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H. Res. 456: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. GOODLATTE.
H. Res. 480: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, and Mr. GRIMM.
H. Res. 536: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H. Res. 587: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 588: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. FINCHER, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H. Res. 612: Mr. STIVERS.
H. Res. 620: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. TERRY, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. ADERHOLT.
H. Res. 621: Mr. NEUGEBAUER and Mr. FLEMING.
H. Res. 623: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RUNYAN, and Ms. DELAURO.
H. Res. 644: Mr. MARINO.
H. Res. 652: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. CARTER, and Mr. STEWART.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. ELLISON

AMENDMENT NO. 7: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any person whose disclosures of a proceeding with a disposition listed in section 2313(c)(1) of title 41, United States Code, in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System include the term ''Fair Labor Standards Act.''.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. MURPHY OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT NO. 8: Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 7, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. FLEMING

AMENDMENT NO. 9. At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salary of any officer or employee to carry out section 301 of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 16421a; added by section 402 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111–5)).

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MRS. WALORSKI

AMENDMENT NO. 10: Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $500,000)''.

Page 19, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $500,000)''.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. GRAYSON

AMENDMENT NO. 11: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following new section:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract with any offeror or any of its principals if the offeror certifies, as required by Federal Acquisition Regulation, that the offeror or any of its principals:

(A) within a three-year period preceding this offer has been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against it for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes relating to the submission of offers; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, violating Federal criminal tax laws, or receiving stolen property; or

(B) are presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated above in subsection (A); or

(C) within a three-year period preceding this offer, has been notified of any delinquent Federal taxes in an amount that exceeds $3,000 for which the liability remains unsatisfied.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. BLUMENAUER

AMENDMENT NO. 12: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act for Project 99–D–143, Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, may be used for any purpose other than placing the facility in cold standby.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. BLUMENAUER

AMENDMENT NO. 13: Page 19, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $9,808,000)''.

Page 21, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $14,712,000)''.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MS. TITUS

AMENDMENT NO. 14: Page 59, beginning on line 8, strike section 506.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MS. TITUS

AMENDMENT NO. 15: Page 24, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $150,000,000)''.

Page 59, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $150,000,000)''.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MRS. LUMMIS

AMENDMENT NO. 16: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 3112(d)(2)(B) of the USEC Privatization Act (42 U.S.C. 2297h-10(d)(2)(B)) and all public notice and comment requirements under chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, that are applicable to carrying out such section.

H.R. 4923

OFFERED BY: MR. KILMER

AMENDMENT NO. 17: Page 28, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $59,658,000)''.

Page 29, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $59,658,000)''.

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of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2014 *No. 105*

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Be exalted, O God, above the highest Heavens, for we look to You each day for our protection and peace. Fulfill Your purposes by using our Senators as agents of Your grace. Lord, surround them with Your favor, as their labors bring honor to You. Deliver them from the traps set by their enemies. Give them hearts filled with confidence in Your prevailing providence, sustaining them with Your unfailing faithfulness and love.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SALUTING THE FLAG

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just by chance last night I was reading a book and it included a speech given by JOHN MCCAIN, our fellow Senator. What Senator MCCAIN talked about was some of his experiences in the prison camp in Vietnam where a man by the name of Mike Christian had spent an inordinate amount of time sewing on the inside of the pajama-like outfit they gave him to wear, and he put a flag inside his jacket—his shirt. This jacket was discovered, the flag was discovered by the prison officials, and he was beaten really very much. He was beaten severely. Of course, they ripped the flag out of his coat.

We take for granted saluting the flag. We come in here and we do it every morning. By rote, we stand and do it. I am not too sure that we shouldn't think a little bit more about what we are doing when we salute the flag. I am going to bring that excerpt from home and I am going to submit it for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for everybody to see, about people who have been—for example, Senator MCCAIN was in prison for 5½ years. As we know, he was, on many different occasions, tortured. So when JOHN MCCAIN salutes the flag and when Mike Christian, a fellow pilot—he was actually a navigator on an airplane—salute the flag, it means a lot to them, and we should encapsulate that when we think about saluting the flag.

I will submit that excerpt for the RECORD tomorrow. I read that last night, late. I thought, when we salute our flag, we should think about it more than, I am sure, we do all the time.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The majority will control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans will control the final 30 minutes.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2363, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, postcloture.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 today to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the majority control the time from 2:15 until 3:15 and the Republicans control the time from 3:15 to 4:15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is no secret that the Senate, as of late, has been beset by partisan rancor and obstruction: one Republican filibuster and then another, and then another, and still more filibusters. That is why the legislation that is before us today represents a rare opportunity for the Senate to complete work on a bill that enjoys broad bipartisan support.

Senator KAY HAGAN's sportsmen's bill is overwhelmingly popular with Democrats and Republicans around the country, and for good reason. Forty million Americans who hunt and fish stand to benefit from this legislation.

The sportsmen's package represents years of bipartisan work—years—combining some 20 bills important to the sportsmen's community. The bill expands opportunities for sportsmen, promoting an industry that contributes almost $200 billion annually to our Nation's economy. In Nevada, over 200,000 people hunt and fish every year. It is good for tourism. People come to Nevada to hunt for game, including antelope, elk, and bighorn desert sheep. We have wonderful fishing. We don't have a lot of lakes and rivers, but what we have is terrific. That is why fishermen come from around the country to fish in Nevada. To Nevada, it is a $1 billion industry.

I was talking to my friend Senator BENNET from Colorado and he said in Colorado it is a $4 billion industry. I would bet that even in a heavily populated State such as New Jersey there is a lot of hunting and fishing that goes on. It is good for the economy.

Senator HAGAN's legislation promotes hunting, fishing, and recreation, all while fostering habitat conservation through voluntary programs. Because of her tireless efforts building bipartisan consensus, Senator HAGAN's

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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bill is cosponsored by 25 Republicans and 19 Democrats. This legislation also enjoys the support of more than 50 national sportsmen and conservation groups all over this country.

As Benjamin Disraeli, the famous statesman from Great Britain, said, ''The secret of success is to be ready when your opportunity comes.'' This bill is ready and the opportunity is now. After years of hard work by Senator HAGAN and others, now is the time to consider and pass this legislation. But, as always, our success in moving this legislation will depend on the cooperation of all Senators in putting aside political games and petty disputes over amendments in order to pass a bill that will benefit millions of Americans.

This is a bill that is as much a Republican bill as it is a Democrat bill. So why should this bill be killed for procedural reasons? This is a bill they have worked on for many years.

I am hopeful that through bipartisan support we can get this bill over the finish line, as we were able to do with the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act earlier this year, and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act a few weeks ago.

I urge my colleagues to respect the hard work of those Senators who have put this measure before us and allow this matter to pass—and quickly.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, just some information for my friend from Vermont. We had anticipated after my remarks of going to the comments of Senator ALEXANDER and Senator CORKER in connection with the life of Senator Howard Baker. So I ask unanimous consent at this point that the Senators from Tennessee follow my remarks on Senator Baker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I shall not, of course, because as I told the press in Vermont last week, I had the privilege of serving with more than 10 leaders in both parties since I have been here, and it is impossible to find a finer leader than Howard Baker. I considered him to be a Senator's Senator and one of the finest people I have ever served with. So of course I will wait.

I would ask to amend the unanimous consent request so that following the remarks of the Republican leader and the two Senators from Tennessee I then be recognized for my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the leader modify his request?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. First, a few observations about ObamaCare. It may not have existed in the English language a few years ago, but in short order it has become a battle word for broken promises and almost cartoonish inefficiency. It is no wonder why: You can keep your plan. You can keep your doctor. Premiums will go down. The law will create millions of jobs.

We knew the promises wouldn't hold up. Many of us said so. One even earned the dubious distinction of being declared the ''lie of the year.'' And that is why it is so hard to trust much of what the Obama administration claims about ObamaCare these days, such as back in December when administration officials issued another promise—that they would make sure any taxpayer-funded ObamaCare subsidies would go only to enrollees who actually qualify for them under the law.

We wanted this assurance not only because so many other promises had been broken; we wanted it because eligibility verification is so important. Middle-class taxpayers are feeling enough pain from this law already. They shouldn't have to subsidize inaccurate or even fraudulent ObamaCare claims on top of all the rest. So I helped pass a law that requires a nonpartisan watchdog to keep an eye on the procedures the administration claimed would protect taxpayers to see how they will work and then report back to us in Congress.

Last week that watchdog, the inspector general, issued the first two reports on the issue, and it turns out we were pretty correct to be worried. The inspector general concluded that the administration was often ineffective at verifying such basic details about ObamaCare enrollees as their citizen status, their income, their Social Security number, and whether they were even eligible to purchase ObamaCare in the first place. The administration, the IG reported, didn't even follow its own eligibility verification procedures in many cases.

And that wasn't all. The IG also discovered nearly 3 million inconsistencies in the information ObamaCare enrollees provided in their applications, nearly 90 percent of which couldn't even be resolved because the necessary software—the necessary software—wasn't even operational.

It is completely ridiculous.

And the administration is still struggling to get a handle on the problem. Computer systems that should have been ready to go last October have not been built yet. It is the kind of scenario we would expect to see in a Leslie Nielsen movie, not in real life.

Worse still, administration officials are now indicating they are going to keep chugging ahead with their deeply flawed verification practices, even after everything the government's own watchdog uncovered. Many individuals enrolled with the current flawed enrollment process will automatically be enrolled for the same taxpayer subsidies next year.

They are defiant—defiant—in the face of all of this. This is precisely the kind of flippant attitude that is so infuriating to many of our constituents.

Many of us predicted these kinds of problems would be the likely outcome of giving government such expansive power over a huge segment of our economy. Of course we are going to have massive inefficiency and probable fraud and migraines for middle-class families who already have enough to deal with. Of course we are going to see all this. It seems inevitable.

That is why Republicans say we need to start over with actual health care reform—reform that can actually lower costs and increase the quality of care without resorting to this tired sort of government-centric approach.

ObamaCare is built upon the intellectually lazy idea that we can simply legislate a desirable outcome into existence, that we can tell a hulking Federal bureaucracy to simply bureaucratize affordable health care into being. Unfortunately, life does not work that way. Reality always intervenes, as we have been seeing with the pain of ObamaCare these past few years—pain that will only continue until Washington Democrats join us to enact a serious bipartisan solution that actually addresses many of our health care challenges and dispenses with the failed policies of this administration. Yet that is exactly the opposite of what we have seen from our friends on the other side so far.

Instead of working with us to solve massive problems, such as the ones the inspector general identified, Democrats in Washington are simply hiding from the issue altogether. They are trying to change the subject. Even hinting at it prompts the Democratic majority to shut down the legislative process altogether and cancel committee markups. They block votes and amendments. They will not allow the Senate to consider numerous bipartisan House-passed bills that would address some of ObamaCare's most glaring problems.

Even when a bipartisan group proposes a plan to address a flaw in the law that is reducing incomes for working families, they reject it. Instead, they schedule show votes designed to inflame one group or another.

As for the President, he is traveling around the country this week to give campaign speeches—not working with Congress to help middle-class families struggling under the weight of his policies. So the Democratic plan seems to be to double down on the mess they created and to hope Americans can be distracted enough to forget about it come November.

If that is the plan, it is not going to work. Middle-class Americans know who has been standing by their side throughout this entire ObamaCare fiasco. They know who has been standing against them, serving as a shield for the President and the hard left.

It is not too late for Democrats in Washington to work with Republicans to address the massive problem they created. If they truly care about the millions they have already hurt in this country with this law, it is time to do just that.

REMEMBERING HOWARD BAKER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senators from Tennessee and I had an opportunity 1 week ago today to attend the funeral of Senator Howard Baker, who led the Senate Republicans for 8 years and was a truly wonderful American.

Actually, it was just an honor to attend his funeral down in Huntsville, TN, a town of 1,248 souls that Senator Baker often referred to as the ''center of the known universe.'' It was a wonderful tribute, and it carried a lot of lessons about the work we do.

Senator CORKER was there too, and I am sure he felt the same way. Just before the funeral, he noted that Senator Baker was the kind of person who seemed to evoke ''wisdom in everything he did.'' I was glad to hear the two men got to spend some time together a few months before Senator Baker passed away.

Anyway, a real highlight of the funeral for me was a magnificent—absolutely magnificent—eulogy by Senator ALEXANDER. It captured not only the closeness of their friendship but also the qualities that made Senator Baker such an important figure. This morning I would like to take just a moment to thank Senator ALEXANDER for those thoughtful words and at this point insert his eulogy into the RECORD. I ask unanimous consent that be done.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[Eulogy of Senator Howard Baker, Jr., July 1, 2014]

''HOWARD BAKER, JR.: TENNESSEE'S FAVORITE SON AND ONE OF OUR COUNTRY'S FINEST LEADERS''

(By Lamar Alexander)

On behalf of the Baker family and all of us Tennesseans, let me welcome Vice President Biden, Senator Reid, Senator McConnell, and Senator Danforth, who married Howard and Nancy.

It was August, 1960. Republican Day at the Illinois State Fair. Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen was warming up the crowd of 30,000, explaining why Vice President Richard Nixon should be president of the United States instead of Senator John F. Kennedy.

Seated on the platform behind him were Dirksen's daughter Joy, and her husband Howard Henry Baker, Jr., a 34-year-old lawyer from Huntsville, Tennessee, who looked about 24.

''Jack Kennedy is a nice young man,'' Dirksen was saying. ''But all they can say he has ever done was serve on a PT boat in World War II.''

Turning toward his son-in-law with a flourish, Dirksen said, ''Why, my own son-in-law, Howard Baker, Jr., was on a PT boat in World War II, and I've never heard anyone suggest that he was qualified to serve in any public office.''

Four years later, instead of running for the safe congressional seat that his father and stepmother had held, Howard Baker, Jr., ran to become the first Tennessee Republican popularly elected to the United States Senate. He probably would have won if presidential candidate Barry Goldwater hadn't stopped at the Knoxville airport a few days before the election and promised to sell the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Howard ran again in 1966. I remember standing at that same airport being embarrassed by his prediction to the media that he would win by 100,000 votes, and then, a few days later, he did just that.

Behind Howard Baker's pleasant demeanor was a restless ambition that would propel him to the heights of American politics and government for forty years.

He learned quickly. His maiden address in the Senate lasted about an hour. Afterwards, he asked Senator Dirksen, the Senate Republican Leader, ''How did I do?''

''Howard,'' Dirksen replied, ''perhaps you should occasionally enjoy the luxury of an unexpressed thought.''

In 1968, Howard and Congressman George Bush were runners-up to Governor Spiro Agnew when Nixon picked a vice president. In 1969, when Dirksen died, after only three years in the Senate, he ran for Republican Leader, only to be defeated by Senator Hugh Scott.

In 1971, President Nixon asked him to be on the Supreme Court. Howard declined, then called back and said he would accept if the president insisted, but Nixon had already appointed Bill Rehnquist.

In 1973 came the Watergate hearings. Eight-five percent of Americans saw those hearings, broadcast most days by all of the only four television networks that then existed. And the most famous words were Howard Baker's: ''What did the president know and when did he know it?''

Howard suspected that Senator Scott had made him Ranking Republican on the Watergate Committee to ''get rid of me as a competitor.'' He had run against Scott a second time for Leader, and lost. But instead, the exposure made Baker a national hero and, once again, runner-up in the vice-presidential sweepstakes in 1976 when Gerald Ford picked Bob Dole instead of Howard.

Senator Scott retired, and a few months later, in January, 1977, Howard was elected Republican Leader by one vote. He served for eight years. When, in 1980, the Republican sweep made him majority leader, he visited the wily Democratic Leader Robert Byrd. First, Howard surprised Byrd by suggesting that Byrd keep his ornate office.

Having softened up Byrd, Baker then said, ''Senator Byrd, I'll never learn the rules as well as you know them, so I'll make a deal with you: I won't surprise you if you won't surprise me.''

Byrd replied, ''Let me think about it.'' The next day he agreed. And they ran the Senate together for four more years.

Baker then commandeered an additional set of offices next to the Republican Leader's less-spacious quarters that are today called the ''Howard Baker Rooms.'' He always said that the view from the Howard Baker rooms was the second best view in Washington. The best, of course, is from the White House, which he also occupied—but not in the way he had planned.

In late 1986, while the Bakers were vacationing in Miami, the phone rang. Joy answered. It was President Reagan.

''Where's Howard?'' asked Reagan.

''At the zoo with the grandchildren,'' Joy said.

''Wait till he hears about the zoo I have planned for him,'' the president said.

Howard became White House chief of staff, helping to cleanse the Reagan presidency of its Iran-Contra troubles.

President Reagan and Howard Baker began each day telling each other a little story. ''It got to be a lot of stories,'' Howard said. I always felt a little better about our country knowing we had two men at the top with such temperament.

Joy died in 1993. In 1996, Howard married Nancy. Those of us at the wedding were happy because we had never seen two people so happy.

In 1996, the two Senators Baker moved to Tokyo where Howard became U.S. Ambassador to Japan. When he returned, he headed the law firm that is a descendant of a law firm his grandfather founded in Huntsville.

What skills allowed Howard Baker to accomplish so much?

He was an eloquent listener. He said in 2011, ''There is a difference between hearing and understanding what people say. You don't have to agree, but you have to hear what they've got to say. And if you do, the chances are much better you'll be able to translate that into a useful position and even useful leadership.''

He was called ''The Great Conciliator'' for his habit of gathering disputing senators into one room, listening for a while, and then his summary of the discussion would become the senators' agreement.

He demonstrated courage. He supported civil rights when most southerners didn't. He and Senator Byrd found 68 votes to ratify the Panama Canal Treaty. Several Republican senators signed a letter asking Baker to resign as Leader because of that.

Roy Blount, Jr., says you start getting into trouble when you stop sounding like where you grew up. Howard Baker never stopped sounding like where he grew up. He always went home to Huntsville, which he called the ''center of the known universe.''

He had an eye for talent. In 1969, he told me, ''You ought to meet that smart young legislative assistant who works for Senator Marlow Cook.'' That assistant was Mitch McConnell. Howard mentored another Tennessee majority leader, Bill Frist; Senators Thompson and Corker; and Governors Sundquist and Haslam; Ambassadors Ashe and Montgomery; Congressman Duncan—as well as many others in this congregation.

With Bill Brock and Winfield Dunn, he kept the door open to Republican primaries, attracting hundreds of thousands of ''discerning Democrats'' and independents and creating the majority status the Tennessee Republican Party enjoys today.

Howard Baker knew how to make the Senate work. He understood that the Senate's unique role is as a place for extended debate and amendment on important issues until there is a consensus. That is how he fixed Social Security with Tip O'Neill and Ronald Reagan, how he passed the Reagan tax cuts and the Clean Air and Water laws.

One thing he did not do well was fundraising. He left that to Ted Welch and Jim Haslam and Bill Swain. According to Jim, ''Howard would not raise any money at all, until he started raising money for the Baker Center and then he made every call with me.

In the new version of Lamar Alexander's Little Plaid Book, there is this rule: ''When invited to speak at a funeral, remember to mention the deceased at least as often as yourself.''

I have done my best to follow that rule today, but I hope you understand how difficult that is for me, as it would be for many of you.

So let me just get it out all at once:

For the last half century, Howard Baker has had more influence on my life than anyone outside my own family. He inspired me to help him build a two-party system. I babysat for Darek and Cissy. I met Honey at

a softball game between the Baker staff and the John Tower staff. My favorite photograph of her is one Howard took at the Baker home when we were celebrating our marriage. Our daughter Leslee was flower girl at Darek and Karen's wedding. I occupy the same Senate office Howard once had in the Dirksen Senate office building. My desk on the Senate floor was once his desk.

As his legislative assistant, I wrote his speeches, prompting him to tell the story at least 100 times of how I once asked to see him privately to determine if there was some problem with our relationship because I had learned that he never said in his speeches any of the words that I had written.

''Lamar,'' he replied, ''we have a perfect relationship. You write what you want to write—and I'll say what I want to say.''

Occasionally a young person will ask me, ''How can I become involved in politics?''

My answer always is, ''Find someone you respect, volunteer to help him or her do anything legal, and learn all you can from them. That's what I did.''

How fortunate we were to know, to be inspired by, and to learn from Tennessee's favorite son and one of our country's finest leaders, Howard Baker.

Dan Quayle, when he was a senator, summed it up: ''There's Howard Baker,'' he said, ''and then there's the rest of us senators.''

Mr. MCCONNELL. I would like to share some of Senator ALEXANDER's observations about Senator Baker because, as I said, I think they are important, timely lessons about the purpose and potential of our service.

One of the things that stands out in all the tributes to Senator Baker, including Senator ALEXANDER's, is the way in which he embodied the rare trait of taking himself lightly even as he took his duties seriously.

I will give you an example. One of the time-honored traditions around here is for new Senators to labor over their maiden speeches as if Pericles himself were standing in judgment from the Presiding Officer's chair. Senator Baker was no exception. His maiden speech was long, thoughtful, and dense—so much so that when he asked his father-in-law, then-Senate Republican Leader Everett Dirksen, for his reaction, Dirksen is said to have remarked: ''Howard, Howard, perhaps you should occasionally enjoy the luxury of an unexpressed thought.''

It was the kind of comment that might have stung a lesser Senator, but as Senator ALEXANDER pointed out in mentioning that last week, Baker was a quick learner. About a week or so later, Howard rose again—this time to challenge one of his Democratic colleagues to a game of tennis. The Senator in question had just taken a swipe at the vigor of his Republican colleagues, particularly the new ones, and Senator Baker decided to rise to the challenge, tongue firmly in cheek.

It was a star performance. The Senator that Baker challenged even interrupted him at one point to suggest that it was ''one of the best maiden speeches that has ever been delivered in this chamber.'' Evidently he had missed Baker's actual maiden speech. But Senator Baker's legendary ability to adapt was now firmly established and it set the tone for a two-decade run in which he would be called upon to deploy his many other talents and skills to defuse tensions, resolve conflicts, repair trust, build consensus, and, frankly, just to put people at ease—because sometimes in this business there is nothing more important than just that: to just keep the bearings oiled.

We have all been recently reminded of how Senator Baker put his own ambitions aside to help rebuild the Reagan White House after Iran-Contra. It was a great testament to his values and to his feel for priorities. What Senator ALEXANDER reminded us last week was that these former political rivals—Baker and Reagan—started every day in the White House together telling each other a little story. They had no problem putting their past disputes behind them and building a close working friendship based on mutual respect, common purpose, love of country, and of course good humor. They were adults, busy about serious business, and they conducted that business with dignity and with grace.

The larger point is that while people talk a lot about the importance of having political skill in Washington these days, the importance of temperament cannot be overstated. The way Senator Baker conducted himself here and in the White House is eloquent testimony of that.

It is not that he was laid back. As Senator ALEXANDER put it, behind Baker's pleasant demeanor was a restless ambition that would propel him to the heights of American politics and government for 40 years, but he could subordinate that ambition when he felt the moment or the country needed him to. He was persistent about achieving a result but never insisted that his way was the only way to do it. It is a quality that required an ability to listen. In Baker's case that meant being an eloquent listener, a trait Senator ALEXANDER put above all the others in Baker's formidable arsenal.

Here is how Senator Baker himself once put it:

> There is a difference between hearing and understanding what people say. You don't have to agree, but you have to hear what they've got to say. And if you do, the chances are much better you'll be able to translate that into a useful position and even useful leadership.

Senator ALEXANDER pointed out Howard Baker had courage. He helped round up the votes to ratify the Panama Canal Treaty even though he must have known it would not help him much in a Republican primary for President, to put it mildly. When the integrity of our politics was at stake, he did not hesitate to take on a President of his own party in a very public way—an impulse that one hopes lawmakers in both parties could muster today if the integrity of our system called for it again.

But perhaps most important of all, Howard Baker was grounded. He had an important job to do, and he did it well, but he also kept a healthy distance from his work. His photograph of President Reagan's inaugural in January 1981 illustrates the point. Just behind the new President we can spot the Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill and the new Vice President George Bush. Then right there between them is a man holding up a camera to capture the moment. It is the new Senate majority leader standing there like an ordinary spectator with a very good seat. It was Howard Baker.

Senator ALEXANDER summed up Baker's groundedness this way: ''Howard Baker never stopped sounding like where he grew up.''

Senator Baker was a fixture here for decades, but Huntsville was always home. Perhaps that is also why Senator Baker took his stewardship of the Senate so very seriously. He knew he was not going to be around forever and that meant he had a duty to make the Senate work and to preserve it as a place where disputes and disagreements are sifted and sorted out and where stable, durable solutions are slowly but surely achieved. It is how he earned the nickname ''the great conciliator.''

When Dan Quayle was a Senator here, he used to say: ''There's Howard Baker, and then there's the rest of us.''

Over the past week, we have been reminded of why that was, and I thank Senator ALEXANDER for helping us remember why his friend and mentor meant so much to this country and this institution.

May the memory of Howard Henry Baker inspire us to be our best selves and even better Senators.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the second 30 minutes.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you, Mr. President. I believe it is correct that Senator CORKER and I, before morning business begins, have a few minutes to reflect on Senator Baker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That understanding is correct.

Mr. ALEXANDER. That is correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is under morning business right now, but the Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask consent that before morning business begin that Senator CORKER and I be permitted to reflect on Senator Baker.

Mr. President, I ask consent that we have a few minutes to speak about Senator Baker before morning business begins.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object—I am not going to object because we have an understanding, but I would like to have a similar amount of time to reflect on Senator Alan Dixon, who passed away over the weekend, after the Senators from Tennessee have paid homage to Senator Baker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate the courtesy of the Senator from Illinois.

REMEMBERING HOWARD BAKER

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank Senator MCCONNELL from Kentucky for his eloquent remarks. One other thing I said at the funeral was that Senator Baker had an eye for talent. In 1969, when I was a young aide in the Nixon White House, Senator Baker came to me and said: ''You might want to get to know that smart young legislative assistant for Senator Marlow Cook.'' That young legislative assistant was MITCH MCCONNELL. So I did get to know him.

I thank Senator MCCONNELL for coming to the funeral. I thank Senator REID, our majority leader, for being there as well. They were there at the front of that small church in Huntsville, TN. The Vice President came. He sat there, met everybody, showed his respect for both former Senator Baker and his wife, former Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker. We Tennesseans appreciated that courtesy by the Vice President, the majority leader, and the minority leader very much.

There were a number of others there. Our Governor was there; Senator CORKER and I, of course, were there; Senator Fred Thompson; majority leader Bill Frist, whom Senator Baker had mentored; Senator Pete Domenici, Senator Bill Brock, Senator Elizabeth Dole, and Senator Bennett Johnston were also there; as well as Senator Jack Danforth, who married Howard and Nancy; and our former Governors, Winfield Dunn and Don Sundquist. It was a small church, but along with former Vice President Al Gore and the current Vice President and the majority leader, as well as the minority leader, there was real respect for the former majority leader of the Senate.

I will not try to repeat what I said at the funeral, and it was a privilege for me to be asked by the family to speak, but I did want to make two comments briefly, one personal and one about the Senate.

The personal one that I said at the funeral was that I had tried to follow the rule in LAMAR ALEXANDER's ''Little Plaid Book'' that when invited to speak at a funeral, remember to mention the deceased more often than yourself and to talk more about Howard Baker than my relationship with him, but that was hard to do. I waited until the end of my remarks to try to do that.

No one had more influence on my life over the last half century than Howard Baker. I came here with him in 1967 as his only legislative assistant. That is how many legislative assistants Senators had then. They dealt mainly with one another, not through staff members. I came back in 1977 when suddenly he was elected Republican leader on his third try by one vote, and I worked in the office that is now the Republican leader's office for 3 months helping him find a permanent chief of staff until I went back to Tennessee.

Throughout my entire public life and private life, no one has had more effect on me by virtue of his effort to encourage me—as well as many other younger people who were working their way up in a variety of ways—and as an example for how to do things.

My advice to younger people who want to know how to become involved in politics is to find someone whom you respect and admire, volunteer to go to work for them and do anything legal they ask you to do and learn from them, both the good and the bad. I had the great privilege of working with the best.

To give one small example of how closely intertwined our lives have become, I had the same office he had in the Dirksen Office Building. I had the same phone number he had in the Dirksen Office Building. If you open the drawer of this desk, you will find scratched in the drawer the names Baker, Thompson, and my name. I have the same desk on this floor.

As far as the Senate, just one story. A remarkably effective presentation at the funeral was made by the Reverend Martha Anne Fairchild, who for 20 years has been the minister of the small Presbyterian church in Huntsville. She told a story about lightbulbs and Senator Baker.

He was on the Session, which is the governing body of the church. He was an elder, and he insisted on coming to the meetings. She said that at one of the meetings of the Session the elders, who represent the maybe 70 members of the church, fell into a discussion about new lightbulbs. It was pretty contentious, and eventually they resolved it because Senator Baker insisted that they discuss it all the way through to the end.

She talked with him later, and he said: ''Well, I could have pulled out my checkbook and written a check for the new lightbulbs, but I thought it was more important that the elders have a full and long discussion so they all could be comfortable with the decision they made.''

That story about lightbulbs is how Howard Baker saw the U.S. Senate—as a forum for extended discussion where you have the patience to allow everyone to pretty well have their say in the hopes that you come to a conclusion that most of us are comfortable with and therefore the country is comfortable with it. He understood that you only govern a complex country such as ours by consensus. And whether it was lightbulbs or an 9-week debate on the Panama Canal during which there were nearly 200 contentious amendments and reservations and arguments, you have those discussion all the way through to the end.

It is said that these days are much more contentious than the days of Howard Baker. There are some things that are different today that make that sort of discussion more difficult, but we shouldn't kid ourselves—those weren't easy days either. Those were the days when Vietnam veterans came home with Americans spitting on them. Those were the days of Watergate. Those were the days of Social Security going bankrupt and a 9-week contentious debate on the Panama Canal. Those were the days of the Equal Rights Amendment. Those were difficult days too. Senator Baker and Senator Byrd on the Democratic side were able, generally speaking, to allow the Senate to take up those big issues and have an extended discussion all the way through to the end and come to a result.

Most of us in this body have the same principles. Those principles all belong to what we call the American character. They include such principles as equal opportunity, liberty, and E pluribus unum. And most of our conflicts, the late Samuel Huntington used to say, are about resolving conflicts among those principles. For example, if we are talking about immigration, we have a conflict between rule of law and equal opportunity, so how do we put those together and how do we come to a conclusion? Howard Baker saw the way to do that as bringing to the floor a subject, hopefully with bipartisan support, and talking it all the way through to the end until most Senators are comfortable with the decision. His aid in that was, as Senator MCCONNELL said, being an eloquent listener. That is why he was admired by Members of both parties. In one poll in the 1980s, he was considered to be the most admired Senator by Democrats and by Republicans. That is why Dan Quayle said: There is Howard Baker ''and then there's the rest of us Senators.''

So I think the memory of Howard Baker, his lesson for us, is that—without assigning any blame to the Republican side or the Democratic side—we don't need a change of rules to make the Senate function, we need a change of behavior. Howard Baker's behavior is a very good example, whether it was the Panama Canal, whether it was fixing Social Security, whether it was President Reagan's tax cuts, or whether it was resolving whether how to buy new lightbulbs for the First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, TN.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the remarks of Martha Anne Fairchild, the pastor of

the First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, TN, as well as two other documents, one by Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr., who was Senator Baker's legislative assistant and President Reagan's counsel. According to Culvahouse, Howard Baker told him that if the President did not truly know about the diversion of Iranian arms sales proceeds to the Contras, he was to help him—if he did not truly know. The other is an article by Keel Hunt from the Tennessean about Senator Baker, and finally the funeral order of worship from the Baker ceremony.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

IN MEMORY OF HOWARD H. BAKER, JR.

FUNERAL SERMON BY THE REV. MARTHA ANNE FAIRCHILD, PASTOR, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HUNTSVILLE, TENNESSEE

Dear friends, thank you for your presence here this afternoon. Thank you for joining us as we gather to remember and give thanks for the remarkable life of Howard H. Baker, Jr., We are grateful and honored that you are here with us.

I would like to read one more Scripture lesson, one with opening words that may surprise you. But as I continue reading, you will understand why I chose it. It was written by the Apostle Paul, from a prison cell, perhaps within a very short time before his own death. He was writing to a community of faithful Christians he held in such high esteem that he considered them to be equal coworkers with him in the work of Christ, and he wrote these words at the end of a letter full of tender concern and advice for dear friends he knew he might never see again. Here are Paul's words from the fourth chapter of his letter to the church at Philippi: (Philippians 4:4–9)

''Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

''Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.''

''Rejoice in the Lord always,'' Paul says. I'll admit it, those are odd words for a funeral sermon. We may be celebrating the life of a great man, but we do not feel much like rejoicing. Our feelings are too bittersweet for that. We have lost someone we loved deeply, someone who was an immense influence for good not only in our own country but around the world. How is rejoicing part of this picture? How can we say, ''Rejoice!''

Rejoicing is part of the picture for us for the same reason it was part of the picture for Paul. Paul was nearing his own death. He had already lost his freedom—he was writing this letter from a prison cell. He was writing to people he would never see again. In the stark conditions of imprisonment in the first century, he was suffering physically, in chains and without sufficient food or clothing, often alone and in pain, with no certainty about what would happen to him. Yet he invites us to rejoice, because the sources of his joy were not tied to his particular difficult circumstances. They were tied to the kind of man he was.

Can we quiet our hearts enough to hear his words? ''Let your gentleness be known to everyone.'' In gentleness Paul found the key that led him into the surrender of worry, into a life of prayer, and above all else into a peace beyond human understanding. This gentleness, this prayer, this peace, made it possible for him to live in joy whatever his circumstances and to invite his friends to do exactly the same.

I chose to read these words today because we are saying goodbye to a supremely gentle man. Howard Baker embodied in his life all the qualities Paul commends to our reflection and attention. He was a true, honorable, and just man. He lived a pure, pleasing, and commendable life, and surely he was a man of excellence and worthy of praise. In a public life spanning decades of serious, selfless service to his country, Howard Baker embodied every public virtue.

Of his public virtues, in fact, so much has been said over the past few days that I can add very little. So I share with you something of the gentleness Howard Baker shared with his church. He was a member of this congregation from his childhood, and one of the most faithful attenders of public worship I have ever known. When he was in town, he was in church on Sunday morning—it was one of his priorities. There is an old catch phrase about sharing time, talents, and treasure with one's church, and Howard Baker shared all those things: He shared his time with his faithful attendance at worship and church events. He shared his talents with his photography of church happenings from Homecoming to Easter egg hunts, and of course his cooking prowess when got up early on Easter Sunday to join the other church men cooking breakfast—his particular talent was putting the biscuits in the oven and getting them out on time. He shared his treasure in a lifetime of generous financial support of the church. But most of all Howard Baker supported this church with his presence.

Here is an example. Some years ago the congregation of this church elected him as a ruling elder, a lifelong position in our denomination. His election placed him in active service on our church board, called the Session, for a three year term. Now, I must share a little secret with you. Session meetings only rarely concern matters of any great import. So I mentioned to him that I understood the many demands he had on his time, and offered him a blanket excused absence for any meeting he needed to miss. That was a mistake. He was quite offended by this suggestion of mine and told me firmly—but very gently—that he intended to make every meeting. And that is what he did, on one occasion even flying in for our evening meeting and flying out again that very same night to meet a commitment elsewhere the following day. When Howard Baker made a promise, he kept it.

At every meeting, he was an attentive, helpful, encouraging elder among fellow elders. He tried to get all of us to call him Howard, and some of us managed to do that and some of us never could. Even when the discussion revolved around the purchase of new light bulbs—yes, I know all those jokes, too—he was patient and helpful in not only contributing to the discussion but in helping me as his moderator to guide it to a conclusion. He told me later he considered just pulling out his checkbook and writing a check for the bulbs we were dithering over, but he wanted his fellow elders to go through the process of making a decision we were all comfortable with. And for that he was willing to devote a little more time, a little more patience, and, yes, a little more love to the task.

When he accepted President Bush's appointment to become the United States Ambassador to Japan, his term of active service on the Session was not quite over. It was necessary for him to resign, and he called me to apologize that he could not complete his term. It may seem that no apologies would be necessary, but he reminded me that he had made a commitment to serve his church, and he truly regretted being unable to complete that commitment.

I am humbly grateful that he was so willing to accept me as his pastor when I came here almost 20 years ago, a woman only a few years out of seminary who still had much to learn about the serious business of Christian ministry. From the very beginning he treated me with affection and respect, and I hope I have learned from him.

One of the things we all admire him for was his gift of attention. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the great 20th century Christian theologian and martyr, once remarked, ''The first duty one owes to others in the fellowship is to listen to them.'' Howard Baker had a deep commitment to listening. When you talked to him he paid attention to you—even if he could only speak to you for 60 seconds, you had his focused attention for that entire 60 seconds. You knew he heard you. And every time you came away a little encouraged, a little cheered, a little more content, because he had paid attention—that great gift of being listened to that we all hunger to receive.

Among the questions a Presbyterian elder must answer in the affirmative at his or her ordination is this one: ''Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?'' That is a vow every leader should take. It is a vow Howard Baker lived up to in his entire life of service, for that is what he was: a servant leader, one who embodied not only the qualities of courage, confidence, and consensus-building that were the hallmarks of his public life, but also the qualities of humility, good humor, and selfless love that made those other qualities possible. He was a servant leader in the truest sense of the term.

As we remember him for his gentleness, his good humor, his deep wisdom, as we recall shared moments of tears and laughter, tense times of debate and controversy, satisfying times of concord and shared accomplishment, as we pay tribute to him for his deep love for his family, for his unwavering devotion to the well-being of his country, and even for his unfailing appetite for all things chocolate and sweet, perhaps you can see why I think we must say with Paul, ''Rejoice in the Lord always!'' By God's great gifts to him, Howard Baker became a great gift to us. And surely that great gift is worth rejoicing over always.

Shortly we will follow his casket out to the cemetery adjacent to this church. When we go I invite you to remember that across the street from that cemetery once stood the house where Howard Baker was born. We will be laying him to rest just a few hundred feet from where his life began. In the completion of that great life well lived, I hope that, even in the midst of our sorrow, we will find cause to rejoice always.

Thanks be to God for the life of Howard Baker. Thanks be to God.

[From the National Review Online, July 2, 2014]

HOWARD BAKER JR., COURAGEOUS CONSTITUTIONALIST

(By Arthur B. Culvahouse, Jr.)

Many of the recent obituaries of Howard Baker, the former Senate majority leader,

White House chief of staff, and U.S. ambassador to Japan, quote Jim Baker's accurate observation that Howard was a ''mediator, negotiator, and moderator.'' As a son of a congressmen, a son-in-law of Senator Everett Dirksen's, and a three-term senator, Howard understood that transacting the people's business required at least 51 votes in the Senate and 218 votes in the House. On the tough votes that require leadership and political courage, he knew that the necessary majority was to be found on both sides of the aisle.

Contrary to recent suggestions by approving left-leaning news commentators and critics on the inexperienced right, Howard Baker's interpretation of acceptable ''compromise'' did not entail splitting the difference or seeking a watered-down consensus. As Bob Dole observed, Howard Baker believed, along with Ronald Reagan, that achieving 70 percent or more of one's priorities is a victory in our democracy. Above all, Howard Baker was the most civil and respectful person I have known. As a consequence, he had many friends across the political and policy spectrums who would give his views a fair and careful hearing.

Howard Baker exercised political courage wisely and with the intention to win. His views, even when they were in the minority in the Republican caucus and among Tennessee voters, were the result of careful study and measured against long-term national interests. His support for the Panama Canal Treaty, for instance, clearly damaged his prospects in the 1980 Republican presidential primaries, and his leadership in securing passage of the Clean Air Act and strip-mine reclamation disappointed his friends and neighbors in the coal country of East Tennessee. Those and other unpopular votes did not occur in isolation; they were co-joined and hedged by his unrelenting support for a strong military, for nuclear power and coal gasification, and for dispensing with the prolonged environmental review of the Alyeska Pipeline.

Jim Neal, the renowned Tennessee trial lawyer and Kennedy-administration prosecutor, presciently predicted that Howard, owing to his ''strong moral compass,'' would be the star of the Senate Watergate Committee. From announcing at the beginning of the Watergate Committee hearings that ''he would follow every lead, unrestrained by any fear of where that lead might ultimately take us,'' to assembling a minority staff that discovered the existence of the Nixon Oval Office tapes, to making the motion that the Committee subpoena the tapes, Howard set aside partisan considerations and led the effort to find the answers to the key question: ''What did the President know and when did he know it?'' In 1987, when he was the new Reagan White House chief of staff, Howard instructed me that my job as the recently appointed White House counsel was to guide and advise President Reagan through the Iran-Contra investigations without his being impeached—if the president truly did not know about the diversion of Iranian arms-sales proceeds to the Contras. Query how many current and recent senior officials would append that all-important modifier: if.

In his farewell speech to the Senate, Howard stated that ''our wisest course is to follow the Constitution rather than improvise around it.'' He expressed deep concern that the Clinton impeachment proceeding votes were along party lines and that we were reaping the whirlwind of the Watergate convulsion—that we had not learned our lesson but were instead enacting ill-advised and constitutionally suspect laws that were no substitute for judging the character of our leaders on a non-partisan basis.

I have no doubt that if Howard Baker and his long-time Democratic counterpart in the Senate leadership, Robert Byrd, were in the Senate today, both would be working together to put an end to the current (and any other) administration's blatant disregard of congressionally enacted statutes. In that vein, Howard instructed me and other senior Reagan-administration lawyers to drop our objections to the Senate's proposed ''ratification record'' underlying the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty; that was the Senate's prerogative, Howard reminded me, and the president wanted the INF Treaty ratified as part of his strategy to end, and win, the Cold War.

Shortly before the 2010 midterm congressional elections, I visited with Howard Baker at his home in the mountains of East Tennessee. When I expressed concern about the dramatic swings in the recent election results, he replied: ''I taught you better than that. Those swings are the self-corrections built into our republican form of government.'' All of us are well-advised to reflect upon the teachings of Howard H. Baker Jr.

[From the Tennessean, June 29, 2014]

HOWARD BAKER'S LEGACY: ''THE OTHER GUY MIGHT BE RIGHT''

(By Keel Hunt)

For Tennesseans who knew Howard Baker in his day, the news of his death on Thursday brought an afternoon of emptiness, feelings of great loss, and a deep sense that one very special had left the building.

There are certainly people who knew him better than I did, but in my own memory this man of moderate height looms larger than life. Let me count the ways.

Baker was a master politician, the great conciliator and a builder of human bridges.

Especially from the vantage point of this current angry age, Baker's gifts shine brightly now: that calming voice, the steady temperament, his gift for reaching out and drawing people together, a knack for reasoned compromise, his abiding sense of how government can and should work.

Today, you hear some of those terms attacked, by the people who thrive on dividing, as being somehow unpatriotic. Baker's life was a demonstration of how politics and the skills of collaboration are noble, of how government can work to move society forward.

Hearing both sides of an issue, finding the common ground—these are the gifts we associate with Baker now and all the moderate politicians he inspired (see below). This is how good government happens.

He often quoted his own father, U.S. Rep. Howard Baker Sr., who told him: ''You should always go through life working on the assumption that the other guy might be right.'' His stepmother once said of Baker Jr., ''He's like the Tennessee River—he flows right down the middle.''

Before politics, Baker was reared in tiny Huntsville, in Scott County, and educated in Chattanooga, Sewanee and Knoxville. In the early 1960s, by this time a lawyer working in Huntsville and Knoxville, he became an architect of the modern Republican Party in Tennessee.

In 1964, wanting to mount his own campaign for U.S. Senate, Baker allied with Republican organizers at the far end of the state in Memphis and Shelby County, notably the lawyers Lewis Donelson and Harry Wellford. Together, they laid the foundation for a two-party state.

Baker's aim was to fill the unexpired term of Sen. Estes Kefauver, who had died, and he came very close to winning. But it was a Democratic year driven by national factors well beyond his control: Barry Goldwater, the GOP's presidential nominee, came to Tennessee saying TVA ought to be sold; and Lyndon Johnson, who had succeeded President John F. Kennedy after the assassination, would win in a landslide.

Two years later, the statewide coalition that Baker and the Shelby Countians formed scored its first victory, with Baker winning the Senate seat for a full term. He was the first Republican since Reconstruction to be elected statewide in Tennessee. Four years after that, there were two more GOP victories statewide: Winfield Dunn was elected governor, and the Chattanooga U.S. Rep. Bill Brock joined Baker in the Senate.

Today, three decades on, two generations of political leaders can be seen in the Baker lineage: Lamar Alexander, Bob Corker, Bill Haslam, Fred Thompson, Bill Frist, Don Sundquist.

Alexander, very early in his career, was Baker's top legislative aide, and left that office in 1970 to be Dunn's campaign manager. In 1973, Baker made Thompson minority counsel to the Senate Watergate Committee, putting him on TV screens across America. Haslam, in 1978, worked in Baker's re-election office. Corker and Haslam became mayors of Chattanooga and Knoxville, respectively, and later on senator and governor.

Baker had a way with Democrats, too. He was the first Republican ever endorsed by The Tennessean, in its partisan Democratic heyday. The editorial on this page that supported him was a breakthrough in Democratic territory for Baker's East-West alliance.

When President Jimmy Carter proposed the Panama Canal Treaty, handing the canal over to Panama, Baker was a key advocate on the Senate floor when it passed.

Plenty will be written this week about his roles on the national and global stages—as Senate majority leader, President Reagan's chief of staff, ambassador to Japan. But through it all, and more so than many senators who have become national politicians, Baker also stayed close to his Tennessee roots.

One morning long ago, two years into his second term, I was in a room full of reporters in Washington, D.C., and heard the senator say: ''I am from Huntsville, Tennessee, which is the center of the known universe.''

That is where, on Tuesday afternoon, he will come to his final rest.

FUNERAL ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude
*Entrance of the Family
*Sentences of Scripture
*Hymn America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for pilgrim feet whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thy every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their county loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness and every gain divine.

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees, beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,

And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

Opening Prayer
Scripture Readings Ecclesiastes 3:1–15; John 14:1–6, 25–27
Psalm 23 (read by all)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Sermon The Reverend Martha Anne Fairchild
Remarks Senator Lamar Alexander
Anthem May the Road Rise to Meet You First Presbyterian Church Choir
Prayers
*Hymn Shall We Gather at the River

Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God:

Refrain:
Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.

Soon we'll reach the silver river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

*Commendation
*Blessing
*Recessional
*Dismissal of the Family
*General Dismissal
Postlude
Pastor: The Reverend Martha Anne Fairchild
Music Director: David Mayfield

If you release a baby sea turtle on ChiChi-Jima, (a small island off the coast of Japan), and your turtle heads to the sea, you are guaranteed good luck for 100 years.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Senate for this time, and I yield the floor for my colleague from Tennessee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. I would like to join our distinguished leader MITCH MCCONNELL in seconding the comments about the presentation the senior Senator from Tennessee made at the Howard Baker funeral.

It is a great privilege for us to serve in this body. While times are tough relative to our ability or willingness to solve some of the major problems, many of the major problems of our Nation today—and sometimes there are comments made about serving in the Senate—what I say to people back home is that if any of us ever forget what a privilege it is to serve, we should go home. That privilege allows us to meet people and to be in conversation with people like Howard Baker who affect us and cause us to be better people. It also allows us to witness what took place last week. I have to say I have seen Senator ALEXANDER on many occasions say and do things that I thought were impressive. I don't think I have ever seen anything that measures up to what was said in that small Presbyterian church last week. I think all of us were touched. The Senator had a lot of good material to work with and was describing a man who probably has had more effect in a positive way on Tennessee politics—in many ways, national politics—like Howard Baker.

He was an inspiration to all of us. When we were around him, his graciousness and humility caused all of us to be much better people. His encouragement, especially when dealing with tough issues, I think caused all of us to want to strive even harder to be better Senators and better people.

I certainly cannot give the comments with the eloquence the Senator gave last week and certainly the ones just given. I know you and he were very close, and he impacted you more than any other person outside your immediate family, but he had an impact on all of us. He had an impact on this Nation. It is a great honor and privilege to stand with the Senator today to acknowledge Senator Baker's greatness as a person, his greatness as a Senator.

Many times we see presentations as people talk about someone's life, and a lot of times that is embellished. I will say in this case none of it was. It was all about the man serving here in the Senate but also serving in that small church in Huntsville, TN, to which he was so loyal.

I thank the Senator for the opportunity to serve with him. I know each of us strives to carry out those characteristics Howard Baker so wisely showed us, and I do agree that the Senate would be a much better place if all of us could embody those characteristics most of the time.

I thank the senior Senator for his leadership and for his comments.

I thank our distinguished minority leader, during a time of great busy-ness in his own personal life, for taking the time to be a part of something that I think is meaningful to him also.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. I have been moved by the comments from the Senators regarding Senator Baker. The story the senior Senator from Tennessee told about the lightbulbs is—those of us who knew Senator Baker could well understand that. He was a man who brought Senators together—both parties.

I will tell two very quick stories. One is referencing a leadership race won by one vote. He had called a good friend of his, who was at home on official business, and said: I know the press says I am going to lose this race, but I know you are voting for me. Can you come back and vote?

That Senator did. The Senator was the then-senior Senator from Vermont, Robert Stafford, and he flew back to get to the caucus to vote for his friend Howard Baker—the first one by one vote; all the rest by acclamation. I know this because both Senator Stafford and Howard Baker told me that story. They were also two of the finest Senators with whom I have ever served. Both tried to work things out.

My other story is we were going to be in session until midnight one night on a technically contested matter.

Senator Ted Stevens and I and a few others went to see Howard Baker, who was the majority leader. We talked about the issue that was divisive. We said: We think we have a solution. We have all been talking. We can work it out but it is going to take some time for the drafting. Could you recess and not stay until midnight when all it is going to do is exacerbate tempers? Come back in the morning and we will have it all worked out, and we will get this done.

Senator Baker knew that we were all Senators in both parties who kept our word. He said: ''Of course.'' So we recessed. Now, as the Senator from Tennessee knows, we have cloakrooms here in the back of this Chamber. We all—if we have late-night votes, most of us hang around the cloakroom between votes. At that time they had beautiful stained glass windows in the alcoves.

We recessed and went home. An hour or so after we went home a bomb went off out here in the corridor. When we came in the next morning, this place looked like a war zone. Shards of glass from those windows in both cloakrooms were embedded in the walls. The door to where the distinguished Republican deputy leader has his office now was blown in, the stained window above of it was ruined. Paintings out here were shredded, and some of the marble busts of former vice presidents were damaged. You could smell the gunpowder of the explosive when we came to work.

I mention this because his form of leadership was that if we could get together and work things out, he preferred we do that. He would encourage it—both Republicans and Democrats. Then because he could rely on those of us—again both Republicans and Democrats—who would keep our word, he agreed to that. We knew he would keep his word.

I wonder how many lives of Senators were saved that night because of that. How many would have been terribly injured. Of course our staffs who work often long after we have gone—how many people could have been harmed if it had not been for the fact that the Senate was a different place, and I believe a better place.

But I say this not so much to tell historical stories, but I say this out of my great respect for Howard Baker. Somebody calculated the other day that I

have served with 18 percent of all of the Senators since the beginning of this country. If I put my tiny handful of the best, Howard Baker is in there, hands down—a wonderful, wonderful man. He was a Senator's Senator. He believed in the Senate. He believed what a privilege it was to serve here.

He believed that the Senate could be the conscience of the Nation. I appreciate the tribute that was paid by my dear friend, the senior Senator from Tennessee, who I knew as Governor and as Cabinet member. We have always had a good personal relationship. I listened to his tales of Howard Baker. His colleague from Tennessee painted quite a picture of him. I thank them for doing that. I thank them for adding to the history of the Senate by doing it.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the distinguished senior Senator from Illinois be recognized once I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LANDMINES

Mr. LEAHY. Everyone knows the old adage that a picture is worth 1,000 words. I have been an avid photographer since I was a child. I have a strong sense of that. So I thought I would provide a few examples today, because sometimes words are not enough.

I have often spoken about the horrific toll on civilians from landmines. These tiny explosives, about the size of a hockey puck or a can of soup, can kill a child or blow the legs and arms off an adult. They are triggered by the victim. In other words, unlike a gun that a soldier aims and fires or a bomb that is dropped and explodes on a target, landmines sit there and wait for their victims.

It could be hours or days or weeks, even years. But however long it is after they are scattered and hidden beneath a layer of sand or dirt, they explode when an unsuspecting person, whether a combatant or an innocent civilian, steps on it or triggers it with a plow or a wheelbarrow or a bicycle. That person's life is changed forever.

In many countries where there are few doctors, landmine victims bleed to death. Those who survive with a leg or both legs gone are the lucky ones. This girl is an example of who I am talking about. We do not know her nationality, but the picture tells a lot. She is learning to walk on artificial legs. Her life has been made immeasurably harder because of a landmine that probably cost less than $2. I have a granddaughter not much older than her.

Each of these photographs tell a similar story. None of these people were combatants. Each are facing lives of pain, and sometimes in their communities stigmatization because of weapons that are designed to be indiscriminate.

The Leahy War Victims Fund has helped some of them, as this photograph taken in Vietnam shows. My wife Marcelle and I have seen the difference the Fund has made, but I wish there were no need for it because there would be no landmines.

Over the years, as people around the world became aware of the landmine problem, they took action. The Senate was the first legislative body in the world to ban exports of antipersonnel landmines. I am proud of writing that amendment. Other countries soon followed our example.

And there were others, especially Canada's former Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. Thanks to them an international treaty outlawing the weapons has been joined by 161 countries. I regret that the United States, of all the NATO countries, is the only one that has not joined, even though the U.S. military has not used antipersonnel mines for 22 years, despite two long wars.

On June 27, though, the Obama administration finally took a step—it is an incremental step, but it is a significant one—to put the United States on a path to join the treaty. Although the United States has not produced or purchased antipersonnel mines since the 1990s, the White House announced that as a matter of official policy that it will no longer produce or otherwise acquire antipersonnel mines, nor will the Pentagon replenish its stockpile of mines as they become obsolete.

Our closest allies and many others around the world welcomed this step, even though it falls far short of what supporters of the treaty have called for.

But one senior Member of the House of Representatives immediately accused President Obama of ignoring U.S. military commanders, some of whom have defended the use of landmines, just as the military defended poison gas a century ago when nations acted to ban it.

This Member of the House said: The President ''owes our military an explanation for ignoring their advice'', and he went on to say that this decision represents an ''expensive solution in search of a nonexistent problem.''

A Member of our body, the Senate, called the announcement a ''brazen attempt by the President to circumvent the constitutional responsibility of the Senate to provide advice and consent to international treaties that bind the United States.''

These are strong words. They make great sound bites for the press. But the truth lies elsewhere.

Over the years, the White House has consulted closely with the Pentagon, including about this decision. The policy just announced simply makes official what has been an informal fact for at least 17 years through three Presidential administrations.

It also ignores the fact that the United States has neither joined the treaty nor has the President sent it to the Senate for ratification, so the President has obviously not circumvented the Senate's advice and consent role.

And it ignores that every one of our NATO allies and most of our coalition partners have renounced antipersonnel mines, as have dozens of countries that could never dream of having a powerful, modern army as we do—countries that look to the United States, the most powerful Nation on Earth, but they got rid of their landmines.

The naysayers' argument is simple. It goes like this: The United States is no longer causing the misery captured in these photographs, so why should we join the treaty? Does that mean they also oppose the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, such as the crippled people in this photograph? Do they oppose the Chemical Weapons Treaty, and every other treaty dealing with international relations that the United States has joined since the time of George Washington?

Does the fact that we are not causing a problem, that we do not use landmines or chemical weapons, absolve us from having a responsibility to be part of an international treaty to stop it? Of course not. The world looks to the United States for leadership.

In 1992, if the Senate had accepted the argument now being made this body would never have voted 100 to 0 to ban the export of antipersonnel landmines.

I suppose those in the House who criticize President Obama today would say the entire Senate was wrong 22 years ago. Those 100 Democrats and Republicans who voted back then to ban U.S. exports of antipersonnel mines understood that while the United States may not have been causing the problem, we needed to be part of the solution. The same holds true today.

In 1996 President Clinton called on the Pentagon to develop alternatives to antipersonnel mines, whether they were technological or doctrinal alternatives. He was Commander in Chief, but the Pentagon largely ignored him. But now 18 years later it needs to be done. Not at some unspecified time in the future but by a reasonable deadline—because it can be done.

Now, I am not so naive to think that a treaty will prevent every last person on Earth from using landmines. But if people use them, they pay a price for using them. Bashar Assad used poison gas, but look at the political price he paid. Are those who oppose the landmine treaty so dismissive of the benefits of outlawing and stigmatizing a weapon like IEDs, which pose a danger to our own troops?

Rather than opposing a treaty that will make it a war crime to use landmines against our troops, why not support the mine-breaching technology they need to protect themselves?

I always come back to the photographs. I have met many people like these. They may not be Americans, but what happened to them happens to

thousands of others like them each year. The United States can help stop it. It is a moral issue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The assistant majority leader.

REMEMBERING ALAN DIXON

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, yesterday at 6 p.m. on Capitol Hill there was a gathering at a nearby restaurant known as The Monocle. It was a gathering of former staffers of U.S. Senator Alan Dixon of Illinois. They picked The Monocle because he would have picked it. It was his favorite place on Capitol Hill. And it was a sad day, because Senator Dixon passed away Sunday morning in Fairview Heights, IL.

His staff gathered at The Monocle the next day, which would have been his birthday, to toast him and to pay tribute to a great boss, a great friend, and a great Senator from the State of Illinois.

Senator Dixon passed away in his sleep in the early hours on Sunday morning. His son Jeff had dropped him off at home, and he was there with his wife Jody when he passed away. So instead of celebrating his birthday on Monday, we had a day of remembrance of an extraordinary public servant for the State of Illinois.

Alan Dixon used to be known in political circles as Al the Pal, and he loved it. It really described him. For him, friendship and loyalty were everything. It showed in his life and, I think, was a great part of his success.

He was a person who gloried in representing Illinois. He never harbored any national ambitions. Being a Senator from Illinois was his goal in life. He reached it and performed so well as Senator that he is fondly remembered by many who served with him in the House and in the Senate.

He represented an old-school style of politics. He believed in his heart that people of good will could find common ground if they worked at it. He knew how to make this government work, how to make this Senate work, and work for the State of Illinois.

In his memoir, which he published last year, he wrote:

> Generally speaking, my political career was built on good will and accommodation.

He was known by Senators on both sides of the aisle as a friendly, helpful, articulate, and effective colleague.

He was a downstate guy in our State. He grew up in Belleville and St. Clair County, not too far away from my hometown of East St. Louis. He grew up just across the river from the great city of St. Louis. His dad owned and ran the Dixon Wine and Liquor Company in Belleville.

Alan served in World War II, in the U.S. Navy Air Corps. After the war, he went to the University of Illinois where they had a special arrangement for vets to earn a bachelor's degree. He went for a short time to the University of Illinois Law School and then, when his dad's business was struggling, he transferred to Washington University Law School where he graduated second in his class.

In 1948, at the age of 21, a neighbor said: Alan, I have been watching you and I think you ought to consider running for police magistrate in Belleville, IL. Alan hadn't even graduated from law school, and his friend reminded him you didn't have to be a lawyer to be a police magistrate in those days. So he ran and he won.

Two years later, after getting out of law school and passing the bar, both in Missouri and Illinois, he was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives—the youngest member ever elected to the Illinois General Assembly. His starting salary: $3,000.

He went on to become one of the most successful vote-getters in the history of the State of Illinois. He won 29 consecutive bids for public office, for State representative, State senator, secretary of state, and state treasurer. During one of those races, he carried all 102 counties in Illinois, all 30 townships in Cook County, and all 50 wards. That is a record I don't think anybody will ever break.

When he served in Springfield, IL, as a State representative and a State senator, he did a lot of things, but he pointed with pride to his passage of a constitutional change in Illinois to finally modernize our judiciary. He remembered his days as police magistrate and thought our system of justice had to be brought into the 20th century. Alan Dixon of Belleville, IL, led that effort—an enormous political lift. He got it done. He was effective. People trusted him and they respected him.

He led an unpopular fight against loyalty oaths during the McCarthy era, and he helped create the Illinois college system.

In 1980, the people of Illinois chose Alan Dixon to represent them here in the Senate. He teamed up with his old friend a couple years later who had joined him in the Illinois General Assembly, his seatmate in the Assembly, a man named Paul Simon. Senator Dixon and then-Congressman Paul Simon, soon to be Senator Paul Simon, were colleagues and buddies and business partners. What an unlikely duo. There was Paul Simon who might be persuaded once in a blue moon to drink a little glass of wine, and there was Alan Dixon who loved that cold beer that he grew up with in Belleville, IL. But the two of them were fast friends. I witnessed that friendship over the years. I didn't see the early days when they owned newspapers together—Paul was a newspaper man and Alan more an investor—but I did witness the political part of that friendship, and it was amazing to see.

There were moments in their lives when the two of them could have clashed over their political ambitions, but they always worked it out. They were always friends, and that made a big difference in both of their lives.

It was Alan Dixon as Senator who came up with an idea that had never been tried before in Illinois: He decided to try to get all of the members of the Illinois congressional delegation—Democrats and Republicans—together for lunch on a regular basis. Well, he had to persuade a few of the oldtimers who weren't really open to the idea, but it was his personality and his determination that got it done, a tradition which continues to this day.

In his 12 years in the Senate, Alan Dixon didn't forget where he came from. He remembered growing up in a family of modest means in Belleville. He remembered those tough summer jobs—and there were plenty of them. And he never forgot the working people he represented in St. Clair County and across the State of Illinois.

Alan was at the top of his game and in the strongest voice when it came to standing up for working people and the little guy. He fought for affordable housing and lending practices. He denounced wasteful spending and created a procurement czar to oversee spending at the Pentagon.

One of the things which he is remembered for as a Senator was deciding to personally test a new weapons system. They sent him down to test the Sergeant York gun. They put him in a helmet and sat him on the gun. He was going to test it and fire it, and he soon discovered the gun was a dud—it couldn't shoot straight. He came back and reported it to his colleagues in the Senate, including Senator Sam Nunn, and they went along with Senator Dixon and said: We are going to junk this project. It is a waste of taxpayers' money.

It was Alan Dixon who called for tougher oversight of the savings and loan industry and vigorous prosecution of scam artists who defrauded S&Ls and left taxpayers holding the bag.

In 1992, Alan lost his bid for reelection to the Senate in a hotly contested three-way primary. It was the political upset of the year. It isn't often around here that a Senator would lose in a primary race for reelection—and a lot of people were wondering, his first political loss, how would it affect Alan Dixon.

Election night, Alan stood up and gave the most heartfelt, touching speech I can ever remember of a person who lost a campaign. It was repeated over and over that he was a real gentleman, and his words that he had to say even in defeat added to his reputation as a fine, honest, great public servant. A tearful crowd listened as he said he had ''loved every golden moment'' of his time in politics.

His fellow Democratic Senators had twice unanimously elected him to serve as chief deputy whip. After his loss in that election and then retirement, he was praised on the floor of the Senate by not only Ted Kennedy and George Mitchell but Bob Dole and Strom Thurmond as well.

In 1995, his public life was resumed when President Clinton appointed Alan

Dixon to chair the base closure commission known as the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission. It made sense. As a Senator, Alan Dixon had written the section of the Defense authorization bill that created the BRAC.

Here was a man who had spent his entire career making political friends, but now he took on a job that was bound to test some of those friendships. He accepted that assignment because the President asked, and Dixon knew it was right for America. It was the same decision he made when he enlisted to serve in World War II.

Last October, Alan Dixon published his memoirs with the appropriate title ''The Gentleman From Illinois.'' He returned to Washington briefly with Jody and members of the family to head on over to his favorite Capitol Hill restaurant, The Monocle. It is about a stone's throw from the Dirksen Senate Office Building where he used to have his old meetings in his office. The Monocle was the place where, afterwards, you joined for bipartisan dinners and a lot of good times.

Alan Dixon told his old friends gathered at The Monocle that evening:

> What this country needs now is more friends on the Hill working together and talking together, and working for solutions that will serve the interest of the public.

Well, Alan Dixon was right about that. I hope that some day, in his memory, we will see the return of that spirit in this Senate Chamber. This country truly needs to work together.

Before Dixon left the Senate, then-Senator Paul Simon praised him with these words:

> In genera+tions to come, his children, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren will look back and say with pride, ''Alan Dixon was my father, my grandfather, my great-grandfather,'' whatever that relationship will be.

Those words by Paul Simon about his lifelong political friend and colleague Alan Dixon ring true today as we reflect not only on his service as a Senator and public official but also as a person.

I lost a pal when Alan Dixon passed away. My wife and I extend our condolences to Alan's wife of 60 years, Jody. What a sweetheart of a woman. People don't realize what spouses put up with because of our public lives. She put up with it for many years. There were good times, but I am sure there were tough times too. Mothers have to work a little extra harder when the father happens to be in public life. She was his rock.

To Alan and Jody's three children Stephanie, Jeff, and Elizabeth, and to their families, to the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren—you can be proud of Alan Dixon. He was truly ''the gentleman from Illinois.''

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this last weekend in Chicago was memorable—memorable for the wrong reasons. This last weekend in Chicago, gun violence took the lives of 14 people and wounded 82.

I am honored to represent Illinois. I am especially honored to represent a great city such as Chicago. But I am heartbroken to think about what happened this past weekend.

Mayor Emanuel and Superintendent Gary McCarthy anticipated the Fourth of July weekend would be a challenge, and they dispatched hundreds of police to the streets of Chicago in an effort to avert this violence. I wouldn't say they failed, but I would say the tragedy that followed tells us we have a lot of work to do.

I am sure Mayor Emanuel and all of the elected officials in Chicago, including Superintendent McCarthy, are looking over what happened this past weekend trying to think of what they can do to bring peace to the city and end the violence which has taken so many lives. They will be working overtime, and a lot of people will point the finger of blame and say they could have done more. I think the mayor would acknowledge he could have done more. But let me add, we all could have done more. It isn't just the city's responsibility that this kind of violence has occurred. It isn't just the misfortune of the city of Chicago that these lives were lost and that gun violence continues to plague us. It is a responsibility that goes far beyond the city of Chicago. It is a responsibility we have visited on this Chamber, of the Senate.

How can we ignore gun violence in America wherever it occurs—in Chicago, in Washington, DC, across this country? What are we doing as Members of the Senate? What efforts are we making to make America a safer place to live? We have run away from it. We ran away from our responsibility when it comes to an honest, conscientious discussion about gun control.

Some people are frightened of this issue. They think when you get near the Second Amendment, it is the third rail of politics, and that there are gun lobby groups out there just waiting to pounce on any Member who comes to the floor of this Senate and talks about changing our gun laws. That has been the case for a long time, and yet the American people, when you ask them about the basics, get it. They understand you can protect our Second Amendment rights to own and use firearms legally and responsibly and still put reasonable limits in place to keep guns out of the hands of people who will misuse them.

Is there anyone who believes it is an infringement of constitutional rights to say that no one who has been convicted of a felony should be allowed to purchase a firearm in America? That makes sense.

This weekend in Chicago convicted felons were out on the street with firearms firing away. We should do everything in our power to stop that from occurring. After all of the senseless tragedies which we have seen over the last several years—in Connecticut, in so many different places, even in the State of Illinois—is there anyone who argues with the premise that people who are so mentally unstable they cannot accept the responsibility of a firearm should not be allowed to buy a firearm? Two categories: Convicted felons, mentally unstable people, should not be allowed to purchase firearms in America, period.

We had the vote—a bipartisan vote. Senator JOE MANCHIN of West Virginia is no liberal. Senator MANCHIN is a real conservative and pro-gun. He joined up with Senator PAT TOOMEY of Pennsylvania, who is about as conservative a Republican as you can find. Both Senators MANCHIN and TOOMEY came to the floor and said let us do background checks to make sure convicted felons and people who are mentally unstable cannot purchase a firearm. It failed. It failed because it faced a filibuster we couldn't break. The majority of Senators voted for it, but that wasn't enough because we needed 60 and we didn't have it. We lost a handful of Democrats and we attracted only a few Republicans to support us.

To me, that is not the end of the debate. It is time for us to revisit that issue. It is time for us to have another vote on the floor of the Senate. I am not sure the outcome will be much different, but we owe it to the people of this country to continue this debate, and we owe it as fellow Senators, Democrats and Republicans, to search for solutions.

Let me tell you another measure that could have helped in Chicago and other cities across America. There is a term called straw purchaser. A straw purchaser is someone who will walk into a gun store, present their identification, and purchase a firearm because they are legally entitled to purchase it, and then turn around and give it or sell it to someone who could not legally buy that same gun. Many times it turns out to be the girlfriend who is sent in to make the purchase. It is time to change that law. It is time to send out an all-points bulletin to the girlfriends of thugs that they are going to be sent away to prison for a long time for that kind of irresponsible act. Straw purchasers pass these guns into the community, and when they do, we know what happens: Innocent people die. That is another provision we should vote on on the floor of the Senate.

If there are colleagues who want to stand and defend the right of straw purchasers to buy guns and turn them over to convicted felons, be my guest. I want to hear that debate. Tell me how that is an exercise of your constitutional right. It is not.

I have thousands and thousands of people across Illinois who own firearms, who store them safely, use them legally, and enjoy their rights under the Constitution. Well, what I am suggesting today is not going to change

that at all, but they live in communities where people will misuse these firearms.

We have a moral responsibility in the Senate to do everything we can to keep firearms out of the hands of people who misuse them. We have a legal and moral responsibility to accept this opportunity in the Senate to debate these issues. We cannot run away from them any more than we can run away from the violence in our streets. I am not alone in my feelings on this issue. There are other Senators who share them. It is time for us to stand up and speak up. We have a responsibility to the people we represent, to innocent people who are being threatened and killed across America.

What happened in Chicago over the Fourth of July weekend is a wakeup call—another wakeup call—to the Senate to get about the business of our purpose here, the reason we were elected—to try to make America a better and safer place.

Madam President, I yield the floor and 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.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mrs. MURRAY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2565 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mrs. MURRAY. I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363.

The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise in support of the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act.

First, I thank Senators HAGAN and MURKOWSKI for their leadership in gathering support and getting this bill to the floor.

Nearly half of the Senate is cosponsoring this legislation from every corner of our country. It is truly a national bill, and that is why over 30 groups—from the National Shooting Sports Foundation and Ducks Unlimited to the Dallas Safari Club and many others—support this bill. It is an ambitious proposal that includes dozens of smart ideas from both sides of the aisle. It encourages private investment into fish habitat as well as land and wildlife management.

This bill supports public shooting ranges so more folks have a place to take their kids to teach them how to responsibly handle a firearm, and it protects some of our best places to hunt, fish, and recreate.

Make no mistake, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act is also a jobs bill, which is something we constantly talk about needing more of around here.

In my State of Montana, outdoor recreation supports tens of thousands of jobs. It is a $6 billion-a-year industry. Nationwide our outdoor economy creates and sustains more than 6 million jobs every single year.

Despite the economic power of public lands to sustain the rural economy, some folks are talking about closing off the land and privatizing it. We cannot let that happen. Instead, we need to pass the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, which will strengthen our economy as we create more opportunities for folks to continue recreating in our great outdoors. Responsibly enjoying our outdoors is part of our way of life in Montana. In the Big Sky State we are proud hunters, anglers, sports men and women, and that is why it is critical that this bill will open more of our public lands to every law-abiding American who has a right to access them.

In Montana alone, nearly 2 million acres of public land is not easily accessible to folks, and I am proud my colleagues included the making lands public provision that I have pushed for, for years. These lands were set aside for our parents to enjoy, for all of us to enjoy, and ultimately for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. Accessing these lands is our birthright, and this bill delivers on a century-old promise to preserve our outdoor heritage.

By passing this bipartisan legislation, we will help ensure future generations get to experience the natural wonders that were passed down to us.

In the last Congress, the Senate took up a similar package only to see political gamesmanship get in the way. We cannot let that happen again. Millions of sports men and women across this country expect better. The American people deserve better. There is too much in this bill that we agree on to let it fail once again.

Senators HAGAN and MURKOWSKI have worked diligently for months to craft a bill that has an incredible amount of support in the Senate, but, most importantly, back home in the States we all represent. Let's pass this bill once and for all.

Madam President, I yield the floor, and 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. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, Americans might have noticed a trend in ObamaCare headlines over the past two days. There was Sunday's Politico story and it basically had this title: ''Why liberals are abandoning the Obamacare employer mandate.''

There was an Associated Press story entitled ''Senate Democrats Try to Pull Focus From Obamacare.''

Then on Monday, Politico published a story called ''Obamacare's next threat: A September surprise'' about the White House efforts to prepare Democrats to meet September rate hike announcements.

All of these stories amount to one thing. Democrats are running scared from ObamaCare.

These three articles are just a few of the many pieces to be published about Democrats' efforts to distance themselves from ObamaCare in preparation for the November election.

It is not surprising they are worried. ObamaCare is Democrats' and the White House's main legislative achievement, and Americans don't like it. They didn't like it in 2010 when the law was passed, they didn't like it when the law was being implemented, and they don't like it now. A Quinnipiac poll from last week reported that 55 percent of Americans oppose ObamaCare. Similar numbers of Americans opposed it 3 months earlier, and almost 3 months before that. In fact, when we average polling on the health care law from late 2009 until today, we find the health care law has consistently been opposed by the majority of Americans. Opposition to the health care law currently averages nearly 14 percentage points higher than support. That is not a good sign for Democrats.

Many Democrats who firmly supported the health care law in 2009 and 2010 believed the law would grow more popular when the American people found out what was in the bill and how it would benefit them. But the health care law has not gotten more popular. Americans found out what was in the bill and they didn't like it. Democrats are realizing that their support for the bill may cost them their seats in November. So now they are running in the opposite direction.

According to Monday's Politico article, the White House knows very well that Democrats are finding ObamaCare to be a big problem in their campaigns.

So it has redirected the efforts of its ObamaCare war room to prepare for the release of rate hikes that are coming in September. ''The White House and its allies know''—this is a quote from the story—''they've been beaten in every previous round of ObamaCare messaging, never more devastatingly than in 2010.'' The story goes on to say:

And they know the results this November could hinge in large part on whether that happens again. So they are trying to avoid—or at least get ahead of—any September surprise.

That is from the Politico story.

Let me just say to the White House: Good luck with that.

There is a reason why the White House and its allies have been, as Politico notes, ''beaten in every previous round of ObamaCare messaging.'' It is because the White House's messaging didn't match up with the reality it promised Americans.

The White House can talk all it wants about ObamaCare's supposed benefits, but if Americans aren't experiencing those benefits, no amount of talking is going to work. Most Americans aren't experiencing ObamaCare benefits. They are experiencing ObamaCare pain: higher premiums, higher deductibles, the loss of doctors and hospitals, less control and less freedom.

As have most Members of Congress, I have gotten countless letters from constituents telling me about the pain ObamaCare is causing them. Tom from Hurley, SD, wrote to me to tell me his premiums have more than doubled and his deductible has quadrupled since the President's health care law was enacted.

Harvey from Mitchell, SD, wrote to tell me that his insurance went up 16 percent effective April 1 of this year. ''Biggest increase ever,'' he said.

Jill from Sturgis, SD, wrote to tell me that she went on line to get a health insurance estimate at healthcare.gov and found that the cheapest plan would cost her $366 a month with a $5,000 deductible. ''Are you kidding me?'', she wrote. ''That's $9,392 a year I have to pay in, every year, before it pays anything . . . which is roughly 16 percent of our combined income. I can't afford that and try to save money for retirement at the same time'' she says.

Jill is not alone in not being able to afford that. Too many Americans are in similar situations, facing the prospect of huge health care bills and wondering how on Earth they are going to pay them.

All the talk in the world from the White House isn't going to make people enthusiastic about ObamaCare if they can't afford their ObamaCare premiums or have lost access to the doctor or the hospital they like.

Politico reports that 21 States—21 States—have posted preliminary health insurance premiums for 2015, and that average preliminary premiums went up in all 21 States. Those proposed increases—several in the double digits—are coming on top of the State premium hikes many Americans faced this year.

The White House can attempt to defend these increases as much as it wants, but there really isn't any way to spin huge premium hikes when they promised people their premiums not only wouldn't increase but would actually go down.

ObamaCare is fundamentally broken. This bill was supposed to reduce health care premiums and lower the cost of care while allowing Americans to keep the doctors they like. Instead, it has done the exact opposite. ObamaCare isn't just driving up health care premiums; it is also devastating our already damaged economy.

The ObamaCare 30-hour workweek rule is forcing businesses, large and small, to reduce employees' hours at a time when many Americans are struggling to find full-time work. USA Today reported yesterday that Friday's unemployment report found a sharp rise in the number of part-time workers who prefer full-time jobs. So what we have is people who want to work full-time but full-time jobs are unavailable, so they are taking part-time work. Why? Well, one of the reasons they attribute it to is the ObamaCare requirement that the work week be a 30-hour week as opposed to a 40-hour week. So what is happening is employers are hiring employees for less than 30 hours a week so they won't be stuck with all of the requirements and the mandates that come with ObamaCare. So it is leading to more part-time jobs when people are actually looking for full-time work in our economy.

The law's burdensome mandates and regulations are placing a heavy burden on small businesses and making it impossible for many of them to expand and to hire employees. As Politico reported, when it comes to the employer mandate, even liberals are admitting that the rule is unnecessary and burdensome. Politico notes:

The shift among liberal policy experts and advocates has been rapid. A stream of studies and statements have deemed the mandate only moderately useful for getting more people covered in ObamaCare. And they too have come to see it as clumsy, a regulatory and financial burden that creates as many problems as it solves.

That is from the Politico story talking about many of the liberal policy experts who are now turning their backs on the employer mandate.

Then there is the potential for fraud, with the Health and Human Services inspector general's office reporting that the administration is not properly verifying that those receiving subsidies actually qualify for them. And the disastrous Web sites have cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

The list goes on and on and on. Whether they admit it or not, everyone knows that ObamaCare is not working. It is time to start over and replace this law with real reforms—reforms that will actually lower costs and improve access to care.

Republicans have offered solution after solution to solve the many problems created by ObamaCare—from Senator COLLINS' bill to repeal ObamaCare's 30-hour workweek, which I just mentioned earlier, to a provision I came up with that would exempt schools, colleges, and universities from ObamaCare's crippling employer mandate—something that our colleges and universities across the country are feeling and it is impacting their ability to hire employees.

Instead of fleeing from ObamaCare or attempting to put a positive spin on its many failures, Democrats should join Republicans to repeal this broken law and replace it with real reforms. Then Democrats would have a real accomplishment to take home to their constituents, and they would not have to worry about having the White House send a team of people in the war room assigned to Democrats here on Capitol Hill who are trying to figure out ways to message the bad news that keeps coming out about higher premiums, higher copays, higher deductibles, fewer doctors, and fewer hospitals. That is the message that Democrats here in Congress are having to deal with when they respond to the constituents they hear from in their districts or their States. And that is why the White House is so focused on changing the subject to anything from ObamaCare.

That is the reality, and it is an economic reality that is affecting and impacting way to many American families. Middle-income families in this country are squeezed. Household income has gone down by $3,300 since the President took office. Everything middle-income Americans have to pay for has gone up—from health care to college education to fuel, electricity, food—you name it.

So those middle-income families in this country are increasingly feeling squeezed and pinched by this economy, made much, much worse by the passage of a health care law that has driven up the cost of health care—higher premiums, fewer doctors, fewer hospitals, fewer full-time jobs or part-time jobs. Why? Because employers are trying to avoid the heavyhanded mandates and requirements to provide government-approved insurance, and so they are finding more and more part-time employees when the employees—people out there in the workforce—are looking for full-time jobs so they can provide for their families. Good-paying jobs with opportunities for advancement—that is what we ought to be focused on. Unfortunately, everything coming out of Washington, DC, and particularly the policies coming out of this administration—namely, first and foremost, ObamaCare is making it more expensive and more difficult for employers to hire. It is costing middle-income families more to cover their families with health coverage, and it is

making everything else in our economy more expensive.

That is the reality that most Americans are dealing with. We can do so much better. We should do so much better. If Democrats will acknowledge the error of their ways in the passage of this bad law to start with, we can go back to the drawing board and do this in a way that actually does reduce cost and provide better access to health care for American families.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak to the Senate as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXCESS FEDERAL PROPERTY

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, while I was home over the recess, I had the opportunity to visit with lots of Kansans. One of the conversations I had was with a county emergency preparedness director in advance of a Fourth of July parade. He brought to my attention something we had heard just in the last few days about a development at the Department of Defense.

I want to mention to my colleagues and ask them, but ask the agencies involved—which would be the Department of Defense, the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency—to see if we cannot find a solution to a problem that should not be a problem.

In the Presiding Officer's State and mine we have lots of volunteer fire departments. One of the developments over time has been their equipment is excess military equipment that is either loaned or given to those small town fire departments. They are volunteers. In my hometown, the fire whistle blows and men and women from across the community gather at the fire station, get in the truck, and go to the fire and fight the fire.

Their equipment is expensive and the budget they have to fulfill their mission is small. One way they have been able to overcome that small budget and expensive equipment is through the Department of Defense, which has, over a long period of time, donated excess military equipment to the local fire departments. They do this through the State forester. In fact, 95 percent of the communities in Kansas are protected by a volunteer fire department and 50 million acres of land is protected by volunteer fire departments.

Well, 3 weeks ago, the Department of Defense halted the transfer of excess trucks, generators, pumps, and engine parts, based upon emissions regulations and an agreement that apparently exists between the Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA, apparently, has to approve the transfer of those vehicles because they may not satisfy the clean air standards. So what seems to me to be a commonsense solution to the need for fire equipment—including trucks—is now being halted because of concerns of whether those vehicles—those old vehicles no longer used by the Department of Defense—meet the emissions standards.

Well, I would certainly first remind folks that these trucks are very important when there is a fire, but there is not a fire every day. It is not as if these vehicles are on the road in a constant fashion day in and day out. I would also indicate that the fires they put out increase emissions, so the marginal increase in the amount of emissions because you may be using a fire truck that does not meet the emissions standards is well overcome by the fire that burns the grass, the forest, the trees or a home by what that fire puts into the atmosphere.

Since January 1 of this year, there have been nearly 92,000 acres burned in more than 5,000 wild land fires—grass fires—across Kansas.

For most of those rural fire departments, the Federal excess equipment is the only equipment they can afford to handle those natural or manmade disasters.

The Kansas Forest Service, as I said, administers this program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They provided 40 to 50 trucks per year, and they were able to set aside again that number for Kansas—40 to 50 trucks—for Kansas fire departments for this year.

We currently have 445 trucks issued in Kansas, valued at about $21 million, and there are 52 fire departments in Kansas waiting for a replacement truck.

The Department of Defense decision to implement this policy will cost fire departments in Kansas and across the country the opportunity to utilize excess equipment, save lives, and protect property.

My request is that my colleagues who have an interest in this issue work with me and others and help us bring to the attention of the Secretary of Defense, Secretary Hagel, and the EPA Administrator, Gina McCarthy, as well as USDA, which administers the program for the fire departments, that we work together to find a commonsense solution.

Apparently the alternative is if these trucks are not available to be transferred to Kansas and elsewhere, to local fire departments, then the trucks are destroyed, smashed, and somehow disposed of in a landfill. Again, I would suggest that the conservation, the environmental opportunity to see the life of these vehicles extended, as compared to being destroyed, smashed, and disposed of, would work in the favor of the environment as well as in the opportunity to provide safety and security for hundreds of thousands of Kansans, hundreds of thousands of Americans, who depend upon rural fire departments, hometown fire departments, to meet the needs of their safety and security.

It seems to me we are asking for something simple. We need a little common sense and cooperation among an agency and two departments. I would ask my colleagues that you help me find a solution to this problem by getting those agencies, the Department of Defense in particular, to explain why this is a good policy with such detriment to the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. I come to the floor today because it seems day after day there is another story or two in the paper about what is happening with the President's health care law. As I go home to Wyoming each week, I go through Denver and the airport there. Today the headline in the Denver Post has to do with the Colorado health exchanges. The first line says: ''Colorado's health care exchange is expecting nearly twice as many people to drop or to decline to pay for their policies.'' You know, they predicted how many people would continue to make payments if they had signed up under the President's health care law. Today they are predicting that twice as many as they anticipated would be either dropping or failing to pay for their health care premiums.

The Wall Street Journal today, above the fold, front page, ''Newly Insured Face Coverage Gaps.'' So you get people who may have signed up under the President's health care law, coverage gaps, not paying, dropping, truly not the deal the President has said was something he felt would be helpful to Americans. More and more people are finding out they are having bigger problems under the President's health care law, problems with the promises that were made by this President, by this administration, and by those who voted for the health care law.

I get home just about every weekend in Wyoming to talk with people, to listen to them, to hear what they have to say. But also as chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, one of my responsibilities is also to see how policies such as the President's health care law come out across the country, what happens in other States, how policies out of Washington affect people all across America.

Today I wish to talk a little about how the health care law is impacting people not just in my home State of Wyoming but all across the country. In addition to being in Wyoming last week, I had a chance to visit Alaska. What I heard from people there as well as people in Wyoming is that people

have been hurt by the President's health care law. They are anxious about it in terms of their own health care, and they are angry about insurance they have had that they have lost, and the implications of the President's health care law where many promises were made and now people are finding out the President's promises, in terms of their own lives, their own health and their own families, have not actually been kept.

The President, Democrats here in the Senate, promised their law was going to be great for the American people. That is the promise. Well, I can tell you the people I talk to in Wyoming, people I heard from in Alaska, are very worried about the terrible side effects they are feeling specifically as a result of this awful health care law.

Small businesses—and small businesses are a major part of the economy in rural States. Small businesses and the people who specifically work in those small businesses are the backbone of the economy for so many of our communities. So it is very troubling when I read about something in the health care law that threatens the very health of the people who work in these small businesses.

When Democrats were trying to sell their health care law, they bragged. They bragged about something called the SHOP program. That is the exchange where small businesses in a State were supposed to be able to buy insurance for their workers, to be able to shop for it, be able to get something that is affordable. That is the promise made by Democrats who voted for this health care law.

Democrats actually gave speeches on the floor about small businesses being able to find affordable insurance. This program was supposed to open last year, but just like the failed exchanges the President set up, when the exchanges opened October 1, this was not ready to go. So what the Obama administration did is they said: We will delay it for a year, because the program was not ready. So they left all of the businesses kind of in a lurch. Now they say it might be ready this fall. Well, time will tell.

Here is what the Wall Street Journal found in an article last month, June 10. They ran a headline that said, ''Some small business employees to have only one health plan choice: 18 states will offer only one plan when small-business exchanges open.''

The Democrats promised a lot more than that. Those who voted for that promised a lot more. Those who gave speeches promised a lot more. But in 18 States, there will be only one plan when they finally get it open, 18 States where workers and small businesses will not have any choice among insurance plans and no competition, and Alaska is one of them. Less choice, less competition, and of course that means higher premiums.

People all across the country are experiencing higher premiums. That is the thing that causes so much anger and anxiety among families all across the country. When that letter comes—and the newspaper stories are already starting to get out there, as well as television, radio, reading about it on the Internet—the question is: How much higher?

The President promised $2,500 lower premiums. Nobody believes that. Nobody in America believes the President of the United States and the promise he made. It is a sad situation when the President is not believed by anyone. But yet that is what we have. He made a promise: $2,500 per family lower. People all know that prices are going higher. The question is: How much higher?

This is what an article said in the Alaska Dispatch: ''Alaska's small businesses feel pinch of rising health care costs.'' The article tells a story of a restaurant owner with 24 employees. He is paying about $5,000 a month more than he paid last year for his share of his workers' insurance. That is about a 40-percent increase over last year—40 percent. The President said it was going to go down. This is a 40-percent increase. This small business owner in Alaska says the costs are ''crippling'' and he said it is like meeting another payroll every month. This small business owner says:

> It's killing me. I just don't know how long we can keep absorbing these costs.

Those costs are a devastating side effect of the health care law. Democrats voted for it. Every Democrat in the Senate voted for that. There was a story on television up there, channel 13, a television station in Anchorage, KYUR. They aired a story last month about Linda Peters. She is another local business owner. She had 14 employees. She pays for the health insurance for her employees. Her share of the premium has gone up, gone up from $600 per person 2 years ago to $950 today. She says it has gotten so expensive that she has had to shift the cost of employees' dependents back to her workers.

So she was providing insurance for the dependents of the employees, but now she is not able to do that. Why? Because of the President's health care law. She told the TV station, ''It was really tragic, it's enraging in fact, as employers who care about our employees. '' Tragic and enraging.

But the President forced this on her and every Democrat in this body, every Democratic Senator who voted for this.

This woman in Alaska: Tragic and enraging. She is looking into dropping insurance coverage altogether. She pays her employees well so they will not get a subsidy in the State exchange. So here is a small business owner who can speak personally about the expensive, the tragic, and the enraging side effects of the Obama health care law on her employees.

Of course, there is a lot of uncertainty about what happens next and how much rates might continue to go up. Of course, that makes it even worse. The business owner said:

> I just can't penalize my employees by dropping the plan, and I can't figure out: Where am I going to get the money? It's frightening. What happens next year?

That is a big concern, what happens next year. People worry about next year. They budget for next year. They plan for next year. They think about their expenses, balancing it with their income. President Obama says: The Democrats who voted for this law—in the President's own words—should forcefully defend and be proud—should forcefully defend and be proud—of the health care law.

Are Democrats in this Senate who voted for this health care law proud? Are they proud of what the law is doing to these people in Alaska and other States? Are Democrats willing to come to this floor and forcefully defend and be proud of the extra stress, the extra costs they are causing for these people all across the country?

According to a recent study by the Manhattan Institute, people in Alaska are paying a hospital more for their coverage. They found the premiums of the average 64-year-old woman in Alaska would have been $693 a month in 2013. That is before they were forced onto the ObamaCare exchange. But in 2014, buying insurance from the exchange, her premiums jumped to $813 a month. She is paying $1,400 more this year than she did last year because of the specifics of the health care law.

For a 27-year-old man, he would have paid an average of $130 a month in 2013. But under the health care law and the exchange, he now pays $284 a month. That is more than double. That is an extra $1,800 more this year than it was last year.

Is there a Senator in this body who will come to the floor and forcefully defend the fact that there are these people all across America who are paying twice as much for insurance because of the health care law?

Democrats did not solve the problem with our health care system. They just mandated coverage, and mandated more expensive coverage. They made it more expensive and they have more mandates. People wanted reform that gave them access to quality affordable care, not more expensive coverage.

Republicans have offered solutions, solutions for patient-centered care, for patient-centered health care reform. We have talked about things such as increasing the ability of small businesses to be able to join together and negotiate better rates, about expanding health savings accounts, and allowing people to shop for and buy health insurance in other States that work best for them and for their families.

In 18 States, including Alaska, the small business exchange will offer just one choice for insurance. Shopping in other States could increase competition and help lower premiums for people who work for those small businesses.

That would have been a simple solution that works and helps people actually afford coverage and care. It is not

what Democrats did with their health care law, but it is what Republicans are offering. We have suggested ideas to get people the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs—not higher costs with a subsidy for some people, but actually lowering the cost for everyone.

Republicans are going to keep coming to the floor. We are going to keep offering real solutions for better health care without all of these tragic side effects.

I am sure that tomorrow there will be another headline and another one the day after that of people who have been harmed by the health care law as we see more and more and hear from more and more Americans who feel the President has not kept his promises, that the Democrats who voted for the health care law have failed the American people and have failed to answer the concerns of the American people, which was affordable quality care.

Madam President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:31 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 3:15 p.m. will be controlled by the majority and the time from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. will be controlled by the Republicans.

The Senator from Vermont.

COST OF WAR

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I wanted to say a few words about the conference committee in terms of legislation protecting the health of our veterans. We are working hard on it in the Senate, the House is working hard on it, and our staffs have been meeting. I have been in touch often with Chairman MILLER in the House. We had, I thought, a very productive conference committee before we left.

As we continue to proceed, if there is anything I have learned since I have been chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, it is that I think as a people, as a nation, we underestimate the cost of war, and before anyone votes to go to war again I think they should fully appreciate the repercussions of that vote.

What going to war means is not—as in the case of Afghanistan and Iraq—losing some 6,700 brave men and women. That is a terrible loss, but I also want people to remember the families, the wives, the kids, the mothers, and the impact that loss has had on their lives and the need for us to protect those wives and those children to make sure they can have the quality of life they are entitled to despite their loss.

But it is not only loss of life. We have had in this war a horrendous epidemic of men and women coming home with post-traumatic stress disorder. I am not sure of exactly the number, but it could be as high as 500,000 men and women coming home from war with PTSD and that is a very difficult illness which needs a lot of care and that illness, again, impacts the entire family—wives, kids. It impacts the ability of a worker to go out and get a job to earn an income. That is a cost of war.

Needless to say, the cost of war is the many who came home without legs, who came home without arms, who came home without eyesight. The cost of war is a high divorce rate for folks who come home who cannot readjust well into their family life. The cost of war is an extremely high rate of suicides. The cost of war is widows who are now having to rebuild their lives. And on and on it goes. The bottom line is the cost of war is enormous in terms of human suffering and the impact on not only the individual who fought in that war but on the entire family.

As I think our colleagues know, several weeks ago Senator MCCAIN and I put together a proposal to deal with the current crisis at the VA, and I am very proud that legislation passed the Senate by a vote of 93 to 3.

What are we dealing with? What is the cost of this proposal? This is an expensive proposal because the cost of war is expensive. What a VA audit told us is that more than 57,000 veterans are waiting to be scheduled for medical appointments. These are the folks who are on these waiting lists, some of which were secret, some of which had data manipulated. These are folks who should have been getting into the VA for timely health care but who were not. On top of that, there is an unknown number of veterans who are on no lists because of poor work being done at the VA. They were not on any list. How many there are we don't know, but many of those people need to be seen.

So what our legislation does is say we are going to make certain that all of these veterans who are waiting for health care—who have waited far too long for health care—will, in fact, get health care as soon as they possibly can, and they will get that health care either through private physicians, they will get that health care in community health centers, they will get that health care at the Department of Defense military bases, they will get that health care at the Indian Health Service, but they will get that health care in a timely manner, and that is going to be an expensive proposition. We cannot provide health care to tens and tens of thousands of veterans in a short period of time outside of the VA without spending a substantial sum of money.

No. 2, long-term, what is clear to me and I think to anybody who has studied the issue is that if we are serious about eliminating these waiting lists and getting people into the VA in a timely manner, we have to make sure that at every facility in this country the VA has the requisite number of doctors, nurses, and other types of personnel they need in order to accommodate the growing numbers of people who are coming into the VA.

If we are talking about hiring thousands of doctors in a moment, by the way, where we have a very serious doctor shortage in this country, that is going to be an expensive proposition, as well as hiring the nurses and other personnel and building or leasing the space we need. That is issue No. 2. That is going to be expensive, but long term, if we are serious about keeping our commitment to the men and women who put their lives on the line to defend this country, that is exactly what we have to do.

The third area in this legislation which is going to be expensive is we have now for the first time said to veterans that if they are living a distance away from a VA facility, more than 40 miles, they are going to be able to go to a private doctor. That will cost us some money as well.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator from Vermont yield for a question through the Chair?

Mr. SANDERS. I am happy to yield the floor to the Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I don't ask the Senator to yield the floor, but I would, through the Chair, address the Senator from Vermont.

First, I thank the Senator for his bipartisan effort with Senator JOHN MCCAIN which led to an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote on the floor of the Senate to address what we consider to be a crisis in the Veterans' Administration. Press reports have suggested in the most extreme situation that some veterans' lives were being compromised because of the failure of providing timely care to these veterans. It resulted in an investigation of VA facilities all across the United States. It resulted in the resignation of the Secretary of the Veterans' Administration and promises for dramatic reform, but I have to say to the Senator from Vermont what he has accomplished with Senator MCCAIN is tangible.

I would like to ask him two or three questions about the current state of affairs. How long ago was it that we passed on the floor of the Senate this bipartisan measure?

Secondly, did this measure involve emergency spending to deal with the emergency in the Veterans' Administration?

Third, did the House version of their VA reform include the resources the Senator from Vermont mentioned, the new doctors, the new nurses, the new facilities to accommodate this wave of veterans. Those are the three questions that I think are critical.

I close by saying thank you again and again, because as chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Senator has reminded us of the real cost of war.

There are many people who vote quickly to go to war who will not vote quickly to pay for the care we promised our veterans when they come home. Thank you for caring.

Mr. SANDERS. I very much thank the Senator. Let me answer the very last question first, and I will go through the others.

I think throughout the history of this country, not only in Iraq and Afghanistan, I think as a people we have underestimated the real cost of war. There was no word called PTSD at the end of World War II, but anyone who thinks that men and women did not come home from war suffering from that ailment would be very mistaken. So the cost of war is real, and it is not just missiles and tanks and guns. If this country means anything, we take care of all of those who serve, to the last day of their lives, when they need that care. I don't have the date in front of me, but I think it was about 3 weeks ago when we passed that legislation by a huge vote. I think there were only 3 people who voted against it. It was a vote of 93 to 3—huge bipartisan support for the bill.

But equally important, to answer the important question raised by the Senator from Illinois, there was also an overwhelming understanding that paying for this bill is a cost of war. It has to be emergency funded, and in a strong bipartisan vote the Senate said, yes, that is how we are going to pay for it.

In terms of the House bill, the House bill was a reasonable bill, but they did not go into the detail we did in terms of how it will be paid. But the major point I do want to make—I was just going to get to that and I appreciate the Senator from Illinois raising it. This bill is not going to be paid for by cutting education or food stamps. That isn't going to happen. That isn't going to happen, first of all, because it is not going to happen and, second of all, it would be grossly disrespectful to the veterans of this country. The veterans of this country need help. They need help now. This legislation must be passed as soon as possible, and it must be passed in terms of the emergency funding. This is a cost of war.

I would ask my friend from Illinois, the whip, can he recall what kind of programs were offset and what kind of taxes were raised to pay for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan?

Mr. DURBIN. Through the Chair, I would answer the Senator, without asking him to yield the floor, and say this: When we decided to embark on the invasion of Iraq and the invasion of Afghanistan, it was with at least the understanding of then-President Bush that these would be costs that would be added to the deficit of the United States. We would not be paying as we fought. We would be waging a war, spending the money necessary to wage it successfully, and we would deal with the cost of it at a later moment in time. Many of us, even those of us who voted against the invasion of Iraq—and I was 1 of 23 on the floor of the Senate voting against it—voted for the resources to wage the war, saying if our men and women in uniform are risking their lives, we will stand by them, equip them, and bring them home safely. I also believed and understood that I had an obligation to every one of those men and women in uniform, having promised them that if they would risk their lives for America and come home needing our help, whether it is health care or education or the basics of life, we would be there.

I say to the Senator from Vermont thank you for reminding us of the pledge made by America to these veterans and I believe the pledge made by Republicans and Democrats in Congress to stand by them when they came home.

Mr. SANDERS. The Senator is exactly right. While no one is quite exactly clear how much those two wars will end up costing us, the estimate is between $3 and $6 trillion. The point Senator DURBIN made is even those who voted against the war—and I did as well—understood that when we sent men and women off to battle they would have to have all of the resources they needed to do their mission. Equally important, what we are saying now is when they come home wounded in body, wounded in spirit, we need them to have the resources they require to make their lives whole again. That is a moral obligation. I thank the Senator for raising that point.

I will yield the floor in a second, but first I will conclude by saying that I want to see this bill passed as soon as possible. We are working as hard as we possibly can, but anyone who magically thinks the only problem facing the VA is more accountability and better management is not correct. We do need better management at the VA, we do need more accountability at the VA, and this legislation will provide that.

People who are incompetent and people who are dishonest should be fired. There must be more transparency, and there certainly must be a much clearer chain of command that goes from Washington to regional hospitals and facilities and back up again.

At the end of the day, the best management in the world is not going to provide the quality and timely health care veterans need unless we have the doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel, and that is the simple fact. Excellent management, yes; transparency, yes; fire incompetent people, yes; but we also need the doctors and nurses to provide quality and timely care to the veterans of our country.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, it has been 2 weeks since the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees held our first conference meeting to fix the VA health care system. It is a disservice to our veterans that we have not met again. My fellow conferees and I should be at the table actively negotiating a path forward.

Chairman SANDERS is right when he says the situation at the VA is an emergency. I had the opportunity to meet with veterans last week in Hilo, HI. My discussion with them underscored the urgency of addressing the longstanding issues at the VA.

For those who have not visited Hawaii, Hilo is on the Big Island of Hawaii, and it is home to volcanoes, rain forests, and just about every other climate. It is also twice as big as the rest of Hawaii's islands combined. In fact, it is roughly the size of Connecticut but with only a fraction of the population. It can take hours to drive from Hilo to the second largest town, Kailua-Kona. Of the roughly 143,000 people living on the island, 15,000 are veterans.

I am raising these facts because I want my colleagues to understand that veterans in communities like those who live on Hawaii Island need our help and they need it now.

The veterans I met in Hilo expressed to me that they cannot get care anywhere other than the VA on the Big Island, as private physicians are few and far between. In fact, while 90 percent of Hawaii Island residents have health insurance, there is a serious physician shortage. This results in long wait times for non-VA health care. Given these long wait times for private physicians, Big Island veterans rely on VA for their primary care. Those Hawaii Island veterans who have private insurance have, out of their own pockets, paid for flights to the island of Oahu to get the care they need. This means over $300 out-of-pocket just to get to their medical appointments. The $300 does not include any costs associated with the care itself.

This is another reason that expanding access to non-VA providers is needed to immediately address the VA health care emergency. With this expansion, we must ensure that every veteran in our country, whether rural or urban, can more easily get the care they need if the VA is unable to accommodate them. Rural and urban veterans in Hawaii and across our Nation deserve better.

A recent audit of the VA in Hawaii found that veterans were waiting over 140 days to receive care. A more recent update found that while progress is being made, the wait is still over 100 days. Nationwide, nearly 60,000 veterans are waiting simply to get an appointment, and of course that is unacceptable. This is why I stand eager and ready to work with my Senate and House colleagues to ensure that the veterans of this country get the care they need and the benefits they have earned.

This conference committee must reconvene as soon as possible to move

forward on the important task to finalize legislation that does three important things: No. 1, directly addresses the emergency circumstances that have been uncovered at the Veterans' Administration; No. 2, ensures that all of our veterans receive access to the care they deserve; and No. 3, begins the long-term work of restoring veterans' trust not only in the VA but in Congress's ability to effectively oversee the VA and provide the resources necessary to care for our veterans.

Nearly the entire Senate agrees that the current VA situation is an emergency and that Congress must act. I am hopeful we can all agree on that point, but my fellow conferees need to be at the table now, face to face, to work out solutions to make the VA work for our veterans.

I hope we will include provisions in the Senate-passed legislation that will provide for 26 major medical facility leases and provide for the resources and authority to expedite hiring of VA doctors and nurses.

In addition, while I agree that accountability of executives is needed, we should avoid politicizing the nonappointed civil service process and allow some due process for VA employees.

Furthermore, our veterans rely on the services of qualified, committed professionals at the VA. In fact, the veterans I met with last week indicated that they really liked VA care; however, they were concerned that VA doctors were already overstretched in terms of patients. I don't believe that simply telling VA doctors to see more patients is the only or best answer, nor is it enough to allow veterans to seek care from private providers. We should be doing more to attract more health professionals to VA, especially primary care providers. We have to recognize the long-term benefits of attracting a high-quality workforce to VA and that we can improve accountability in a carefully balanced way.

Investing in the VA is an essential step toward building back the trust of our veterans.

I understand my colleagues' concerns with the cost of the proposals before us, but inaction will not overcome those concerns. Those of us serving as conferees need to sit down and discuss how to get our veterans what they need quickly. The time for action is now. Veterans in Hawaii and across the country are counting on us and deserve no less.

I yield the remainder of my time and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I wish to begin by thanking my colleague, the senior Senator from Illinois, for his very eloquent and powerful remarks on the need to address gun violence in this country and to do it as part of our consideration of the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act. I look forward to joining with him in the coming days—in fact, perhaps in the coming hours—in offering commonsense, sensible measures that will give us the opportunity to help stop gun violence in this country, addressing domestic violence as well, which so often leads to gun violence. Women are five times more likely to be killed in domestic violence when there is a gun in the home. The Senator from Illinois also addressed straw purchases and issues relating to drug trafficking. We have raised those and other issues in the past but have not yet successfully passed legislation in the Senate, not even addressed it in depth.

So I hope we will have the opportunity in these next couple of days to consider these kinds of measures, because the scourge of gun violence is continuing in our neighborhoods and on our streets, just as it took the lives of 20 beautiful children and 6 great educators in Newtown, CT, almost a year and a half ago, and 2 more people on Sunday on the east side of Bridgeport alone, and tens of thousands of others. It continues to cause death and injury and costs in lost lives and dollars throughout this country. We have an obligation as part of this measure to do better than we have in dealing with this tremendous, horrific, and unspeakable problem. It affects so many innocent children, particularly the children who are affected in urban neighborhoods where there are driveby shootings; in rural neighborhoods all across the country; in our cities and on our streets and in our schools.

We have an obligation to do better and to put priorities first when it comes to the use of guns. I understand the reasons for expanding or providing more opportunities in this bill that may involve firearms, but first things first. Let's cure the safety of the country. Let's consider commonsense, sensible measures on gun control before we expand the use of guns and firearms in this country.

VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

I am here as well to address the separate, unrelated issue of doing better to care for our veterans. The Veterans Access to Care Through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 is now in conference. I am on that conference committee. This body passed that bill by an overwhelming bipartisan majority of 93 to 3 on June 11. It is a comprehensive bill to start addressing the problems that came to our attention so dramatically. There were reports of deadly delays, destruction of documents, manipulation of data, and falsification of records, as well as tragic reports of unacceptable wait times that were concealed at VA health care facilities. Books were cooked and criminal wrongdoing was covered up. That is the reason I have called for a criminal investigation, and one has now begun. I hope it will produce accountability from the health care system of the VA.

More fundamentally, we have an obligation in the Senate and in the Congress to address the underlying issues that led to those deadly wait times and delays, the cooking of books and covering it up that has so dramatically undermined trust and confidence in the VA health care system. If anything, since June 11, the problem seems to have worsened. In fact, comparing May to July, the recently released figures of July 3—just last week—the numbers of medical appointments delayed for longer than 30 days has tripled in Connecticut and doubled nationwide. Nationwide, that number has gone from 242,069—roughly a quarter of a million veterans whose appointments were postponed by 30 days or more—to 636,436. That is the number of veterans waiting longer than 30 days for an appointment. In Connecticut, the comparable numbers are 998 to 2,727—a tripling of the appointments delayed for longer than 30 days. In other parts of the country at other clinics and facilities, those numbers quadrupled.

The possible good news is that maybe—just maybe—the doubling, tripling, quadrupling of those numbers of appointments longer than 30 days delayed means the numbers are more accurate and truthful. We don't know. I have demanded an explanation. I have written to the Acting Secretary of the VA, Sloan Gibson, calling for a public explanation for these numbers and the very alarming and astonishing trends, drastic and dramatic increases in those numbers of appointments suffering from delays.

Justice Brandeis once said:

> Publicity is justly commended as a remedy for social and industrial diseases. Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants.

These chronic failings at the VA demand a better explanation. Veterans deserve to know if things have gotten worse or is the reporting just better. All of us—the public whose taxpayer monies fund the VA—deserve the same kind of explanation. There should be a criminal investigation if there has been obstruction of justice and destruction of documents and falsification of records which involve Federal criminal wrongdoing.

The act we now have in conference committee will help address many of these problems looking forward, moving ahead, by providing more access to private doctors and private hospitals outside the VA system to minimize and reduce and perhaps even eliminate those unacceptable waiting times of longer than 30 days for an appointment. It will provide more doctors—more than $500 million for that purpose alone. It will impose accountability by enabling easier firing and seeking to, in effect, claw back, or at best stop, some of the financial incentives that may have driven the false reporting.

In those ways and a variety of others, this bill will help us move forward and achieve progress.

No one should be under any illusion that this bill alone will solve all the problems. It is not a panacea. It is not a permanent solution to the VA's problems. We need, for starters, a new leader. The VA has no permanent Secretary. The confirmation of a new one is imperative. But tough questions are absolutely essential to determine whether the President's nominee should be the one to lead this agency, and I am certainly hoping he will be.

The Veterans' Affairs conference committee met on June 24. I emphasized the importance at that hearing of honoring the commitment of our men and women in uniform by addressing the VA challenges with adequate funding and essential legislation. I am hopeful we will move quickly and effectively after that first June 24 meeting now to present to both Houses a final version of this bill so we can truly address the problems our veterans deserve to have solved and the VA has an obligation to eliminate. We need to assure that the differences between the two bodies are resolved and send this bill to the President for his signature. A country that really values its veterans, truly honors their service, should not subject them to waiting delays, secret waiting lists, and false records. This broad, bipartisan, historic bill to ensure that delays in treatment are eliminated and bad actors at the VA health centers are held accountable is a critical step to keep faith with our veterans and let us move forward quickly and responsibly with this bill.

Thank you, Madam President. I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, there are a few of us who want to come down and talk a little bit about specific things in our States that are reaching a crisis point by having to participate in ObamaCare. But before doing that I want to make just one comment to make sure it is in the RECORD and that we can talk about the election that took place over in Afghanistan.

We have had quite a time over there. We have lost actually 2,197 of our own troops in Afghanistan, and we have had about ten times that many who have been injured. So it has been a real crisis for a lot of people. For a long period of time things had been going well. I think when the decision was made by this President to pull everything out at a given time things started turning around a little bit. Now they are in the middle of a—in Afghanistan the election took place. I know we are not supposed to say this, and there is no official position—I want to make that clear—by the United States of America, but to me there are two people running against each other. There is a good guy and a bad guy—that holdover from the old administration, whose name is Ashraf Ghani, who is Karzai's chosen one, who is one who would continue to go in a lack of leadership and not take advantage of the opportunities they have right now; then Abdullah Abdullah is the other one.

My concern with this—and I expressed this concern on the Senate floor about 3 weeks ago. I said: I know we have deadlines. We are going to have a primary, which we already had. Then we are going to have a primary runoff. Then on June 22, which is 2 weeks from today, there will be an official declaration as to who won the primary runoff.

The Presiding Officer is fully familiar with this. We talked about that this morning. Well, in this runoff situation, we have found a lot of discrepancies. It seems to me that while I consider one guy to be the good one and one to be the bad one, all of the mistakes that were made and the irregularities that were found were found in favor of Ashraf Ghani, as opposed to Abdullah Abdullah.

Let me give you an example. In one of the provinces—it was the Wardak Province—Ghani's vote count went from about 17,000 in April to 170,000 in the runoff. Stop and think about that. That is almost mathematically impossible. When you consider the number of registered voters there, this number actually exceeds the number of registered voters. So you went from 17,000 in the same province when they went through the primary back in April, and then that jumped up by tenfold to 170,000 in the runoff. That is an increase of 1,000 percent over April's result. All of those, of course, were in an area where—it is in a part of the country where Ghani's vote was more favorable.

Then the other thing I think is unprecedented, I think we all know in our own States, whether it is in West Virginia, Oklahoma, or any of the rest of them, the vote percentage turnout is less in rural areas than it is in urban areas. In urban areas you have to go next door to vote. It is very convenient. In many rural areas, certainly in my State of Oklahoma, you have to drive maybe 30 or 40 miles to vote. So the percentage turnout is less. It happens that Ghani's support comes from the rural areas. In this runoff election that just took place, they had a 75-percent turnout in those areas. At the same time, in the urban areas, they only had a 24-percent turnout.

First of all, I do not think we can name one election in history that had a larger turnout in a rural area than it did the urban areas in the same election. So we are looking at something that could not happen and logically it did not happen. That was something that certainly worked in the favor of Ghani's election.

Right now everyone agrees on one thing; that is, that the election was at least falsified. If not, it was just a rigged election. There are a lot of organizations out there—the European Union, for example, and the U.N. and other groups such as OSCE, which is the Office of Security and Cooperation in Europe—that all agree we should have an audit of this election—at least an audit which should include some independent source. So I want to get on record now, because I fear if nothing is done in the next 14 days, he will be declared the winner, with these discrepancies, I think that would be doing a great disservice to the people of Afghanistan. They would lose faith in their system, because what I am saying here on the Senate floor they already know.

HEALTH CARE

Let me jump into another area I am very interested in, as is every Member of this body. I can remember back in the 1990s we had what was referred to as ''Hillary health care.'' At that time, there were several members of Parliament—one of them was up here and we had a hearing. That person said: You know, it is hard for us in the United Kingdom to understand why we have had this type of socialized medicine for as many years as I can remember—this is his quote. He said:

> Yet we are now finally realizing that your system over in the United States is a much better system. We are now starting to discard the whole socialized medicine system.

That is something we saw way back in the 1990s. It came again with the Affordable Care Act or ObamaCare. We have a lot of examples in my State of Oklahoma, heartbreaking accounts. Since the rollout last fall, my office has been flooded with stories from Oklahomans who found ObamaCare to be one massive broken promise from President Obama.

These stories include a woman from Broken Arrow, OK, who reported a 20-percent increase in her monthly premiums.

A father from Owasso, OK, shared a story—I talked to all of these individuals personally—of his son and daughter who serve as missionaries in Indonesia. Their health care deductibles in the United States have more than doubled from $1,200 per person to $2,600 a person.

One teacher, a public schoolteacher from Copan, OK, who teaches—actually not in public school, it is adjunct college classes. She shared that not only did she have her work hours cut but is now paying $950 a month in premiums for health care with a $6,000 deductible.

Another teacher from Sallisaw, OK—that happens to be the strawberry capital of the world in case you guys did not know that—shared that her deductible increased by $1,000 from last year.

A man from Noble told us his company modified health plans to match the ObamaCare requirements. It is a company he owns. He says these changes cost him a 40-percent increase in his out-of-pocket expenses and his premium costs.

A man from Tulsa who lives actually in my same neighborhood has a family of five. He works for a small business. He shared with us that he is now paying $4,000 more for insurance than he had paid a year ago.

This November, a new open enrollment period will begin in at least one State, Virginia, which has already reported an astounding 22-percent increase over the past year.

All of that is happening. People from any State, any of the 50 States, could come down and talk about the individual cases in their States. We have one good thing that is going on right now. We have a great attorney general by the name of Scott Pruitt. Scott Pruitt, the attorney general from Oklahoma, has a lawsuit. It is called Pruitt v. Burwell. Oklahoma has standing to proceed on a case that the IRS acted beyond Congress's intent in its effort to impose penalties in States that have Federal exchanges.

We have 36 States that have Federal exchanges. These exchanges are—well, first of all, the administration had a motion to dismiss. It was overruled 11 months ago, so this is a real case. The State has asked for summary judgment.

Success in this case would mean the dismantling of the ObamaCare employer and individual mandates for all 36 States that have at least a partially federally facilitated exchange. I guess you can say it might end up being our attorney general from the State of Oklahoma is going to be the one who is going to be the most successful in doing something about this thing we should have learned a long time ago was not going to work.

I have a personal interest in this, having had—there are states or countries that have socialized medicine. We have Canada, we have Great Britain, we have many other countries. In making a study of these, you find there is limited coverage for people when they reach a certain age.

I see our good friend from Wyoming who is a medical doctor. He has given his second opinion many times. In one of those he talked about you get past a certain age, you are unable to get the treatment. I happen to have had occasion to have four bypasses at an age when in some countries I would not have qualified.

It is something we have been very active in. We are going to hopefully be the heroes from the State of Oklahoma in offering relief to at least 36 of our States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments from the Senator from Oklahoma who, like the Senator from Wyoming who is on the floor here with us here today, has heard from many of his constituents about the impact ObamaCare is having on them, the real-world economic impact.

I have received countless letters from my constituents in South Dakota telling me about the challenges they are facing because of ObamaCare. Those challenges consist of the economic costs associated with the new health care law: higher premiums, higher deductibles, higher copays, the loss of the doctors they like, the burden the law is placing on their businesses if they are an employer, and less control and less freedom, which is something that is important to so many Americans, particularly when it comes to their health care.

I want to take a few moments to highlight some of the stories that constituents of mine have shared with me. I know the Senator from Wyoming is here to do the same, to talk about the impact not only in his State of Wyoming but all across the country.

One person named Erik from southeast South Dakota wrote to me to tell me his family's health care plan was cancelled thanks to ObamaCare. His old plan was $448 a month, with a $5,000 deductible and a 20-percent copay after that. The cheapest bronze plan he could find was $987 a month, more than double what he was paying before, with a $6,500 deductible and a 40-percent copay. He said, ''This means that I would need to incur about $26,000 in eligible medical expenses each year before insurance is a benefit to me.''

Then there is Megan from McCook County, SD, who contacted me to tell me the cheapest plan she could find for her family of 4 would cost her a staggering $17,000. Seventeen thousand dollars. That is more than some people pay for their mortgage in an entire year.

Randy from Hot Springs, SD, contacted me to tell me an exchange plan similar to his old insurance plan is $1,222 a month, almost 2½ times the cost of his old insurance plan.

Sheri, from a small town in Minnehaha County, said:

> Next year, our insurance is changing, and I will lose my family practice doctor of 22 years—the doctor that delivered all my children and that has cared for our teenage children all of their lives. We'll also lose all of the back-up doctors our family has seen when we couldn't see our regular doctor. . . . I was happy with my insurance, and now I have to lose my doctor.

Then there is Denny from Rapid City, SD, who told me the following:

> My insurance company cancelled my policy. I am currently paying over $800 a month for a family of four. . . . If I sign up for ObamaCare, I would be paying over $2,500 a month. I cannot think of any way this is considered affordable health care!

Linda, a small business owner and operator from a small town along the Missouri River, wrote this:

> We need your help. . . . We have one full-time employee, and we provide health care coverage for him, his wife, and their children. . . . Our monthly premium in 2013 was $2,964.20 or $35,570.40 annually. Our monthly premium—as a result of the ''Affordable Care Act''—for 2014 is $3,524.75 or $42,297 annually.

A huge increase from what they were paying before, from 2013 to 2014.

She says:

> I have been told by our agent to expect even more substantial increases in 2015. This is very frightening for us.

Lyle from Brookings, SD, said that thanks to ObamaCare, his monthly premium almost doubled and his deductible doubled.

He says:

> I'm a small business owner, and would like to hire an employee next spring. Well, that's not going to happen!

We were told that ObamaCare would lower costs and make health care more affordable. Instead, it has driven up costs for these Americans and for many others. What middle-class family can afford to spend $17,000 a year on insurance? How can a small business with one employee afford a $7,000 yearly hike in insurance premiums? The answer is they cannot.

As if high health care prices were not enough, ObamaCare is also damaging many Americans' job prospects.

There is the 30-hour workweek rule, which is forcing many employers to cut their employees' hours. There is the medical device tax, which has already resulted in thousands and thousands of lost jobs in the industry and will likely result in many more if it isn't repealed. There is the employer mandate, which is discouraging many employers from expanding and hiring new employees. And there are the many rules and regulations that are placing a huge financial and logistical burden on small businesses.

ObamaCare isn't working. It was supposed to help Americans. Instead, it is hurting them. It is time to start over and to replace this law with real health care reforms—reforms that will actually lower costs for Americans, give them back their health care choices, and improve access to care.

That is what we ought to be doing. But, unfortunately, we have lots of folks here in this Chamber who are trying as desperately as they can to run away from the issue without fixing it.

So as we get into these November elections and the run-up to them, a lot of vulnerable Democrats who voted for this are looking for a way out. But in many cases this was their signature achievement. This is the President's signature law. So they own it. They own that vote. Yet they are trying to figure out a way to spin it to the American people so that it will come across in a different way than the reality the American people are experiencing.

This is the headline in Politico from yesterday: ObamaCare ''War Room Prepares for Sept. Surprise.'' They know there is more bad news coming out in September of this year when the new insurance rates are announced to kick in.

So what is the White House doing? They have six people assigned to congressional Democrats to help do damage control in their States or their districts when this bad news comes out. And it inevitably will because there is no way that all the new mandates and requirements associated with this law don't lead to higher prices—in addition to all the higher taxes that go with it.

So the headline is the ''War Room Prepares for Sept. Surprise,'' and it goes on to detail how they are trying their best to spin this in a way that confuses the American people into thinking it is something better than it is. Unfortunately for the spinners, the reality that most Americans are confronting and experiencing is a very different one—and that is the reality I talked about earlier: higher premiums, higher deductibles, higher copays, fewer choices when it comes to doctors and hospitals, fewer full-time jobs and more part-time jobs as employers look for ways to avoid dealing with these mandates and requirements that are imposed under ObamaCare. But it is forcing more and more people onto part-time jobs when they would like to be working full time. That is why last week when the jobs numbers came out and people were hailing the numbers—sure, there was some good news there. But there was an awful lot of bad news, and one of the bad news items was that a good majority were actually part-time and not full-time jobs.

Why? One of the reasons is the mandates and requirements under ObamaCare and the institution of a 30-hour workweek, which is forcing employers to hire employees for fewer than 30 hours so they don't get stuck with having to provide government-approved health care, which would dramatically increase what they are paying for health care today.

That is the reality that most Americans are confronting. I hope at some point, as these realities continue to sink in with the American people, their elected officials here in Washington will come together and realize this isn't working; it is not working for employers; and it is not working for middle-class families in this country who are increasingly squeezed by these higher costs; and it certainly isn't working for our economy.

I know the Senator from Wyoming, Mr. BARRASSO, who has been mentioned by the Senator from Oklahoma, is a physician and understands these issues very well and has spoken at great length here on the floor about ObamaCare and its impacts. I know he is going to share some of the stories that he has received from not only the people he represents from the State of Wyoming but from those around the country who are feeling the impacts of this law.

So would I yield for the Senator from Wyoming.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I join my colleague from South Dakota and agree with what he is seeing in South Dakota and I am seeing in Wyoming and that people all across the country are seeing with regard to the President's health care law. People are very concerned because it hits them in their pocketbook.

What we are seeing is that people's premiums are going up. The deductible that they have to pay before they get to use their insurance is going way up. The copay that they have to make has gone way up.

So in terms of people's actual pocketbook issues and the things that concern them, they are paying more and getting less, and it is because of the mandates in the Obama health care law.

The President of the United States says: ''Forcefully defend and be proud'' of this law. Yet day after day, I don't see Democrats who voted for the health care law coming to the floor to forcefully defend or be proud of it. And there is very little to be proud of.

We all get letters from people in our home States. I was home over the Fourth of July visiting around the State, going to many communities. I haven't run into anyone who says this has actually significantly helped make their life better. People have come up to me at parade routes, rodeos—all the different places we have been—and they have great concerns about the health care law and the impact on their own personal life, what money is left over at the end of the day to help put food on the table, to get the kids off to school, clothing for the kids, and how the impact of the health care law is making it harder and lowering the quality of life in spite of the President's promises, which they say are just not true.

I got a letter from a young woman, Shelly in Worland, WY, in Washakie County, in the center of the State. I know the community very well. She writes to me:

I know you have heard my story a hundred times, but I feel maybe one more won't hurt.

She wanted to share what is going on in her specific life in Wyoming related to the health care law.

Yesterday in the mail I received a notice that my . . . health insurance will go from $637 to $897, and my $10,000 deductible is now $11,000.

So her premiums have gone up and the deductible has gone up. It is a double whammy hitting her. But, she says:

My plan now meets the requirements of the health care reform law.

And let's be serious about this. The requirements of the health care law mandate that many people all across the country end up buying much more insurance than they ever will need, ever will want, and will ever use. But it has to comply with what the Federal Government says they need.

The families of Wyoming have a better idea of what they need for their health insurance than Barack Obama has in terms of what he thinks they might need. The families of Wyoming know what they need much more so than the Democrats in this body who voted the mandates onto these people and said they have to have all of this insurance. This woman doesn't need it, doesn't want it, and is not going to use it. Yet she is paying more out of her pocket, impacting that family's life so it can comply with the health care law instead of what is best for her and her family.

She goes on to say:

My husband is self employed on the family farm, and I am also self employed at a beauty shop. Needless to say we have always pinched our pennies. My children are all grown, my two daughters are both kindergarten teachers in our wonderful state, and my son is working with us on the farm. We have worked very hard not to use any of the government assistance raising our children on less than $30,000 a year.

We are talking about hardworking families from all across the country pinching their pennies, making sure that they use their money wisely, not relying on the government. That is what we have here.

So now I am forced to enter the health care reform circus.

That is what this is. This is a circus forced down the throats of the American people by the Democrats in this body and by the President of the United States who forced this onto the American people, this health care reform circus.

I know I missed the deadline because I was determined to not be a part of this, but now I simply cannot afford this insurance. I tried to navigate the website last night and finally gave up after being kicked off three times.

To make matters worse my insurance was offering one decreasing deductible that we were counting on. We also lost that in our new policy. We had our deductible down to 3,000. We have been saving in an HA, but I'm afraid it won't last long. I have just been told I have a rare bone disease called fibrous dysplasia. It is causing some eye issues, and I am facing some sort of surgery to remove the diseased bone behind my eye.

This hardworking Wyoming family:

After working so hard to take care of ourselves my husband and I are faced with having to have help. This makes no sense to us. We were doing fine until the government stepped in.

There has to be an answer somewhere. Thanks for your time.

I practiced medicine for 25 years in Wyoming and took care of many families just like we have here with Shelly, knowing how hardworking people are—and the Presiding Officer knows that as well—in rural communities, people who roll up their sleeves, go to work every day, and don't want assistance from the government. They just do their job. And this is a family that has been hurt by the President's health care law—hurt dramatically. They had gotten their deductible down to $3,000, and now it is up to $11,000. Their premiums are higher than they were before, and she has a lot more insurance than she is ever going to want, need, can afford or will ever use.

But we are seeing this all around the country. It is not just in stories from

Wyoming. CBS Money Watch in the middle of June came out with a report called ''For some, Obamacare delivers sticker shock.''

It is interesting, just trying to follow the press from around the country. These aren't isolated cases. We are seeing this all across the country.

The article goes on:

. . . Obamacare is delivering a hefty dose of sticker shock.

What did the President of the United States promise the American people? He promised the American people that under his plan insurance premiums would drop $2,500 per family by the end of his first term—not stay flat, not go up a little—would actually go lower $2,500 per family per year by the end of his first term. ''Obamacare is delivering a hefty dose of sticker shock.''

Now, who is getting hurt by this? All Americans are getting hurt, but the Washington Post had an interesting story on June 24. I wish the President would pay attention to this. The President of the United States needs to know that it is ''Older women who bear the brunt of higher insurance costs under Obamacare''—the headline in the Washington Post June 24.

The new government report is out:

. . . women age 55 to 64 will face a huge spike in cost when they go out to buy individual insurance on the federal exchange. These women bear the brunt of the increased premiums and out of pocket expenses after the Affordable Care Act.

Winners and losers—and President Obama has chosen older women to bear the brunt of higher increased insurance costs under the President health care law.

We are going to hear that again and again as Democrats stand up to talk about the issues facing our country. It is older women who are bearing the brunt of the higher insurance costs under the President's health care law, as reported in the Washington Post.

Then, how incompetent is the Web site? Let's take a look at what the New York Times said July 1: ''Eligibility for Health Insurance Was Not Properly Checked, Audit Finds.''

An independent audit of insurance exchanges established under the health care law has found that federal and state officials did not properly check the eligibility of people seeking coverage and applying for subsidies, the latest indication of unresolved problems at HealthCare.gov.

I remember listening to President Obama talk and be interviewed by President Clinton in September of last year in New York City at the Clinton Global Initiative, or something like that. President Obama said: Easier than shopping on Amazon. Cheaper than your cell phone bill.

This is in a report to Congress on Tuesday:

In a report to Congress on Tuesday, the inspector general for the Department of Health and Human Services . . . said that the exchanges . . . did not have adequate safeguards ''to prevent the use of inaccurate or fraudulent information when determining eligibility.''

Moreover, in a companion report, the inspector general said that the government had been unable to verify much of the information reported by people applying for insurance coverage and financial assistance to help pay premiums.

We are talking about the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services of the Obama administration.

''As of the first quarter of 2014,'' [the Inspector General] said, ''the federal marketplace was unable to resolve about 2.6 million of 2.9 million inconsistencies''—

—because the Web site that President Obama has said would be easier to use than Amazon, cheaper than your cell phone was not fully operational. What kind of government incompetence are we talking about?

The Associated Press on July 1: ''Health law sign-ups dogged by data flaws.'' Unable to resolve 2.6 million so-called inconsistencies—it is astonishing. And they call it ''another health care headache for the White House.'' The problems continue out of sight. The President is trying to hide these problems—trying to hide them from the American people. The President says one thing, tries to sell a story. The President now has his own war room set up—not to solve the problems. Oh, no. He is not trying to solve the problems. He has a war room to try to spin the information so the voters don't get to see what they are not being deceived by. They can see through this. You have a war room with six people trying to spin the health care numbers rather than trying to solve the problems, trying to lower the cost of care, trying to help patients get care—not empty coverage and expensive coverage. There are so many problems in the world, and what the White House has decided to spend its time and money on is set up a war room to try to spin the issues of the Obama health care law, not to solve the problems.

Go around the country, State by State. California: ObamaCare massive backlog stalls medical expansion. Connecticut: Anthem seeks 12.5 percent rate increase. Back to California: Confusion over doctor list is costly for ObamaCare enrollees in the State.

You can work your way around the country, and State by State, whether you do it from east to west, north to south, do it in alphabetical order, in every State there are horror stories about the impact of this health care law.

Connecticut again: ObamaCare glitch leading to canceled policies. Constituents calling to talk to their State representatives say their insurance policies have been canceled because the subsidies that helped discount the premiums hadn't been paid—hadn't been paid. According to people involved with the insurance companies, the issue of mistaken policy cancellation ''is real.'' So the insurance companies are saying it is absolutely true, it is absolutely real.

I see other colleagues on the floor.

I would say that in Colorado, a State that I go through every weekend at least twice going to Wyoming and coming back to DC from Wyoming, people in Colorado are very concerned. ''Colorado health exchange site needs surgery.'' This is NBC 9 News, Colorado. A reporter said:

I'm not going to sugar-coat this: The official state website where Coloradans can shop for health insurance is a mess. Sure [the web site] looks pretty slick at first glance. It lets you window shop for plans and offers some (but not all) good info about the health care law. But when you actually create an account and start shopping, the site offers an experience that is clunky, counter-intuitive, and often confusing.

That sounds to me like the Obama administration—clunky, counterintuitive, and often confusing.

That's the web product being offered to Coloradans after receiving more than $179 million in federal grants to develop the state exchange.

This reporter says:

If you are looking for a passionate argument of the pros and cons of [ObamaCare], as a reporter I avoid making public policy arguments.

However, if this is the official system the people of Colorado are getting to shop for individual coverage, it should be a good one. Nine months after it began selling health plans, this website is not a good one. It should be upsetting to everyone in the state of Colorado, especially supporters of the healthcare law.

I would apply that to anyone from Colorado who is on this Senate floor or in the House of Representatives who voted for the health care law.

He said:

It should be upsetting to everyone in the state, especially supporters of the healthcare law. My family obtained a health plan despite the website.

By way of background, I am not remotely anti-technology. I grew up in Silicon Valley. I built my own computers as a kid. I once had a job working in tech support for [a dot-com company], a sophisticated e-commerce platform . . . My goal in this review is to shine a light on some really basic (and deeply frustrating) problems that any commercial dot-com would be pulling all-nighters to fix.

Well, that shows you the difference between a commercial dot-com and the government of the United States.

It says:

For some reason, these issues have been allowed to hang around for the better part of a year by the Connect for Health Colorado.

And then today, the Denver Post: ''Colorado exchange expects more to drop health coverage''—giving up, not paying their premiums, not renewing their coverage. They are expecting double what was initially anticipated of the number of people who aren't paying their premiums. They realize this empty coverage they are paying a lot of money for isn't actually good for them. They are paying too much in premiums. Their deductibles are high, their copays are high.

I can go on and on. The people of America know what they wanted with health care reform. They wanted to be able to get care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs. That is not what they got from President

Obama's health care law that the Democrats in this body voted for. What they got are higher premiums, higher copays, higher deductibles, maybe cannot keep their doctor, cannot keep their hospital—not what the President promised, not what people wanted, and it is time to go back and start over to work on a health care system that gives the American people what they truly want, truly need, and deserve.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank my friends who have been here talking about this. Both Senator THUNE and Senator BARRASSO spent so much time on figuring out ways this could work better and obviously it is not working as well as people hoped it would.

There is a series of headlines I saw on my desk today. CNN Money said: ''Were ObamaCare applications accurate? Who knows?''

Reuters says, ''Obama care exchange is not properly verifying applicant data.''

The New York Post: ''Obamacare data errors could jeopardize coverage for millions.''

The Washington Times: ''ObamaCare markets foul up eligibility and verification parts in applications.''

The New York Times: ''Eligibility for health insurance was not properly checked audit finds.''

Wall Street Journal: ''Reports Fault Controls of Health Exchanges.''

This is simply not working. It wasn't as though there was a lot of time to make it work either. It was from early in 2010 until the law was implemented in the end of 2013, and there is one problem after another, which is a good indication of what happens when the government tries to do more than the government is capable of doing, when the government tries to prescribe all kinds of decisions that would be so much better left to individuals as long as the government has done what it could to ensure a more aggressive, active, competitive marketplace. But that is not what happened here.

The Associated Press this weekend had a headline that read: ''Senate Democrats try to pull focus from ObamaCare.'' Of course they would, because every Democrat who is in the Senate when this bill passed voted for the bill.

You know, if there is one long-term political lesson to learn here, surely it is that when you do something this big, you should do it in a way that no matter what you have to do you find a way to get people on both sides involved. Don't do this in a way that shoves it down the throats of the country or your colleagues.

More bad news, more broken promises, higher premiums. The anticipation this fall is that premiums, notices of which are going to go out later this year, are going to go up. They are going to go up in double digits. The promise in 2009 was not only that families would pay less money but they would pay $2,500 less money. Somehow the people who were for this bill in the administration knew so much about health care and so much about the impact of what government having more control of people's health care would do, told us not only that the premiums were going to go down, but that they were going to go down $2,500 per family. Now most families are finding that there is a $2,500 number, but it is the number that you would feel lucky to have if your insurance for your family just went up that much.

July 1, Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General released a report that was the subject of all those headlines I just read. The report said they didn't do enough to verify, haven't checked this closely enough, don't know if people are eligible for the government assistance they are getting for their insurance. It said the administration was unable to put safeguards in place to protect taxpayers and prevent incorrect subsidy payments from happening.

The report also found the administration didn't even follow its own eligibility verification in many instances. They didn't go through the procedures they had set up for themselves. In fact, of the 2.9 million verification inconsistencies, they were unable to resolve 2.6 million of them. They wind up with 2.9 million problems when they find out their verification inconsistencies, and 2.6 million of the 2.9 million—hey, we cannot figure this out. We didn't get enough information. We don't know why the system is not working, but it is not.

In January 2014, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary Sebelius, certified to Congress that the ObamaCare exchanges could verify that individuals receiving tax credits and cost-sharing assistance were actually eligible to receive taxpayer-provided assistance. Now apparently by July of 2014, 6 months later, the people who check to see if that was true or not find out it is not true at all.

Middle-class Americans have enough pain with this law already without finding out their tax dollars are going to pay bills of people who don't qualify to have that much of their bill paid or maybe not even any of their bill paid. Recently I spoke on the floor about a contract in Missouri and three other States with a British company, Serco, about the lack of transparency and accountability in the act. As the St. Louis Post-Dispatch recently reported: ''Whistleblower allegations last month claimed that workers slept, read or played games at Wentzville''—this is the Wentzville facility—''played games at Wentzville and provoked a flurry of questions from congressional delegation[s].''

Further quoting, ''We played Pictionary. We played 20 Questions. We played Trivial Pursuit,'' one employee told the Post-Dispatch. She estimated she processed six applications the entire month of December.

CMS didn't acknowledge these allegations but they said they had ''adjusted Serco's work to accommodate changing operational needs.''

Two months ago Senator ALEXANDER and I called these reports into question and we sent a letter to CMS and said: What are you doing there and why is this not working? I don't know if we said it in the letter but we could have said: Why did you contract with a British company that was already in trouble with the British Government for not providing these services?

These are not particularly technical services. If there is only one country in the world that can provide services to the United States, we found the one place in the world where we found a company that was already in trouble with their own government for not providing services and said you're the company for us. We want you to be the ones that provide these services for people who cannot apply over the Internet and send in their applications in some other way.

So to Senator ALEXANDER I say: What about these charges that people simply don't have anything to do and rather than admit that they have nothing to do, you see library books stacked up on the table. Here is the Trivial Pursuit game. Touch your computer every once in a while. Refresh your computer once every 10 minutes so it looks as though you are doing something.

Two weeks ago we finally received a reply after 2 months of having this question out there, and I think I put that reply in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. It was so much of a non-answer answer. It was more like: We got your letter. We are going to look into this and see if we can figure out what's happening.

I don't think it would be that hard to figure out.

I recently learned that CMS determined that Serco had met the terms and conditions of the contract which apparently involved, if you believe these employees, playing board games and reading library books, and CMS decided this British company does such a great job they were going to exercise the first option of the contract and on June 28 they awarded an extended contract to the company through what they said was ''a full and open competition'' to provide these services.

The lesson here is that the government needs to think long and hard before it gets into the world of making decisions for people that people can better make for themselves. The government doesn't need to think long and hard to believe there is a government responsibility to ensure a certain amount of consumer protection, that what companies say they are going to do they are required to do, that they clearly tell you what they are going to do. Families can decide what they want in their insurance policy better than

the government can decide what they want in their insurance policy.

I am sure every Member in the Senate gets stacks of letters—I know I get them—from those who are retired and don't understand why they need pediatric dental care and policies that cover a half dozen things they could never possibly use. They don't understand why those policies are now so expensive that they can no longer afford to have the policy they had. They don't understand the reason for cutting Medicare and starting a new government program. It doesn't make sense to them. It doesn't make sense to cut funding to a program—a program which is clearly facing challenges as our society gets older—by $600 or $700 billion over 10 years in order to start a new program where the costs will be so much more than anybody anticipated.

I am pleased to join my friends today who have been here for the better part of this last hour talking about the challenges we face. We know there are better solutions. More competition and buying health care insurance across State lines would have been a couple of solutions. Associated health plans where a small business or an individual can find some group to become part of—the government could have made that easier instead of making it illegal and impossible.

There should be more transparency by providers. I would like to know what hospitals and doctors charge and what their results are. And they know. There is no reason that cannot be made available. In fact, one of the better provisions in the Affordable Care Act said the government is supposed to do that, but of all the things the government could have done, that is something the government has not found time to do.

They could address medical liability reform. There was a double handful and maybe even just a single handful of things we could have done to say: Let's try these things and see if they don't make the system work better and see what lesson we learn by injecting these two or three or four or five things into a health care system that was the best health care system in the world; it just didn't have the amount of competition, transparency, and access it needed to have.

I will continue to hope we will move forward, learn the hard-learned lessons of the implementation of this plan, and go back and find what was working so well and figure out what we need to do to make that work even better.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Texas.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday I came to the floor and spoke about President Obama's reluctance to see firsthand the ongoing and growing humanitarian crisis occurring on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Today I come to the floor to renew my call—as other elected officials from both sides of the aisle have done—urging President Obama to please come to the border, where this humanitarian crisis is unfolding. It has been reported that the President will be in Texas for 2 days starting tomorrow. He will be there Wednesday and Thursday on a fundraising trip.

I am not suggesting a handshake on the tarmac or a roundtable 500 miles away from the border, but please come and see it with your own eyes, as I have. Talk to the Border Patrol. Learn from not only the migrants who have traversed Mexico at the risk of their own lives to come to the United States, but find out what we need to do to deal with the ongoing crisis and what we need to do to solve it.

I urge him to do so not as a political statement but so he can witness what is a very sad and in many ways tragic situation and one that could have been mitigated if not prevented. Unfortunately, this is a humanitarian crisis that his policies and the perception about his commitment to enforce our laws have helped create.

Given the recent White House announcement that the President refuses to visit the Rio Grande Valley this week, it unfortunately appears that my request today will fall on deaf ears and therefore suggests to the American people that either the President doesn't really understand this border crisis or he simply doesn't care.

To give the President a fair shake, I was with the President after the tragic shootings at Fort Hood in 2009 and last year. I was with the President at the memorial service in West, where first responders were tragically killed as a result of an explosion. Why he is so stubborn and hardheaded that he refuses to visit the Rio Grande Valley and witness this ongoing humanitarian crisis with his own eyes is really mystifying.

Governor Perry has been doing what I have been doing and urging the President to visit the border. He happened to share with the media—Governor Perry, that is—last night a White House letter inviting him to an immigration roundtable in Dallas. This crisis is unfolding on the border and not in Dallas. I brought a map of Texas with me so the President can see this for himself. This is Dallas. This is where the crisis is unfolding in the Rio Grande Valley, which is about 500 miles away.

Thankfully, the President doesn't have to fly commercial; he flies on Air Force One. My guess is that it would probably take him an hour out of his scheduled activities in Texas to go to the border and maybe another hour on the ground to talk to the Border Patrol, as I did last week. If he did that, he would see these children jammed in detention facilities at the Border Patrol detention stations. It would give him an opportunity to talk to some of them, as I did in my visit last week. I think it would be helpful to the President.

I think one of the biggest problems Presidents have is they end up living in a bubble. They only get access to information that is filtered through their advisers and counselors, and sometimes Presidents simply don't understand; they are tone deaf to the problems which confront the country. That is why it would be in the best interests of my constituents in Texas, it would be in the best interests of these children who are part of this humanitarian crisis, and it would be a contribution toward a solution to this crisis if the President would simply travel 500 miles from Dallas, TX, where he invited Governor Perry to a roundtable, down to the Rio Grande Valley.

As I said, the President's trip to Texas will focus on fundraising, and I understand that. But the problem is his policies have had a disproportionate impact upon my constituents who live along the U.S.-Mexico border. In fact, it is my recollection that the President of the United States has not once visited the Rio Grande Valley, where a majority of this ongoing crisis is taking place.

He did come to El Paso back in 2011. When people suggested we had a problem with security at the border, he ridiculed them by saying: Well, maybe we ought to build a moat along the border. That is actually insulting coming from a person who has never actually been to the border, particularly the Rio Grande Valley, where a majority of these children are crossing.

Indeed, over time what has happened is much of the illegal immigration that comes across the border has migrated from Nogales, AZ, to the Rio Grande Valley. You can't see it on this map, but if you understand the geography here, most of these children are coming from Central America. The shortest distance from Guatemala and Honduras to the United States is through the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

The President should also visit Brooks County, which is a place I have visited. This is where the Falfurrias checkpoint is located. They have found many dead bodies of immigrants who died from exposure while trying to circumvent the checkpoint at Fallfurrias. What happens is coyotes, as they call them—human smugglers—will bring them across the border, put them in stash houses on the border, and many of those conditions are inhumane in and of themselves. What will then happen is that the coyotes—smugglers—will bring them in trucks up the highway, and before they hit the checkpoint in Fallfurrias, they will tell them to get out of the truck, give them a milk jug full of water, and tell them they will see them on the north side of the checkpoint.

So dozens, if not hundreds, if not thousands of immigrants over time try to walk—some in the 100-plus-degree Texas weather—around this checkpoint, and some simply don't make it. If you understand where they have come from—some from Central America—many are terribly dehydrated, already ill from exposure, and for many

of them their last steps are in Brooks County while trying to walk around this checkpoint in Fallfurrias.

I think the President would benefit from doing what I have done. He should visit the residents in Brooks County, talk to the Border Patrol, and learn more about the problem and how we might effect a solution. If he refuses to go out of stubborn pride or whatever the reason is, then he will simply be ignorant of the best ways we can work together to solve this underlying problem.

In recent weeks I have shared only a few of the many horrific stories regarding the dangerous journey countless numbers of children take to get to the United States from Central America. They call the train that many of them ride in the corridors controlled by the cartels who treat human beings as a commodity—like drugs and guns. They treat human beings as a commodity that makes money for them. These immigrants go through the corridors on a train system they call The Beast.

There is a chilling book written by Salvadoran journalist Oscar Martinez about The Beast. In it, you find out that 6 out of 10—maybe more—women who come up along this train system known as The Beast are sexually assaulted. Migrants are routinely kidnapped and held for ransom by the gangs and cartels that patrol this area, and many of them simply don't make it.

I shudder to think of how many of the young children—some as young as 5 have been detained at the border region—never make it to the border because they die in the process. That is not humanitarian. That is not friendly. That is cruel. We ought to be telling the truth about this horrific journey and discouraging parents from sending their children from Central America up through Mexico on the back of The Beast only to die in the process or to be assaulted, kidnapped, or horribly injured and maimed.

Well, this is one of the many reasons why I think the President would benefit from a visit. It is hard to ignore the facts, especially when you see them with your own eyes and you get a chance to talk to our hard-working professional Border Patrol, doing an incredible job with limited resources.

When you have 52,000 children coming across the southwestern border at the Rio Grande sector since October and 39,000 women with minor children detained in the Rio Grande sector, unless you go and talk to the Border Patrol and learn about this with your own ears and eyes, you may not realize that drug interdictions are depressed because our Border Patrol is basically trying to change diapers and deal with the humanitarian crisis. They are overwhelmed and are unable to do one of their principal jobs, which is to interdict illegal drug importations into the United States.

So I hope the President will reconsider. He is not going to Texas until tomorrow. My understanding is he will be there for 2 days, and certainly he has an hour or 2 hours out of his schedule that he could dedicate to seeing the crisis for himself and learning more about it, and then coming back and working with us to try to stop it.

Of course, we all feel nothing but sympathy for the children and families who sacrifice their lives trying to make it to the United States but fail because of the impression that our immigration laws simply will not be enforced. Many of my colleagues have come to the floor and said, If we would pass the comprehensive immigration bill the Senate passed last year, that would do it. Well, I would say, with all respect, that is demonstrably false, because even the President and Secretary Johnson of the Department of Homeland Security have conceded that none of these children would be eligible, under the President's deferred action Executive order—none of them would be eligible for entry and to stay in the United States. So passing that law would have nothing to do with this current crisis.

Between President Obama's failure to enforce our immigration laws and his ever-shifting explanations, it is no wonder he has lost credibility on this issue. Many Americans simply don't have confidence that the President is willing to faithfully execute the laws of the United States, including our immigration laws. No wonder Speaker BOEHNER and so many of our House colleagues have gotten so frustrated they have decided maybe the only alternative is to take the President to court. We know the President has had a pretty bad couple of weeks when it comes to overreach, and he has been rebuked several times recently for unconstitutional acts such as trying to determine when the Senate is in recess and evade the confirmation process in the Senate.

If the President wants to know why we haven't been able to pass immigration reform, all he has to do is look in the mirror. All he has to do is look at his own policies which have created an enormous amount of distrust between not only Congress and the executive branch but in his agencies so that they will actually do what they are supposed to do, such as the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement—ICE—and the other components of the Department of Homeland Security.

Given all the differing narratives coming out of the White House concerning this surge of unaccompanied minors, it is time for the President to directly address the problem.

I know the President has sent over today a $3.7 billion request for more money. I have no doubt that some pieces of it are justified. For example, we need enhanced detention facilities. We need more immigration judges and other people as part of that process so hearings can be conducted on a timely basis and a legal determination made according to existing law whether people can stay or whether they have to be returned to their country of origin.

Visiting the border is just one in a series of steps the President could take to regain some of his own credibility but also to help address this crisis.

This is not just a humanitarian crisis; this is also a national security crisis, as recently testified to by the head of Southern Command, General Kelly, a Marine general who is head of that combatant command. He is in charge of that area of the globe from Mexico south known as Southern Command, and he says because of inadequate resources and equipment and manpower to deal with the drug cartels moving illegal drugs from South America up through Central America through Mexico to the United States, 75 percent of the time, General Kelly said, they simply have to sit and watch because they don't have the resources. I would hope that some of the money included in this $3.7 billion request would be dedicated to making sure that General Kelly and our law enforcement agencies have the resources and equipment necessary to stop the drug cartels from moving drugs from South America through Central America and up through Mexico.

As General Kelly said, we have this intersection of criminal conduct and terrorism that sometimes takes place with organizations such as Hezbollah, for example, that has established a presence in South America, historically, and it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out this vulnerability can be exploited by other people and not just the drug cartels.

The question remains, if one has enough money, can one make it into the United States? Unfortunately, I think we have to answer that question in the affirmative. Last year alone, 414,000 people were detained on our southwestern border from 100 different countries—100 different countries. So this isn't just about people who have no hope and no opportunity trying to come to the United States from Mexico and trying to get a job; this is about uncontrolled immigration through our southwestern border from all over the world. Admittedly, most of them come from Mexico and Central America, but this is a vulnerability where people can come from Pakistan, they can come from Afghanistan, they can even come from Iran—countries of special interest, countries that are state sponsors of international terrorism. So this is worthy of the President's attention and worthy of a Presidential visit, and I hope he will change his mind and do that.

I think President Obama needs a wakeup call. He needs to realize that the situation along the border is not as rosy as perhaps he is under the impression it is. Only by visiting the border and visiting firsthand and seeing with his own eyes and listening with his own ears to the professionals who are working there so hard and are simply overwhelmed will he be able to get a good

idea of not only what the problem is but what the solutions are. Then and only then, I believe, will he be ready and will we be ready to sit down and work together through this request the President has sent us and figure out how we can solve the problem.

Once again, I hope the President will reconsider his decision, since he is going to be in Texas anyway on Wednesday and Thursday, and go to the border, just 500 miles away. On Air Force One it is easy to get there. It won't take much time. He could spend an hour on the ground, and then I think he will come away glad he has taken advantage and accepted this invitation by Governor Perry and me and other Texans to come see the problem for himself.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VA HEALTH CARE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I believe when it comes to caring for our Nation's heroes, we can't accept anything less than excellence.

As have many of my colleagues, I have been very troubled by the most recent allegations of the VA failing to provide veterans timely health care. The VA generally offers very high-quality health care and does many things as well or better than the private sector. But when you are caring for our Nation's heroes and you have the backing of the full resources of the Federal Government, ''just as good'' is not enough. We expect more. So I am very frustrated to be here again talking about these deeply disturbing issues and the Department's repeated failures to change.

GAO and the inspector general have reported on these problems many times over the years. Last Congress we did a great deal of work around wait times, particularly for mental health care. I think the VA is starting to see that business as usual is not acceptable.

The administration has taken steps to begin addressing some of the major systemwide problems, but much more needs to be done. Tomorrow, when I meet with the President's nominee for the VA Secretary, I am going to ask him how he plans to make these changes. That is why I am very glad to be serving on the veterans conference committee, because Congress needs to act as well.

The most important thing we can do right now is to pass responsible and effective legislation to bring much-needed reforms to the VA, and we need to do it soon.

There have been major bipartisan efforts in both the House and in the Senate to move legislation addressing these problems. Many Members have been part of those efforts, and I commend them all for their commitment to bipartisanship and for putting the needs of our veterans first. It is vital that we continue to build on this bipartisan momentum and to continue making progress if we are going to address some of the immediate accountability and transparency concerns that are plaguing the VA and to fix its deep-seated structural and cultural challenges.

I know Members have a wide range of concerns with the bill, and I believe we can address those concerns responsibly and in a way that puts our veterans first and gives the VA the tools it needs to address the challenges it faces. That means building and strengthening the VA system so it delivers the best care for the long term. But it is important for us to act quickly to start making these changes. We cannot allow this process to break down. Veterans are still waiting to get the care they need.

Many of us were rightly outraged the VA did not act to help veterans because the Department ignored all the information and did nothing. This Congress must not do the same and fail veterans by not acting.

I urge all of our colleagues to work as hard and as quickly as possible to finalize an agreement and get it to the President. More problems will be uncovered and the investigations will proceed, and we will need more action from the VA, the administration, and Congress, because our Nation made a promise to the men and women who answer the call of duty, and one of the most important ways we uphold that is by making sure our veterans can get access to the health care they need and they deserve, no matter what it takes.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

I also wish to speak about another important issue Congress needs to act on, and that is the looming crisis with the highway trust fund.

As is the case with other States around the country, my home State of Washington relies on the highway trust fund to pay for construction projects. These are projects that ease traffic on our highways, repair bridges, and make safety improvements. This year, for example, officials in Washington State plan to use money from the highway trust fund to improve safety at railroad crossings in Centralia. They plan to replace anchor cables on bridges in Seattle, and they plan to repave roads across the State to fix potholes and to make roads smoother for our drivers. But here in DC, the Department of Transportation and many of us in Congress have been warning for months that the highway trust fund needs more revenue to pay for these critical projects in my home State and across the country. Without that revenue, the trust fund is going to reach critically low levels next month.

This is coming now just a few months after Republicans pushed us into a government shutdown. If Congress fails to act soon, families and businesses and States would see another shutdown, this time with highway projects around the country.

I had hoped we would be able to get this done by now. The last thing, I can tell my colleagues, the American people want to see right now is another countdown clock on the evening news. But we still have a chance to get this done before it is too late. Instead of lurching to yet another crisis and putting our construction projects at risk, let's work together and do the right thing for our families and our workers and the economy.

The clock is ticking for Congress to find the much-needed revenue. Starting August 1, the Department of Transportation said it will start delaying payments to our States for projects that ease traffic on clogged highways and make important repairs to our bridges. On average, States will lose 28 percent of their Federal funding. Without that money, many States are going to have to delay or stop work on their construction sites. Officials in my home State have said up to 43 highway projects could be threatened, and across the country more than 1,000 construction projects could be at risk, according to the Department of Transportation.

If there is one thing Democrats and Republicans should be able to agree on, and usually do, is that we should be investing in and improving our transportation infrastructure, not letting it crumble. A construction shutdown would threaten jobs and businesses. If States have to scale back their plans, companies are going to hire fewer workers to repair and improve roads and bridges across the country. Without a fix, nearly 700,000 jobs will be at risk next year, according to the Department of Transportation. And let's remember, the construction industry was one of the hardest hit sectors after the economic downturn and has not yet fully bounced back. In fact, weakness in the U.S. labor market is actually due to the lack of growth in the construction sector, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Allowing our highway trust fund to dip to critically low levels would deliver another blow to the construction sector as it is struggling to recover.

Last fall, families and communities across our country were forced to endure a completely unnecessary government shutdown. That shutdown, we all know, hurt our people and threatened a very fragile economic recovery and shook the confidence of the American people who expect their elected officials to come together and avoid such an unnecessary crisis. I was proud to work with Democrats and Republicans at the end of last year to pass a bipartisan budget deal that prevented another government shutdown. It restored critical investments in families and the economy and it put a halt to the constant budget crises.

I was proud to build on that bipartisan momentum and work with my friend Senator ISAKSON and others on a

workforce investment deal that passed the Senate with strong bipartisan support. We hope, by the way, that will pass the House tomorrow and get signed into law.

We know bipartisanship work is possible. We know the country is better for it when it happens. We know it is what families we represent expect from all of us. So today I am calling on Republicans to work with us in good faith to do the right thing and help us avoid this construction shutdown. I know Republican leaders once again are worried about their tea party fringe pushing them into another unnecessary crisis, but I hope they are able to push them aside and work with us to get this done. Republicans saw how devastating it was for them—and their constituents—when they hurt the country with the government shutdown. I am hopeful that gives them any additional incentive they may need to work with us this time.

State and local governments, workers, businesses, and drivers are looking to us to resolve this crisis and avoid another shutdown. States cannot afford important highway construction projects without this important highway trust fund. Families cannot afford to have a few Members of Congress putting jobs at risk again. With the clock winding down fast, we cannot afford to put this off any longer. So let's resolve this looming crisis. Let's work together and prevent a construction shutdown this summer for our economy, for our businesses, and for our families across the country.

Thank you.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. 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. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to talk about the challenge we have to make sure every child in America who is eligible for one of the programs that help children have enough to eat and have nutritious food is getting served. The problem across the country is we have a number of children who are receiving meals during the school year, either school breakfast as part of the School Breakfast Program, or the School Lunch Program. So at some point in time they are getting a meal at school, and maybe more than one meal. Then they go home for the summer, and even though they are eligible for the summer programs, which tend to be in different locations, may not be at one school or one central location, a lot of children do not get the benefit of those programs. The program name is the Summer Food Service Program. Many Americans may have heard of the School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, probably have heard less about the Summer Food Service Program.

We know that even though children are taking a summer vacation from school, hunger does not take a summer vacation. Hunger is always a clear and present danger, a reality for children, especially children in low-income communities from low-income families. This is a reality for so many children, millions of them across the country and their families. But it is also preventable. It is a tragedy when a child does not have enough to eat. But this is preventable if we do the right thing.

We know that during the school year, when you add up all of the children who receive a meal at school, it amounts to about 21 million. That is the good news, that that many children are being served. The bad news is when they go home for their summer vacation, by one count, the last count we have, only 3 million children are getting a summer meal, even though as high as 21 million are eligible—or 21 million receive that kind of help during the school year.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, the dropoff, the last number we have, is during the course of the year, just about 777,000 children received a meal, about three-quarters of a million children. The problem, though, is the summer number goes way down to, at last count, 105,000, just a little more than 105,000, so there is a little more than a 7-to-1 difference between the school year and the summer program.

One of the things we have to do is to get the word out. That is why I brought along this poster that highlights this. To find a site in your State, in your community—there are many sites, tens of thousands of them across the country—you may need to inquire about it. You may need to make a phone call to find out about the sites—1–866–3–HUNGRY, and then a different one, 1–877–8–HAMBRE.

We want to make sure that in addition to knowing the 800 numbers, you have a Web site. It is pasummermeals.com. That, of course, applies to Pennsylvania, pasummermeals.com. So if you live in Pennsylvania, that is your Web site.

These numbers are national numbers, the 1–866–3–HUNGRY, and then 1–877–8–HAMBRE. That is one way to find out, for families to find out, for advocates, anyone who is concerned about this or wants to know more about what their community has available for them, because, as I said before, it is different than the circumstances during the year. During the year, children go to a school and that school has a School Breakfast Program and/or a School Lunch Program. In the summer, you have the same services available, the same opportunities, same eligibility for children, but the sites are—there are more sites. And sometimes, when people do not know, when they cannot be served by a school, they may have to go to another place in their community.

This is a major issue. Because we know that all the science tells us if we want children to learn more now and earn more later, that is what we all hope is not just the right thing to do, but if you have enough to eat you probably learn better. Obviously if you can learn more, you are going to earn more, literally, in your lifetime. This is not just a rhyme, it has a scientific foundation.

We want to make sure that in addition to having the best possible educational programs for children to learn, we want to also create the best circumstances for them to learn. I do not know about people here, but in the course of my day, if I do not eat breakfast and then it gets to noontime or 1:00 and I have not had something to eat, it is pretty hard for me to be as functional and as effective as I want to be. I can only imagine what it is like for a child who does not have enough to eat, not just on one particular day of the week but maybe more than one day or a couple of days in a row. I do not know how they can function, let alone learn and study, take tests and achieve and be successful over time. They need the same kind of help in the summer as they have during the year.

So if we are making it possible, if our government and communities around the country are making it possible for a child to have a school breakfast and/or a school lunch, why would we not make sure they have meals during the summer as well, especially when there is a program in place they are eligible for?

We have to call attention to it. I know this is a challenge in all of our States. We want to make sure we are highlighting, getting information out so our children can have opportunities not only to have enough to eat but to eat meals that are nutritious.

I was at a site in Philadelphia yesterday, the Gesu School, which is in north Philadelphia. I taught there as a volunteer 31 years ago. I actually not only handed out the lunches to the children at that site, but I was able to see what was in them. They were good meals, but they were also very nutritious, something that can help a child grow and learn and move into the future. We are grateful we have these programs. But if we do not tell people enough about them, we are going to continue to have that terrible dropoff from the number of children served during the year—again, as I said, 21 million children, dropping off to only 3 million children served in the summer. There is no reason why we should allow that to happen. There is no reason why we should say that is anything other than unacceptable.

I am grateful to have this opportunity and grateful for the support this

program has across the country. We need to get the word out. We need to get these 800 numbers out as much as we can.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 10 or 12 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Earlier this year I learned about a case of research misconduct that happened at Iowa State University. A team of scientists was working on a vaccine to fight HIV. One of the researchers, Dr. Han, committed fraud to make it appear as though the vaccine for HIV was working. He purposely spiked the testing samples so it looked as if the vaccines actually fought HIV. Dr. Han's fraud helped his team get $16 million in national grant money from the National Institutes of Health or around here we refer to that as the NIH. NIH is part of the Department of Health and Human Services or what we refer to as HHS.

HHS gives out billions of dollars in research grants every year. In 2013 NIH gave out over $20 billion in research grants. Obviously that is a huge amount of money by any standard.

The government has a responsibility to make sure this money is well spent. Unfortunately, it looks as if the government is relying on the grant recipients to do oversight instead of the government seeing that the money is well spent.

In this case officials at Iowa State University were unaware of the fraud until another team of scientists couldn't duplicate the results. Iowa State University took the problem very seriously and notified Health and Human Services. I compliment them for that. But if it weren't for Iowa State University's actions, I doubt the Government ever would have found out about this tremendous amount of fraud.

The Office of Research Integrity at Health and Human Services was created for the specific purpose to prevent and investigate research misconduct. The Office of Research Integrity investigated the allegations of misconduct at Iowa State University and in fact confirmed that Dr. Han knowingly committed fraud. Dr. Han even admitted to the fraud. The Office of Research Integrity imposed only a 3-year ban on Dr. Han from receiving any more Federal grant money.

That is basically a slap on the wrist from the Office of Research Integrity. It makes absolutely no sense that someone who admitted to that level of fraud could be eligible for another Federal grant in just 3 years.

I asked the Office of Research Integrity why the penalty for Dr. Han was so light and if it would try to recover any of the $19 million in research grants. The taxpayers subsidized what was supposed to be promising HIV research, but it was based on Dr. Han's fraud. His phony results were the basis for those grant applications. The Office of Research Integrity says it considers a 3-year ban a very strict penalty. To Iowans, that doesn't sound like a very commonsense penalty.

In fact, the Office of Research Integrity says that 3 years is the maximum penalty it can give unless there are aggravating circumstances. That 3-year limit is set by the White House Office of Management and Budget. So the Office of Research Integrity claims that somehow its hands are tied. But in this case the Office of Research Integrity did not even try to demonstrate aggravating circumstances to enforce a longer debarment than 3 years against Dr. Han.

The Office of Research Integrity admitted that there is nothing to keep Dr. Han from conducting research again funded by American taxpayers after those 3 years. The Office of Research Integrity claims it does not have the authority to recover funds in case of research conduct.

Now, think about that for a minute. This Office of Research Integrity, with the responsibility to make sure money is wisely used and research is honest, says it does not have the authority to recover funds obtained by fraud.

The Office of Research Integrity—we are talking about research integrity—says it is the responsibility of the agency that issued the research grant to recover money obtained by fraud.

So I asked the National Institutes of Health about its involvement in this case. The National Institutes of Health first said that only $500,000 of the $19 million in research grants would be recovered. The National Institutes of Health also claimed it was not responsible for recovering the fraudulent grant money. According to the National Institutes of Health, oversight is the responsibility of the educational institution receiving the money. NIH said:

> ISU as grantee is legally responsible and accountable for the use of funds provided for the performance of grant-supported project or activity.

It looks as if each office I asked just simply passes the buck along to somebody else. But a pass-the-buck attitude doesn't work when it comes to government oversight.

I also asked Health and Human Services about the case. Health and Human Services said that:

> Grant recipients have the primary obligation to conduct investigations of their own researchers.

Universities need to be responsible and accountable with Federal research grants. By taking action when it learned of the fraud, Iowa State University did that in this case. But that does not give the government an excuse not to do oversight. And if the government is relying on universities to report fraud instead of doing the oversight, there are probably other cases of fraud that are never caught.

If someone writes a taxpayer-funded check, they should be responsible for making sure the money is being well spent. The funding agency, and Health and Human Services as a whole, should do more to protect taxpayers' dollars, especially when many are calling for even more taxpayer funding for the National Institutes of Health.

The Office of Research Integrity has a clear mission to prevent and investigate cases of research misconduct.

But I am concerned not only about this case but allegations about the Office of Research Integrity made by its former director, Dr. David Wright. Dr. Wright resigned only days after I started my investigation.

In his resignation letter, Dr. Wright said that bureaucratic red tape was keeping him—Dr. Wright—from doing his job. He said up to 65 percent of his time was spent ''navigating the remarkably dysfunctional HHS bureaucracy to secure resources and . . . get permission for ORI to serve the research community.''

We ought to take his allegations very seriously, and HHS should do so as well. When researchers abuse the public's trust, the Office of Research Integrity should use all the powers at its disposal to resolve the problem.

I recently learned that Dr. Han has been indicted for four felony counts of making false statements. Regardless of the outcome of this indictment, it is encouraging to see an effort to increase accountability for spending of taxpayers' money.

Also earlier this week the National Institutes of Health confirmed for the Des Moines Register that it would stop the final grant payment. That of course will save taxpayers $1.4 million.

So it is good news that the National Institutes of Health is taking action to recover taxpayers' money in this fraud case. But this is only one case, and the National Institutes of Health's actions came after months of public attention and my investigating. I worry that more cases may go unnoticed and even unaddressed if there isn't a public outcry. We can't afford that. We can't afford to have cases like this go unnoticed and unaddressed.

Federal oversight of research funds is far too weak. The government is doing far too little to recover money lost to fraud. We can't afford a ''fund it and forget it'' attitude. Fraudsters need to be held accountable, and people handing out taxpayers' money need to know that if they are careless with that money, Uncle Sam will come knocking at the door for a refund.

Although Secretary Sebelius recently left Health and Human Services, I expect the new Secretary Sylvia Mathews

Burwell to take this issue very seriously. Ultimately, the Secretary of HHS has the responsibility to ensure that health research grants are not abused. She needs to ensure that agencies within HHS have all the tools they need to recover money lost to fraud and to prevent it from happening in the first place. Secretary Burwell should investigate Dr. Wright's allegations about the Office of Research Integrity and fix the problems that Dr. Wright outlined before his resignation.

Oversight is an extremely important part of the government's role. Unfortunately, it is often ignored and taxpayers' dollars are abused. When researchers abuse the public's trust, Health and Human Services and its components should use all the power they have to investigate, resolve the problem, and get the money back. They owe it to the American taxpayers.

I yield the floor, and 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. DONNELLY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DONNELLY. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST EARL WILSON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this past Wednesday, July 2, I was extremely pleased and honored to be a part of the awarding of the Purple Heart Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to a brave soldier Kentucky is proud to call one of its own. SPC Earl Wilson of Liberty, KY, received his Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster for wounds suffered while serving our country in Vietnam. I want to share the honor and majesty of this event with my colleagues and so therefore ask unanimous consent that the full text of my remarks at the ceremony to award SPC Earl Wilson his Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, as well as the text of the two proclamations for the Purple Hearts, be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

There being no objection, the remarks were ordered to be printed in the RECORD:

SENATOR MCCONNELL'S REMARKS AT AWARDING OF PURPLE HEART WITH BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER TO SPECIALIST EARL WILSON, JULY 2, 2014

Thank you for that kind introduction. It is my great honor to be here for the presentation of the Purple Heart Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to Army Specialist Earl Wilson of Liberty, Kentucky, for wounds received in action while in service to our country in Vietnam.

It's a long-overdue honor that is finally upon us, thanks to Earl's many family and friends who helped make this moment possible. This event today is a testament to the unbreakable bonds of family and friendship.

Because this ceremony is a high honor and a prestigious occasion, we have several dignitaries with us who I want to recognize, including State Senator Jimmy Higdon and Casey County Judge-Executive Ronald Wright. Casey County Sheriff Jerry Coleman and the county circuit court clerk, Craig Overstreet, are with us. And I'm pleased to welcome Casey County Attorney Tom Weddle and Liberty Mayor Steve Sweeny.

It's a pleasure to have Chris Smrt of the Kentucky chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart here today to welcome Specialist Wilson into their ranks, as well as VFW Post 5704 Commander Claude Wyatt. Both organizations are strong advocates for our veterans.

I'd like to recognize Glen Phillips, a veteran who played an important role in today's ceremony.

Let me also say a special hello to my longtime friends, Betty Lou and T.M. Weddle.

It's also an honor to recognize Sergeant Jesse T. Wethington, fellow resident of Liberty and fellow member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, here today. Jesse, welcome.

Finally, I'd like to welcome the members of Earl Wilson's family who are from right here in Liberty and came to join us today, including Earl's wife, Brenda, and family members Crystal and John Davis; Melissa Wilson Durham; Addison and Ian Davis; Tanner and Blake Durham; Jimmy Couch, Cierra Couch, and Dave Brown.

The original Purple Heart was established by General George Washington himself, and as such the Purple Heart is the oldest existing military award that is still given to servicemembers.

For a period in our country's history, however, the honor fell into disuse. In 1932, to mark the bicentennial of Washington's birth, it was General Douglas MacArthur who spearheaded its revival.

We remember MacArthur for many things, not least of which are his words. To an audience at West Point Military Academy, he once said:

''Duty, Honor, Country''—those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn.''

As it turns out, these words have particular meaning for the life and service of Specialist Earl Wilson. In the jungles of Vietnam, he found courage where we could have not blamed him for his courage failing, he found faith where there was little cause for it, and he created hope when it might have been lost.

Earl's time of service ended nearly 40 years ago, but our admiration of it has not. Earl was drafted into the U.S. Army and inducted on November 17, 1969. After completing basic training, he was sent to Fort Polk, Louisiana, for infantry school. Earl has said that in those days, if you went to Fort Polk, you knew you were going to Vietnam, because Fort Polk was the hottest, most miserable place there was. It was like training for the intense heat.

Sure enough, Earl was deployed to Vietnam and served there for one year, from July 1970 to July 1971. Traversing the mountains and jungles of Vietnam, in an entrenched battle with the enemy, was hazardous duty. Earl spent as long as 40 days on patrol in the sweltering jungles, without hot food, without showers, without any of the luxuries or amenities so many of us take for granted here at home.

Deployed with Company D, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division, Earl and his unit came under attack one night in January 1971. As daylight broke on the morning of January 7, Earl's unit went in pursuit of the enemy. Following a blood trail, they were in hot pursuit when they came upon a gate along their path.

One of Earl's fellow soldiers tried to open the gate. It was stuck, so he yanked on it, not knowing the gate was booby trapped. A hand grenade went off, knocking Earl and several other soldiers clean to the ground. Earl got pieces of shrapnel lodged in his leg, and had to be flown out for medical treatment.

Earl may have been down, but he was not out. After receiving care for his wound, he was back in action with the 1st Battalion, and was present on January 25 later that year on patrol in Quang Ngai.

As his unit proceeded on foot patrol, Earl was at the point. Earl circled back to the rear to check on his fellow soldier and best friend Specialist William Creech Jr. of Paris, Illinois. Earl's entire company had trekked the same path through the bushes, but as Specialist Creech entered the bushes along the same path he stepped on a hidden landmine and was killed.

Shrapnel from the landmine struck Earl in his head and arm and threw him backwards onto the ground. Earl suffered not only the loss of his best friend but also a severe hearing loss, which he still carries to this day. But Earl's injuries could have been worse. The landmine was so powerful it tore down trees that were up to five inches thick within the blast radius. Earl is lucky to be alive today.

Earl spent another six months in Vietnam before shipping out on July 8, 1971. It's ironic that as he was handed a four-inch thick stack of paperwork to process out of Vietnam, Earl accidentally dropped one of the folders—and learned from one document that he had received the Bronze Star Medal for bravery. But Earl never received the Purple Heart he earned with his blood and sacrifice—until now.

It is thanks to the unbreakable bonds of family and friendship that Earl is receiving his Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster today. Earl's daughter, Melissa Wilson Durham, wrote me to ask for help getting her father the medals he deserved. Thank you, Melissa, for honoring your father's service.

Earl was also helped by his friend and fellow soldier, and friend to Kentucky soldiers everywhere, retired Staff Sergeant Glen Phillips. It was Staff Sergeant Phillips who helped gather the facts in order for Earl to receive his Purple Heart today.

Glen, who is also from Liberty, has helped look out for many veterans in the area over the years. Thank you Glen, for your service and for your efforts on behalf of Earl and so many other fellow veterans.

Earl, I know you accept this award with humility and grace, and with reverence and respect for your fellow soldiers who fought alongside you in the jungles of Vietnam, including the many who did not make it home, such as Specialist William Creech.

We're grateful for your service, Earl, and we're grateful to celebrate your sacrifice. It's never too late to honor the brave.

By the way, for those who do not know, the Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is to signify that

Earl is actually eligible to receive two Purple Hearts, for the incident on January 7 and then also on January 25.

The presentation of this Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster is just a small recognition of the wealth of respect you deserve for your service to our country and your service in protecting all of us.

And to the values of duty, honor, country that you hold in abundance, as General MacArthur prescribed—in a way that you have demonstrated to all of us that it is possible to build courage where there is none, to regain faith when it seems lost, and to create hope when hope is what's most needed.

Now, the solemn moment we're gathered here for today has arrived. Specialist Earl Wilson, Brenda, and members of the Wilson family—please join me for the reading of the proclamation and the presentation of the Purple Heart Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster.

Text of first Purple Heart Medal Proclamation:

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
To All Who Shall See These Presents, Greeting:
This is to Certify That the President of the United States of America Has Awarded the PURPLE HEART
Established by General George Washington
At Newburgh, New York, August 7, 1782 to:
Private First Class Denver E. Wilson
United States Army
For Wounds Received in Action
On 7 January 1971 in the Republic of Vietnam
Given Under my Hand in the City of Washington
This 15th Day of May 2014

David K. MacEwen
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Re-creation per General Orders 510, 13 January 1971
Headquarters, 23d Infantry Division
APO San Francisco 96374

John M. McHugh
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

Text of second Purple Heart Medal Proclamation:

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
To All Who Shall See These Presents, Greeting:
This is to Certify That the President of the United States of America Has Awarded the PURPLE HEART
Established by General George Washington
At Newburgh, New York, August 7, 1782 to:
Private First Class Denver E. Wilson
United States Army
For Wounds Received in Action
On 25 January 1971 in the Republic of Vietnam
Given Under my Hand in the City of Washington
This 15th Day of May 2014

David K. MacEwen
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Permanent Order 135–25, 15 May 2014
United States Army Human Resources Command
Fort Knox, Kentucky 40122–5408

John M. McHugh
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

REMEMBERING PETER M. WEGE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, on July 7, Michigan lost a great champion. Over his 94 years, Peter M. Wege accomplished many lifetimes worth of goals. He helped the company his father founded, Steelcase, into one of the world's leading office furniture companies, employing thousands of Michiganians and helping cement the status of Grand Rapids as the world's hub of office furniture making. And had he done no more than lead a great company and provide jobs to great workers, he would be worthy of celebration.

But as his hometown paper, the Grand Rapids Press, described him with typical West Michigan understatement, Pete Wege was ''an unconventional industrialist.'' In a community that has benefited greatly from the public spirit of its business leaders, few have rivaled the impact of this remarkable man. Always aware of his good fortune and of the needs of his community, he poured money that could have made him one of the world's wealthiest people into the Grand Rapids area and beyond. Libraries and schools, theaters and museums, churches and civic buildings, parks and wilderness areas all benefitted from his generosity and vision.

And he had those two qualities—generosity and vision—in abundance. He was more than a philanthropist; he was a man on a mission. That mission began when he was on another kind of mission, serving his country during World War II, when he flew as a transport pilot. Piloting an aircraft to Pittsburgh during the war, the landing field was so shrouded in smog that he couldn't land. That polluted air launched him on a lifetime of dedication to environmental causes. He created the Wege Foundation in 1967 to promote educational, cultural, environmental and scientific efforts. Two years later, he established the Center for Environmental Study. He wrote two books laying out his argument that environmental stewardship would boost the economy, rather than harming growth.

Perhaps nowhere was Pete Wege's impact more strongly felt than in his love for the Great Lakes. In 2004, he sponsored the Healing Our Waters conference in Michigan. His agenda was simple and powerful: ''The lakes are our life support system, and we've got to treat them that way,'' he said. The conference brought together environmental leaders from across the country, and led to publication of a report on the need for a plan to restore the Great Lakes. That powerful call helped lead to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which has devoted millions of dollars to habitat restoration and environmental cleanup on the lakes. The Healing our Waters Coalition continues today to advocate for restoration and preservation of the lakes Pete Wege cared about so deeply.

Peter Wege dedicated his life to preserving this world's natural beauty, and to promoting the beauty that humankind creates. His legacy will live in the cleaner waters of the Great Lakes he loved, and in the artistic and scientific endeavors he helped to promote. He represents the best part of Michigan, the best part of America, that part that celebrates what makes our world and its people so irreplaceable. I will miss him and Michigan will miss him.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I too wish to pay tribute to a great industrialist who became an even greater philanthropist, a passionate protector of our Great Lakes, and a dear friend, Peter Wege, who passed away yesterday at the age of 94.

A man of profound faith, with a deep love for his country, Peter was born in Grand Rapids, MI. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, Peter left the University of Michigan to serve his country as a multi-engine pilot for the Army Air Force.

When he returned from World War II, he became a salesman for an office furniture company founded by his father. He wasn't given any breaks—he was forced to rise through the company by virtue of his own hard work, not his name.

He eventually became vice chairman of that company, whose name was changed to Steelcase, Inc., in 1954. The company became the world's largest manufacturer of office furniture, and Peter was eager to use the wealth he had earned to make a difference in the many causes that mattered to him.

Through the Wege Foundation, Peter made generous donations to the arts, to education, to health care, and to other human services.

His greatest passion, however, was the environment and our beautiful Great Lakes.

When he gave money to be used for the construction of a building, Peter never asked to see his name in gold. He only wanted the building to be green: He insisted on sustainable, LEED-certified design.

I can remember how proud Peter was to give me a book he had written. The title ''Economicology,'' was a word he coined to describe his belief that you could make profits without making pollution.

As an outgrowth of his love for Michigan, Peter was a champion for the Great Lakes: His sponsorship of the ''Healing Our Waters'' conference brought conservationists and environmentalists from around the world. This helped provide the vision for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which has provided over $1 billion in funding for nearly 3,000 projects around the Great Lakes since 2010.

Throughout his life, Peter strived to make the world a better place for future generations. In that respect—as in every other endeavor he devoted himself to—Peter was an unqualified success.

He will be deeply missed, but Peter's generous spirit will live on.

Peter will be remembered every time a child plays in the sand on one of our beautiful Michigan beaches.

Peter will be remembered every time a family gathers around a dinner table to enjoy fish caught in one of our beautiful Great Lakes or the many fresh, clean rivers and streams across the region.

Peter will be remembered with every refreshing glass of clean water that comes from the tap and every invigorating breath of fresh air.

He will never be forgotten.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

ARMY SPECIALIST RYAN J. GRADY

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army SPC Ryan J. Grady. Ryan died July 1, 2010 in Bagram, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom due to injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

Ryan was born May 30, 1985 in Marion, KS and later moved to Bristow, OK. After graduating from Thunderbird Military Academy in 2003, he joined the Army as a combat engineer. He was awarded a Purple Heart from shrapnel wounds he received when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device during his first deployment to Iraq in 2005–2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After returning home in 2006, he joined the Vermont National Guard. In 2008 he transferred to the Oklahoma National Guard and then returned to the Vermont National Guard in 2009 because he heard the unit was deploying to Afghanistan.

Ryan grew up in a military family, with his father and brothers serving in the Army as well. On the day of the incident, Ryan shared a meal with his brother, Kevin Grady, who was also deployed to Afghanistan with the Vermont National Guard.

Jim Grady, Jr. said Ryan's size 6-foot-4 and 240 pounds sometimes intimidated people, but said anyone who met him quickly could tell he had a warm heart. As a soldier, he would sign off on notes with the words ''saving the world one mission at a time,'' his brother said.

At the grand opening of the Grady Dining Facility on Bargram Airfield's Camp Warrior, acting director of the Army National Guard, MG Raymond Carpenter, said ''Specialist Ryan Grady represents to us what the modern National Guard is. He joined the guard because he wanted to serve his country.''

Ryan was posthumously promoted from private first class to specialist and was laid to rest in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in St. Johnsbury, VT.

Ryan is survived by his wife Heaven, of Bristow, OK, his daughter Alexis, his father SFC James A. Grady of West Burke, VT, his mother Debbie Hudacek of Bristow, OK, stepfather Tom Hudacek of Bristow, OK, and his brothers: Kevin Grady of St. Johnsbury, VT and James Grady of Muskogee, OK.

Today we remember Army SPC Ryan J. Grady, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SERGEANT CHARLES S. JIRTLE

Madam President, today I also wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army SGT Charles S. Jirtle. Along with four other soldiers, Scott died June 7, 2010 of injuries he sustained from an improvised explosive device in Dangam district of Kunar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Scott was born September 13, 1980 in Lawton, OK and graduated from MacArthur High School. After graduating, he served in the Navy Reserves in Oklahoma City.

The son of an Active Duty Army master sergeant, he enlisted in the Army in 2007. After completing basic training at Fort Benning, GA, he was assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY as an indirect fire infantryman.

Scott, who served a tour in Iraq in 2007 and 2008, knew the impact the deployments had on his family. His final posting on Facebook read: ''Savannah is having a real problem with this deployment, and I pray to God that He will watch over her and my children.''

Pastor Trey Smart said Scott's four older brothers would recruit him when they heard the ice cream truck coming down the street. ''They always knew if they sent Scott to ask Terry and Virginia for money, they wouldn't turn him down because he was the youngest,'' Smart said.

His parents said, ''Our son Charles Scott Jirtle joined the Army because he wanted to take care of his children. He extended his enlistment for this deployment, knowing that he was going to a very hot spot.''

Those thanking Scott for his ultimate sacrifice for the protection of this great country say John 15:13 describes his selfless virtues perfectly: ''greater love hath not man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.''

On June 16, 2010, the family held church services at First Baptist Church East in Lawton, OK.

He is survived by his wife Savannah, daughters: Chelsie and Cheyenne, a son Jordan, unborn son Charles Scott Jirtle, Jr., stepdaughter Rylee Jo Jirtle, parents, MSG (Retired) Terry L. and Virginia Jirtle, Lawton, OK; 4 brothers: Joseph Elkins and wife Tammy, James Jirtle, Kendall Jirtle and wife Brandi, all of Lawton and AME2 (AW) Anthony Jirtle, Oak Harbor, WA; stepbrother, Danny Henry and wife Shauna; several nieces and nephews: Ashley, Kayla, Starr, Alexis, Skyler, Payton, Preston, Morgan, Bryce and Kolby.

Today we remember Army SGT Charles S. Jirtle, a young man who loved his family and country, and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SPECIALIST AUGUSTUS J. VICARI

Madam President, I now wish to pay tribute to a true American hero, Army SPC Augustus ''Augy'' J. Vicari of Broken Arrow, OK who died on July 29th, 2011 serving our Nation in Paktia Province, Afghanistan. Specialist Vicari was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 179th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma Army National Guard.

Specialist Vicari died of injuries sustained when his unit was attacked with an improvised explosive device while on patrol in the town of Janak Kheyl. He was 22 years old.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those in his family he left behind: his wife Holly, parents Michael and Evelyn Vicari, and siblings: Joseph, Michael, Emily, and Mollie.

A native of Lowell, IN, Augy graduated from Lowell High School in 2008. After graduation, he and his wife then moved to Broken Arrow to be close to his father-in-law. Augy then enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard and attended basic training and advanced individual training in 2009.

In addition to being a soldier, Augy enjoyed working on cars and spending time with family and friends. As evident by reading through some quotes from family and friends, he consistently impressed and touched the lives of those he interacted with on a daily basis:

John and Barb Slankard said ''Augy's smile lit up every room he was in . . . a truly amazing person that was taken far too soon. We thank him for his courage and sacrifice and we are honored to have known him.''

MG Myles Deering, the Oklahoma National Guard Adjutant General said, ''This loss of life has shaken every member of the Oklahoma National Guard to their core. We have lost a very brave man who once raised his hand and took an oath to defend our nation. He courageously gave everything he had to ensure our freedom and safety and his sacrifice will not be forgotten.''

SSG Kyle Wachtendorf of the Oklahoma National Guard praised Augy by saying, ''He was a Oklahoman who chose to stand up and fight for what was right. Chose to leave his family in order to fight for others and made the ultimate sacrifice for God and their country.''

Reverend Tony Janik said ''Augy wanted to see the world. He wanted to see justice in the world.''

U.S. Congressman PETER VISCLOSKY from Indiana's 1st District honored and paid tribute to Augy on the floor of the House of Representatives on September 7, 2011.

A true warrior, Augy died while participating in a patrol in the town of Janak Kheyl of Paktia Province on his way back to the U.S. combat outpost just barely over a month after arriving in Afghanistan. This tough fight took Augy from us prematurely, but make no mistake; it is a fight we will win. We must continue our unwavering support for the men and women protecting our Nation and allies.

I extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to Augy's family and friends. Augy lived a life of love for his

wife and daughter, family, friends, and country. He will be remembered for his commitment to and belief in the greatness of our Nation. I am honored to pay tribute to this true American hero who volunteered to go into the fight and made the ultimate sacrifice for our protection and freedom.

NEWPORT, MAINE BICENTENNIAL

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Town of Newport, ME. Newport was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today, and this bicentennial is a time to celebrate the generations of hard-working and caring people who have made it such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

While this bicentennial marks Newport's incorporation, the year 1814 was but one milestone in a long journey of progress. For thousands of years, the region was the hunting and fishing grounds of the Abenaki, and the chain of lakes and streams formed their highway between the mighty Kennebec and Penobscot Rivers. The very name of the town a translation of Sebasticook, the Abenaki word for portage is evidence of the friendship between the first white settlers and the Native Americans.

The settlers were drawn by fertile soil, vast forests, and fast-moving waters, which they turned into productive farms and busy lumber mills that were soon followed by blacksmiths, leather manufacturing, textiles, and other endeavors vital to Maine's development. The wealth produced by the land, and by hard work and determination, was invested in schools and churches to create a true community. In the decades that followed, Newport became a center of industry and innovation with such remarkable endeavors as silk production, condensed milk manufacturing, and the fabrication of what were considered the finest carriages in Maine.

Today, the people of Newport continue to build. Their strong environmental ethic has helped make Sebasticook Lake a favorite recreation destination for residents and visitors. The Newport Industrial Center offers a home to new or expanding businesses, and the Newport Cultural Center contributes to a vibrant downtown.

A quality that runs through Newport's history is courage, best demonstrated by the memorial the town dedicated 3 years ago to SGT Donald Skidgel, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for giving his life to save the lives of his fellow soldiers in Vietnam. From the Civil War to the conflicts of our time, the names of some 500 patriots from Newport who have served our Nation with honor and defended our freedom with valor are inscribed on the Veterans Memorial.

This 200th anniversary is not just about something that is measured in calendar years. It is about human accomplishment, an occasion to celebrate the people who for more than two centuries have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a community. Thanks to those who came before, Newport has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.

JUSTICE FROM SERBIA

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, 15 years ago this week three American citizens—the brothers Ylli, Agron and Mehmet Bytyqi—were transferred from a prison to an Interior Ministry camp in Eastern Serbia. At that camp, they were executed and buried in a mass grave with dozens of Albanians from Kosovo.

Today, I again call upon the Serbian authorities to bring those responsible for these murders to justice. Belgrade has given us assurances in recent years that action will be taken, but no clear steps have actually been taken to apprehend and prosecute those known to have been in command of the camp or the forces operating there.

The three Bytyqi brothers went to Kosovo in 1999, a time of conflict and NATO intervention. Well after an agreed cessation of hostilities in early June, the brothers escorted an ethnic Romani family from Kosovo to territory still under Serbian control, where that family would be safer. Serbian authorities apprehended the brothers as they were undertaking this humanitarian task and held them in jail for 15 days for illegal entry. When time came for their release, they were instead turned over to a special operations unit of the Serbian Interior Ministry, transported to the camp and brutally executed. There was no due process, no trial, and no opportunity for the brothers to defend themselves. There was nothing but the cold-blooded murder of three American citizen brothers.

Serbia today is not the Serbia of 15 years ago. The people of Serbia ousted the undemocratic and extreme nationalist regime of Slobodan Milosevic in 2000, and the country has since made a steady, if at times difficult, transition to democracy and the rule of law. In 2014, Serbia began accession talks to join the European Union, and in 2015 it will chair the OSCE, a European organization which promotes democratic norms and human rights.

I applaud Serbia on its progress and I support its integration into Europe, but I cannot overlook the continued and contrasting absence of justice in the Bytyqi case. The new government of Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic has pledged to act. It must now generate the political will to act. The protection of those responsible for this crime can no longer be tolerated.

The surviving Bytyqi family deserves to see justice. Serbia itself will put a dark past behind it by providing this justice. Serbian-American relations and Serbia's OSCE chairmanship will be enhanced by providing justice. It is time for those responsible for the Bytyqi brother murders to lose their protection and to answer for the crimes they committed 15 years ago.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

PORT LIONS, ALASKA

● Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the residents of Port Lions, AK as they celebrate the golden anniversary of the founding of their community.

Port Lions was founded after the tsunami caused by the 1964 Good Friday earthquake destroyed settlements on Afognak and Raspberry Islands. Residents of Port Lions began moving into the village in December, after receiving incredible support from the Lions Club to build anew. Over the years, Port Lions has become a community with a strong sense of pride in family, friendship, and the kind of resilience that characterizes Alaskans.

This year the city of Port Lions and the Native village of Port Lions have organized events to celebrate their 50-year history. They have honored the neighbors and relatives lost in 1964, celebrated the community they helped to build, and fostered their vision for even more growth and prosperity in the future.

I would like to thank the residents of Port Lions for their persistence, resilience, and determination in the face of difficult obstacles. Their lives are testimony to the strong spirit of Alaska. I am honored to have the opportunity to share in the commemoration of their golden anniversary.●

BREMER COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and

residents of Bremer County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Bremer County worth over $2 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $38 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together includes the community's tremendous success with the Main Street Iowa program, particularly the great work they have done rehabilitating the Last National Bank Building.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Northeast Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Bremer County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, over many years, I fought for more than $5.2 million in funding for ag-based industrial lubricant research, as well as $500,000 for the 10th Avenue South corridor, and $400,000 to rehabilitate abandoned military facility just outside of Waverly, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Bremer County has received $961,998 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Bremer County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $89,295.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Bremer County has received over $6 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Bremer County has received more than $1 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as the meth-amphetamine epidemic. For instance, Bremer County has received $200,000 in Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS, grants. Also, since 2001, Bremer County's fire departments have received over $6 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have incresed economic opportunities for all citizens of Bremer County, both those with and without disabilities.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Bremer County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Bremer County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

FRANKLIN COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Franklin County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Franklin County worth over $1 million and successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $8 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the great work that community leaders have done in using Main Street Iowa funds to leverage community investment and volunteerism to make major improvements in downtown Hampton.

Among the highlights:

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face in Iowa and all

across America is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This is not just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Hampton to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Franklin County has earned $80,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program, better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Franklin County has received $1,723,499 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Franklin County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $25,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Franklin County has received more than $445,420 from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Franklin County's fire departments have received over $800,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Franklin County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Franklin County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Franklin County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. Of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

MONROE COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Monroe County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $2.9 million to the local economy.

Of course, my favorite memories of working together include the community's tremendous success at obtaining funds for firefighter safety and equipment through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, their work to improve housing for people with modest means through Housing and Urban Development, as well as their efforts to tap into funds made available through farm bill programs that I championed as Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Monroe County has received $863,188 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Monroe County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $57,500.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Monroe County has received more than $146,000 from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond

to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Monroe County's fire departments have received over $500,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Monroe County has recognized this important issue by securing $50,000 for community wellness activities.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Monroe County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Monroe County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Monroe County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

TRIBUTE TO MARSHALL TRIMBLE

● Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, on behalf of all Arizonans, I want to thank our State's official historian, Marshall Trimble, for his years of dedicated teaching service at Scottsdale Community College, from which he is retiring this year. Marshall Trimble is a true Arizona original. Born in Mesa and raised along historic Route 66 in Ash Fork, Marshall's infectious enthusiasm for Arizona's history and culture led him to begin teaching classes on the history of the southwest at Scottsdale's Coronado High School in 1969. For the next five decades, Marshall taught, sang and wrote about our State and its colorful historical characters, keeping alive our pioneering Old West spirit for generations of Arizonans. In 1997, Governor Fife Symington bestowed Marshall with the title Official State Historian, an honor continued by each successive Governor. Arizona owes Marshall a deep debt of gratitude for his many contributions to our State, and we look forward to his continuing to entertain and educate us for many years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL BRUCE PRUNK

● Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, today, I wish to pay tribute to Brig. Gen. Bruce Prunk. After 35 years of service to our Nation and the State of Oregon, General Prunk will retire from the Oregon National Guard. I know I speak for Oregonians across the State in thanking him for his service.

I got to know Bruce well during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commissions, BRAC, process. He was a key player in leading the Oregon National Guard's efforts and working with my office to build an overwhelming business case for keeping the 142nd Fighter Wing open at the Portland Air National Guard Base. Everywhere you turned, it seemed like he was at community meetings, making media presentations, and doing outreach with elected officials and business leaders to build consensus. As a result of these herculean efforts, we successfully beat back Secretary Rumsfeld's recommendation to close the 142nd Fighter Wing, and the wing's airmen keep the skies of the Pacific Northwest safe to this day.

General Prunk enlisted in the Oregon Air National Guard in 1983 and worked his way up to serve in several high-level positions throughout the Oregon Air National Guard, including vice wing commander of the 142nd Fighter Wing, chief of staff for air at Joint Force Headquarters, and assistant adjutant general of the Oregon National Guard. He also held positions in the National Guard Bureau out in Washington, DC, serving as assistant and as special assistant to the Director of the Air National Guard. And I would be remiss if I didn't mention that Bruce volunteered to deploy to Iraq in 2007 with the 732nd Air Expeditionary Group, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and that he earned the Bronze Star for actions during that deployment.

Rising to the level of general is quite an accomplishment and enough of a career for most folks, but not Bruce. In his civilian life, he joined the Portland Police in 1976, working his way up to captain, then to commander, and finally to assistant chief of police. In these positions, he led community policing efforts, working with local leaders and elected officials to improve neighborhood livability in Portland. He retired from the Portland Police in 2004 and was able to devote more time to the Oregon National Guard.

I think General Prunk's career epitomizes the citizen-soldier envisioned by the Founders. His civilian service and long military career have given him an appreciation for the various challenges Oregon's National Guard soldiers and airmen face balancing family, employer, and often medical issues. His ability to bring different groups together to solve problems is perhaps best illustrated through his work with Camp Rosenbaum, a free camp on the Oregon coast for low-income, inner-city children. For over 25 years he has led efforts to build a unique partnership between police, public employees, and private sponsors to help thousands of at-risk young people go to Camp Rosenbaum.

From his work on the BRAC recommendations to his service in the Portland Police to his involvement with Oregon's military crisis hotline on suicide prevention, General Prunk has just about done it all. Oregon is grateful for all of his hard work on the State's behalf and for the leadership he has displayed over his long and decorated career. It has been a privilege to get to know such a dedicated public official, and I want to thank him for his many years of outstanding service. His retirement will be a loss to Oregon, but we wish him a long, happy, and healthy retirement.●

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY ORIGINALLY DECLARED ON OCTOBER 27, 2006 IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13413 WITH RESPECT TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO—PM 48

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C.

1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the ''order'') taking additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006 (E.O. 13413).

In E.O. 13413, it was determined that the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability and was addressed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1596 of April 18, 2005, Resolution 1649 of December 21, 2005, and Resolution 1698 of July 31, 2006, constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. To address that threat, E.O. 13413 blocks the property and interests in property of persons listed in the Annex to E.O. 13413 or determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to meet criteria specified in E.O. 13413.

In view of multiple additional United Nations Security Council Resolutions including, most recently, Resolution 2136 of January 30, 2014, I am issuing the order to take additional steps to deal with the national emergency declared in E.O. 13413, and to address the continuation of activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the surrounding region, including operations by armed groups, widespread violence and atrocities, human rights abuses, recruitment and use of child soldiers, attacks on peacekeepers, obstruction of humanitarian operations, and exploitation of natural resources to finance persons engaged in these activities.

The order amends the designation criteria specified in E.O. 13413. As amended by the order, E.O. 13413 provides for the designation of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

To be a political or military leader of a foreign armed group operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that impedes the disarmament, demobilization, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or reintegration of combatants;

To be a political or military leader of a Congolese armed group that impedes the disarmament, demobilization, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or reintegration of combatants;

To be responsible for or complicit in, or to have engaged in, directly or indirectly, any of the following in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

actions or policies that undermine democratic processes or institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

the targeting of women, children, or any civilians through the commission of acts of violence (including killing, maiming, torture, or rape or other sexual violence), abduction, forced displacement, or attacks on schools, hospitals, religious sites, or locations where civilians are seeking refuge, or through conduct that would constitute a serious abuse or violation of human rights or a violation of international humanitarian law;

the use or recruitment of children by armed groups or armed forces in the context of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

the obstruction of the delivery or distribution of, or access to, humanitarian assistance;

attacks against United Nations missions, international security presences, or other peacekeeping operations; or

support to persons, including armed groups, involved in activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo or that undermine democratic processes or institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, through the illicit trade in natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Except where intended for the authorized support of humanitarian activities or the authorized use by or support of peacekeeping, international, or government forces, to have directly or indirectly supplied, sold, or transferred to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or been the recipient in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo of, arms and related materiel, including military aircraft and equipment, or advice, training, or assistance, including financing and financial assistance, related to military activities;

To be a leader of (i) an entity, including any armed group, that has, or whose members have, engaged in any of the activities described above or (ii) an entity whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13413;

To have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, logistical, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of (i) any of the activities described above or (ii) any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13413; or

To be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to E.O. 13413.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and the United Nations Participation Act as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All agencies of the United States Government are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *July 8, 2014.*

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2569. A bill to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC–6317. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Cotton and Tobacco Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Cotton Board Rules and Regulations: Adjusting Supplemental Assessment on Imports (2014 Amendment)'' (Docket No. AMS–CN–13–0100) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6318. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Organization; Funding and Fiscal Affairs, Loan Policies and Operations, and Funding Operations; Investment Eligibility'' (RIN3052–AC84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6319. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, legislative proposals relative to the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6320. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, legislative proposals relative to the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6321. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense (DoD) intending to assign women to previously closed positions in the Army; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6322. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Application of 'Security-Based Swap Dealer' and 'Major Security-Based Swap Participant' Definitions to Cross-Border Security-Based Swap Activities'' (RIN3235–AL25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6323. A communication from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's management report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6324. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in

Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6325. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Zimbabwe Sanctions Regulations'' (31 CFR Part 541) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6326. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to operation of the Exchange Stabilization Fund (ESF) for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6327. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility'' ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA–2014–0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6328. A communication from the Acting Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility'' ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA–2014–0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6329. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Annual Report to Congress on the Activities of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation for 2013''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6330. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Capital Planning and Stress Testing'' (RIN3133–AE27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6331. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Central African Republic Sanctions Regulations'' (31 CFR Part 553) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6332. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''South Sudan Sanctions Regulations'' (31 CFR Part 558) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6333. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List; and Removal of Person from the Entity List Based on Removal Request'' (RIN0694–AG19) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6334. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendments To Reflect Change of Office Name From Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control to Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes'' (RIN2501–AD70) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6335. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Government Securities Act Regulations; Replacement of References to Credit Ratings and Technical Amendments'' (RIN1535–AA02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6336. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''High-Performance Green Building Initiative Activities''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–6337. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Response to Findings and Recommendations of the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC) during Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–6338. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Placer County Air Pollution Control District'' (FRL No. 9910–99–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6339. 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 Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Indiana PM2.5 NSR'' (FRL No. 9912–85–Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6340. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District'' (FRL No. 9911–91–Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6341. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Administrative Wage Garnishment'' (FRL No. 9910–14–OCFO) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6342. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances'' ((RIN2070–AB27) (FRL No. 9911–05)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6343. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to extending the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Archaeological Material from Cambodia from the Bronze Age Through the Khmer Era; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6344. A communication from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) non-medical redeterminations for fiscal year 2010; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6345. 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 ''Participation of a Person Described in Section 6103(n) in a Summons Interview Under Section 7602(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code'' ((RIN1545–BM25) (TD 9669)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6346. 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 ''Applicable Federal Rates—July 2014'' (Rev. Rul. 2014–20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6347. 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 ''Disregarded Entities; Religious and Family Member FICA and FUTA Exceptions; Indoor Tanning Services Excise Tax'' ((RIN1545–BJ06; RIN1545–BK38) (TD 9670)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6348. 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 ''Tax Credit for Employee Health Insurance Expenses of Small Employers'' ((RIN1545–BL55) (TD 9672)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6349. 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 ''Ninety-Day Waiting Period Limitation'' ((RIN1545–BL97) (TD 9671)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6350. 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 ''Annual Filing Season Program'' (Rev. Proc. 2014–42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6351. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2014–0079—2014–0083); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6352. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Service, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Priority. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Rehabilitation Engineering Research and Training Centers'' (CFDA No. 84.133B–3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6353. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''New Animal Drug Applications; Confidentiality of Data and Information in a New Animal Drug Application File; Confirmation of Effective Date'' (Docket No. FDA–2014–N–0108) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6354. A communication from the Acting Surgeon General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council's 2014 annual status report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6355. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–365, ''Air Quality Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6356. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–366, ''Southwest Business Improvement District Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6357. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20–367, ''Workers' Compensation Statute of Limitations Temporary Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6358. A communication from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Board's final inventory list for 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6359. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's annual report on Federal agencies' use of the Physicians' Comparability Allowance (PCA) program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6360. A communication from the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6361. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Transportation's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6362. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Priority. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers'' (CFDA No. 84.133B–5.) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6363. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Management Response for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6364. A communication from the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report from the Office of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6365. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''District of Columbia Agencies' Compliance with Fiscal Year 2014 Small Business Enterprise Expenditure Goals through the 2nd Quarter of the Fiscal Year 2014''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6366. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Tramadol into Schedule IV'' (Docket No. DEA–351) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6367. A communication from the Director of National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2013 Report on Apportionment of Membership on the Regional Fishery Management Councils; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6368. A communication from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Incorporation by Reference; North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria; Hazardous Materials Safety Permits'' (RIN2126–AB73) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6369. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for the Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled ''Reports by Air Carriers on Incidents Involving Animals During Air Transport'' (RIN2105–AE07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6370. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for the Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled ''Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Air Travel: Accessibility of Web Sites and Automated Kiosks at U.S. Airports'' (RIN2105–AD96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6371. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for the Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled ''Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Air Travel; Accessibility of Aircraft and Stowage of Wheelchairs'' (RIN2105–AD87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 2, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6372. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reapportionment of Halibut Prohibited Species Catch Limit in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands'' (RIN0648–XD347) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6373. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2014 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for Blueline Tilefish in the South Atlantic Region'' (RIN0648–XD331) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6374. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XD337) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6375. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; 2014 Atlantic Bluefish Specifications'' (RIN0648–XD139) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6376. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Regulations'' (RIN0648–BC90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6377. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Closure'' (RIN0648–XD238) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6378. A communication from the Chief of the Broadband Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

''Amendment Parts 1, 21, 73, 74, and 101 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Provision of Fixed and Mobile Broadband Access, Educational and Other Advanced Services in the 2150–2162 and 2500–2690 MHz Bands'' ((WT Docket No. 03–66) (FCC 14–76)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6379. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Navigation and Navigable Waters; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments'' ((RIN1625–AC13) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0410)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6380. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Dry Cargo Residue Discharges in the Great Lakes'' ((RIN1625–AA89) (Docket No. USCG–2004–19621)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6381. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes to the Inland Navigation Rules'' ((RIN1625–AB88) (Docket No. USCG–2012–0102)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6382. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Isle of Wight (Sinepuxent) Bay, Ocean City, MD'' ((RIN1625–AA09) (Docket No. USCG–2013–1021)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6383. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Hackensack River, Jersey City, NJ'' ((RIN1625–AA09) (Docket No. USCG–2013–1005)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 30, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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 Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 2565. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the dependent care tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 2566. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain public land in and around historic mining townsites located in the State of Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2567. A bill to provide for the sealing or expungement of records relating to Federal nonviolent criminal offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 2568. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the contribution limit for Coverdell education savings accounts from $2,000 to $5,000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WALSH (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. REED, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2569. A bill to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America; read the first time.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. REED):

S.J. Res. 40. A joint resolution providing for the appointment of Michael Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 109

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 109, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 350

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 350, a bill to provide for Federal agencies to develop public access policies relating to research conducted by employees of that agency or from funds administered by that agency.

S. 357

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 357, 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. 489

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 489, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes.

S. 539

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes and diabetes.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to repeal a duplicative program relating to inspection and grading of catfish.

S. 654

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 738

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize States to issue electronic duck stamps, and for other purposes.

S. 916

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 916, a bill to authorize the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 under the American Battlefield Protection Program.

S. 945

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 945, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes self-management training by authorizing certified diabetes educators to provide diabetes self-management training services, including as part of telehealth services, under part B of the Medicare program.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1410

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1442

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1442, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the minimum low-income housing tax credit rate for unsubsidized buildings and to provide a minimum 4 percent credit rate for existing buildings.

S. 1476

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1476, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes.

S. 1878

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1878, a bill to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent sex trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of sex trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2141, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide an alternative process for review of safety and effectiveness of nonprescription sunscreen active ingredients and for other purposes.

S. 2187

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2187, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a five-year extension of the rural community hospital demonstration program.

S. 2206

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2206, a bill to streamline the collection and distribution of government information.

S. 2235

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2235, a bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration.

S. 2307

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2307, a bill to prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 2449

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2449, a bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 2481

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2481, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide authority for sole source contracts for certain small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and for other purposes.

S. 2483

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2483, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 2508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2508, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to and the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of power, and for other purposes.

S. 2520

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2520, a bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act.

S. 2532

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2532, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits.

S. 2535

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2535, a bill to amend section 1951 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the Hobbs Act), and for other purposes.

S. 2548

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2548, a bill to require the Commodity Futures Trading commission to take certain emergency action to eliminate excessive speculation in energy markets.

S. 2552

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2552, a bill to enhance beneficiary and provider protections and improve transparency in the Medicare Advantage market, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

AMENDMENT NO. 3377

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3377 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3451

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3451 intended to be proposed to S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 2565. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the dependent care tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am here to discuss the Helping Working Families Afford Child Care Act, which is a bill my colleagues Senators Shaheen, Boxer, Gillibrand, and I introduced today. It will update the child and dependent care tax credit to offer working families more relief from the rising costs of childcare.

When the child and dependent care tax credit was enacted originally, kids were playing with Rubik's Cubes and listening to eight-track tapes. As we all know, a lot has changed since then, and one of the most important changes our country has seen since that time is the rise of women in the labor force.

Since the mid-1970s, women's participation in the labor force has increased by 23 percent, and most women now do work full time. In two-thirds of families with dependent children, both parents work outside the home.

Over a period of time in which the middle class has been squeezed by an increasingly global economy with higher prices for everything from health care to college, women joining the labor force has helped to ease some of those burdens for families. In fact, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen has called the increasing participation of women in the workforce: ''A major factor in sustaining growing families incomes.'' A recent study by the Center for American Progress found between 1979 and 2012, the U.S. economy grew by 11 percent as a result of women joining the labor force.

As we look for ways to create jobs and expand growth in the 21st century, it is clear our country's economic success goes hand in hand with that of women and working families. We have to make sure our policies are updated to meet the needs of today's working parents, and one area we need to take a look at is childcare. The cost of childcare has skyrocketed in recent

years. Full-time childcare for just one child can cost families more than $10,000 annually, and for families below the poverty level—those who are already struggling the most to make ends meet—childcare can, on average, swallow one-third of what those parents are able to bring home.

This is a real problem for far too many hard-working parents, and it is a problem for our economy, because when parents are struggling to find reliable, safe, affordable care for their children during the day, it is harder for them to give their all on the job. Even worse, childcare is so expensive, some parents—most often mothers—are deciding it is not even worth returning to the workforce. This means families are being held back from gaining the economic security they are working so hard to achieve.

The child and dependent care tax credit was of course intended to help parents overcome these barriers, but today the benefit working parents get from the credit is a small fraction of what childcare actually costs. Because of how it is structured, the lowest income working families cannot benefit from it at all, meaning they have to bear the full brunt of childcare costs on very low wages.

It is clear this credit is one of the policies we need to bring into the 21st century, and that is exactly what we were doing when we introduced the Helping Working Families Afford Child Care Act. This legislation will boost the benefit working families can receive for childcare costs, and it will make the child and dependent care tax credit refundable so those working parents who are struggling the most to make ends meet can better afford the childcare they need to work and support their families.

If Congress passes our bill, next year working families could see a credit of $1,600 for one child or $3,200 for more than one child. That is almost three times the maximum benefit many families are currently eligible to receive.

Our bill would be a real help to hard-working families who are trying to raise their children, pay the bills, save for college, and put something away for retirement. It could break down one of the biggest barriers mothers face when thinking about reentering the workforce.

The need to expand access to affordable childcare is something I often talk about with my own constituents in Washington State. During those conversations, what I hear from parents is: I am so glad you focused on this. It is a real issue for us.

Updating this tax credit to reflect the needs of families in today's economy would be a critical step forward in terms of our larger effort to ensure that working parents, dads and moms, have a fair shot.

I believe by putting in place policies to make childcare more affordable, make sure women get the equal pay they deserve by raising the minimum wage so millions of workers have a better shot at lifting themselves out of poverty, and by taking steps to ensure students are not overwhelmed by debt after they graduate from college, we could break down some very real barriers that are holding our families and our economy back. There is no reason we should not start that right now with the bill we are introducing today.

I hope all of our colleagues will take a minute, look at this—Helping Working Families Afford Child Care Act—and take this seriously. I hope we will be able to make it easier for moms and dads to afford safe reliable care for their children while they are at work. I think we can all agree parents deserve to have that peace of mind. I believe if we enact this bill and build on it with other critical policies to help working families, our economy will be much stronger now and over the long term.

I thank Senators SHAHEEN, BOXER, and GILLIBRAND again for all of their hard work and leadership on the part of working families.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3454. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3455. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3456. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3457. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3458. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3459. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3460. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3461. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3462. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3463. Mr. BURR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3464. Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WALSH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3465. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3466. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3467. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3468. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3469. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3470. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3471. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3472. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3473. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3474. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3475. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3476. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3477. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3478. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3479. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3454. Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1_____. EXPEDITED ACCESS TO CERTAIN FEDERAL LANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and implement a process to expedite

access to Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for eligible organizations and eligible individuals to request access to Federal lands to conduct good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions. The process developed and implemented pursuant to this subsection shall include provisions that clarify that—

(1) an eligible organization or eligible individual granted access under this section shall be acting for private purposes and shall not be considered a Federal volunteer;

(2) an eligible organization or eligible individual conducting a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section shall not be considered a volunteer under section 3 of the Volunteers in the Parks Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. 18i);

(3) the Federal Torts Claim Act shall not apply to an eligible organization or eligible individual carrying out a privately requested good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section; and

(4) the Federal Employee Compensation Act shall not apply to an eligible organization or eligible individual conducting good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section and such activities shall not constitute civilian employment.

(b) RELEASE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM LIABILITY.—The Secretary shall not require an eligible organization or an eligible individual to have liability insurance as a condition of accessing Federal lands under this section if the eligible organization or eligible individual—

(1) acknowledges and consents, in writing, to the provisions listed in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a); and

(2) signs a waiver releasing the Federal Government from all liability related to the access granted under this section.

(c) APPROVAL AND DENIAL OF REQUESTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall notify an eligible organization and eligible individual of the approval or denial of a request by that eligible organization and eligible individual to carry out a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section not more than 48 hours after the request is made.

(2) DENIALS.—If the Secretary denies a request from an eligible organization or eligible individual to carry out a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section, the Secretary shall notify the eligible organization or eligible individual of—

(A) the reason for the denial request; and

(B) any actions that eligible organization or eligible individual can take to meet the requirements for the request to be approved.

(d) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary shall develop search-and-recovery focused partnerships with search-and-recovery organizations to—

(1) coordinate good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions on Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary; and

(2) expedite and accelerate good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission efforts for missing individuals on Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a joint report to Congress describing—

(1) plans to develop partnerships described in subsection (d)(1); and

(2) efforts being taken to expedite and accelerate good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission efforts for missing individuals on Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary pursuant to subsection (d)(2).

(f) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION AND ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The terms ''eligible organization'' and ''eligible individual'' means an organization or individual, respectively, that—

(A) is acting in a not-for-profit capacity; and

(B) is certificated in training that meets or exceeds standards established by the American Society for Testing and Materials.

(2) GOOD SAMARITAN SEARCH-AND-RECOVERY MISSION.—The term ''good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission'' means a search for one or more missing individuals believed to be deceased at the time that the search is initiated.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate.

SA 3455. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUNDS SEMIPOSTAL STAMP.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2014''.

(b) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 2(c)(2) of the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act of 2010 (39 U.S.C. 416 note) is amended by striking ''2 years'' and inserting ''6 years''.

SA 3456. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1_____. FEDERAL LAND DISPOSAL.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED LAND.—The term ''covered land'' means—

(A) land under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior; or

(B) land under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service).

(2) EXCESS COVERED LAND.—The term ''excess covered land'' means any covered land that is identified for disposal under subsection (c).

(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior; and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service), with respect to land under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service).

(b) LIMIT ON FEDERAL OWNERSHIP OF LAND.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), covered land shall not comprise more than 50 percent of the total land area of a State.

(c) IDENTIFICATION OF EXCESS COVERED LAND FOR DISPOSAL.—If the total percentage of covered land in a State exceeds the limit established by subsection (b), the Secretaries concerned shall jointly identify covered land in the State that the Secretaries concerned determine to be appropriate for disposal under subsection (d).

(d) REQUIRED DISPOSAL.—Not later than December 31, 2019, the Secretary concerned shall dispose of all excess covered land through—

(1) transfer to the State in which the excess covered land is located; or

(2) selling the excess covered land at auction.

(e) RULES.—The Secretary concerned shall issue rules to carry out the transfers and sales under subsection (d).

SA 3457. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. FIREARM COMMERCE MODERNIZATION.

(a) FIREARMS DISPOSITIONS.—Section 922(b)(3) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''located'' and inserting ''located or temporarily located''; and

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''rifle or shotgun'' and inserting ''firearm'';

(B) by striking ''located'' and inserting ''located or temporarily located''; and

(C) by striking ''both such States'' and inserting ''the State in which the transfer is conducted and the State of residence of the transferee''.

(b) DEALER LOCATION.—Section 923 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (j)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking '', and such location is in the State which is specified on the license''; and

(B) in the last sentence—

(i) by inserting ''transfer,'' after ''sell,''; and

(ii) by striking ''Act,'' and all that follows and inserting ''Act.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(m) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the sale, transfer, delivery, or other disposition of a firearm or ammunition—

''(1) by a person licensed under this chapter to another person so licensed, at any location in any State; or

''(2) by a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer to a person not licensed under this chapter, at a temporary location described in subsection (j) in any State.''.

(c) RESIDENCE OF UNITED STATES OFFICERS.—Section 921 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) For purposes of this chapter:

''(1) A member of the Armed Forces on active duty, or a spouse of such a member, is a resident of—

''(A) the State in which the member or spouse maintains legal residence;

''(B) the State in which the permanent duty station of the member is located; and

''(C) the State in which the member maintains a place of abode from which the member commutes each day to the permanent duty station of the member.

''(2) An officer or employee of the United States (other than a member of the Armed Forces) who is stationed outside the United States for a period of more than 1 year, and a spouse of such an officer or employee, is a resident of the State in which the person maintains legal residence.''.

SA 3458. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF FIREARMS OR AMMUNITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 926A of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 926A. Interstate transportation of firearms or ammunition

''(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'transport' includes staying in temporary lodging overnight, stopping for food, fuel, vehicle maintenance, an emergency, medical treatment, and any other activity incidental to the transport.

''(b) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding any provision of any law (including a rule or regulation) of a State or any political subdivision thereof, a person who is not prohibited by this chapter from possessing, transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm or ammunition shall be entitled to—

''(1) transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where the person may lawfully possess, carry, or transport the firearm to any other such place if, during the transportation—

''(A) the firearm is unloaded; and

''(B)(i) if the transportation is by motor vehicle—

''(I) the firearm is not directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the motor vehicle; or

''(II) if the motor vehicle is without a compartment separate from the passenger compartment, the firearm is—

''(aa) in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console; or

''(bb) secured by a secure gun storage or safety device; or

''(ii) if the transportation is by other means, the firearm is in a locked container or secured by a secure gun storage or safety device; and

''(2) transport ammunition for any lawful purpose from any place where the person may lawfully possess, carry, or transport the ammunition, to any other such place if, during the transportation—

''(A) the ammunition is not loaded into a firearm; and

''(B)(i) if the transportation is by motor vehicle—

''(I) the ammunition is not directly accessible from the passenger compartment of the motor vehicle; or

''(II) if the motor vehicle is without a compartment separate from the passenger compartment, the ammunition is in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console; or

''(ii) if the transportation is by other means, the ammunition is in a locked container.

''(c) STATE LAW.—

''(1) ARREST AUTHORITY.—A person who is transporting a firearm or ammunition may not be—

''(A) arrested for violation of any law or any rule or regulation of a State, or any political subdivision thereof, relating to the possession, transportation, or carrying of firearms or ammunition, unless there is probable cause to believe that the transportation is not in accordance with subsection (b); or

''(B) detained for violation of any law or any rule or regulation of a State, or any political subdivision thereof, relating to the possession, transportation, or carrying of firearms or ammunition, unless there is reasonable suspicion that the transportation is not in accordance with subsection (b).

''(2) PROSECUTION.—

''(A) BURDEN OF PROOF.—If a person asserts this section as a defense in a criminal proceeding, the government shall bear the burden of proving, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the conduct of the person was not in accordance with subsection (b).

''(B) PREVAILING DEFENDANT.—If a person successfully asserts this section as a defense in a criminal proceeding, the court shall award the prevailing defendant reasonable attorney's fees.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 926A and inserting the following:

''926A. Interstate transportation of firearms or ammunition.''.

SA 3459. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1___. PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES REFORM.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO PILT.—

(1) DEFINITION OF ENTITLEMENT LAND.—Section 6901(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''the National Park System or''; and

(B) in subparagraph (H), by inserting '', other than land that is a unit of the National Park System'' before the period at the end.

(2) ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS.—Section 6904(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) the United States acquired for the National Forest Wilderness Areas; and''.

(3) REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK.—Section 6905 of title 31, United States Code, is repealed.

(4) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 501 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (16 U.S.C. 471j) is amended by striking subsection (f).

(B) The chapter analysis for chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 6905.

(b) DEFERRED MAINTENANCE BACKLOG.—Any amounts saved as a result of the amendments made by subsection (a) shall be made available to the Secretary of the Interior, without further appropriation, to address the maintenance backlog on National Park System land.

SA 3460. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

SEC. 2___. DISCOUNTED NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASSES.

Section 805(b)(1) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(b)(1)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''$10.00'' and inserting ''$80.00''.

SA 3461. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 43, strike lines 4 through 11 and insert the following:

(2) in section 204 (43 U.S.C. 2303), by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a procedure to identify, by State, inholdings for which the landowner has indicated a desire to sell the land or interest therein to the United States.''.

(3) in section 205 (43 U.S.C. 2304)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking '', using funds made available under section 206,''; and

(ii) by striking ''this Act'' and inserting ''the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014''; and

(B) in subsection (d), by striking ''11'' and inserting ''22'';

(4) in section 206 (43 U.S.C. 2305), by striking subsections (b) through (f) and inserting the following:

''(b) AVAILABILITY.—Of the amounts in the Federal Land Disposal Account—

''(1) 50 percent shall be made available to the Secretary of the Treasury, without further appropriation, for Federal budget deficit reduction; and

''(2) 50 percent shall be made available to the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture, without further appropriation, to address the maintenance backlog on Federal land.''; and

(5) in section 207(b) (43 U.S.C. 2306(b))—

SA 3462. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

TITLE III—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 301. PROTECTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS OF VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 55 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 5511. Conditions for treatment of certain persons as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In any case arising out of the administration by the Secretary of laws and benefits under this title, a person who is determined by the Secretary to be mentally incompetent shall not be considered adjudicated pursuant to subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18, until—

''(1) in the case in which the person does not request a review as described in subsection (c)(1), the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the person receives notice submitted under subsection (b); or

''(2) in the case in which the person requests a review as described in paragraph (1) of subsection (c), upon an assessment by the board designated or established under paragraph (2) of such subsection or court of competent jurisdiction that a person cannot safely use, carry, possess, or store a firearm due to mental incompetency.

''(b) NOTICE.—Notice submitted under this subsection to a person described in subsection (a) is notice submitted by the Secretary that notifies the person of the following:

''(1) The determination made by the Secretary.

''(2) A description of the implications of being considered adjudicated as a mental defective under subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18.

''(3) The person's right to request a review under subsection (c)(1).

''(c) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—(1) Not later than 30 days after the date on which a person described in subsection (a) receives notice submitted under subsection (b), such person may request a review by the board designed or established under paragraph (2) or a court of competent jurisdiction to assess whether a person cannot safely use, carry, possess, or store a firearm due to mental incompetency. In such assessment, the board may consider the person's honorable discharge or decoration.

''(2) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014, the Secretary shall designate or establish a board that shall, upon request of a person under paragraph (1), assess whether a person cannot safely use, carry, possess, or store a firearm due to mental incompetency.

''(d) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—A person may file a petition with a Federal court of competent jurisdiction for judicial review of an assessment of the person under subsection (c) by the board designated or established under paragraph (2).

''(e) PROTECTING RIGHTS OF VETERANS WITH EXISTING RECORDS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014, the Secretary shall provide written notice of the opportunity for administrative review and appeal under subsection (c) to all persons who, on the date of the enactment of the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014, are considered adjudicated pursuant to subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18 as a result of having been found by the Department to be mentally incompetent.

''(f) FUTURE DETERMINATIONS.—(1) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014, the Secretary shall review the policies and procedures by which individuals are determined to be mentally incompetent, and shall revise such policies and procedures as necessary to ensure that any individual who is competent to manage his own financial affairs, including his receipt of Federal benefits, but who voluntarily turns over the management thereof to a fiduciary is not considered adjudicated pursuant to subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18.

''(2) Not later than 30 days after the Secretary has made the review and changes required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report detailing the results of the review and any resulting policy and procedural changes.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 55 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''5511. Conditions for treatment of certain persons as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes.''.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—Section 5511 of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), shall apply only with respect to persons who are determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, to be mentally incompetent, except that those persons who are provided notice pursuant to subsection (e) of such section shall be entitled to use the administrative review under subsection (c) of such section and, as necessary, the subsequent judicial review under subsection (d) of such section.

SA 3463. Mr. BURR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE RECREATIONAL AREA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FINAL RULE.—The term ''Final Rule'' means the final rule entitled ''Special Regulations, Areas of the National Park System, Cape Hatteras National Seashore—Off-Road Vehicle Management'' (77 Fed. Reg. 3123 (January 23, 2012)).

(2) NATIONAL SEASHORE.—The term ''National Seashore'' means the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of North Carolina.

(b) REVIEW AND ADJUSTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION BUFFERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall review and modify wildlife buffers in the National Seashore in accordance with this subsection and any other applicable law.

(2) BUFFER MODIFICATIONS.—In modifying wildlife buffers under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, using adaptive management practices—

(A) ensure that the buffers are of the shortest duration and cover the smallest area necessary to protect a species, as determined in accordance with peer-reviewed scientific data; and

(B) designate pedestrian and vehicle corridors around areas of the National Seashore closed because of wildlife buffers, to allow access to areas that are open.

(3) COORDINATION WITH STATE.—The Secretary, after coordinating with the State, shall determine appropriate buffer protections for species that are not listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), but that are identified for protection under State law.

(c) MODIFICATIONS TO FINAL RULE.—The Secretary shall undertake a public process to consider, consistent with management requirements at the National Seashore, the following changes to the Final Rule:

(1) Opening beaches at the National Seashore that are closed to night driving restrictions, by opening beach segments each morning on a rolling basis as daily management reviews are completed.

(2) Extending seasonal off-road vehicle routes for additional periods in the Fall and Spring if off-road vehicle use would not create resource management problems at the National Seashore.

(3) Modifying the size and location of vehicle-free areas.

(d) CONSTRUCTION OF NEW VEHICLE ACCESS POINTS.—The Secretary shall construct new vehicle access points and roads at the National Seashore—

(1) as expeditiously as practicable; and

(2) in accordance with applicable management plans for the National Seashore.

(e) REPORT.—The Secretary shall report to Congress within 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act on measures taken to implement this section.

SA 3464. Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. WALSH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. WILDFIRE DISASTER FUNDING AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(E) FLAME WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—

''(i) If a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for a fiscal year is enacted that specifies an amount for wildfire suppression operations in the Wildland Fire Management accounts at the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior, then the adjustments for that fiscal year shall be the amount of additional new budget authority provided in that Act for wildfire suppression operations for that fiscal year, but shall not exceed—

''(I) for fiscal year 2015, $1,410,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(II) for fiscal year 2016, $1,460,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(III) for fiscal year 2017, $1,560,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(IV) for fiscal year 2018, $1,780,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(V) for fiscal year 2019, $2,030,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(VI) for fiscal year 2020, $2,320,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(VII) for fiscal year 2021, $2,650,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(VIII) for fiscal year 2022, $2,690,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(IX) for fiscal year 2023, $2,690,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

''(X) for fiscal year 2024, $2,690,000,000 in additional new budget authority.

''(ii) As used in this subparagraph—

''(I) the term 'additional new budget authority' means the amount provided for a fiscal year, in excess of 70 percent of the average costs for wildfire suppression operations over the previous 10 years, in an appropriation Act and specified to pay for the costs of wildfire suppression operations; and

''(II) the term 'wildfire suppression operations' means the emergency and unpredictable aspects of wildland firefighting including support, response, and emergency stabilization activities; other emergency management activities; and funds necessary to repay any transfers needed for these costs.

''(iii) The average costs for wildfire suppression operations over the previous 10 years shall be calculated annually and reported in the President's Budget submission under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, for each fiscal year.''.

(b) DISASTER FUNDING.—Section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(D)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking ''and'' and inserting ''plus'';

(B) in subclause (II), by striking the period and inserting ''; less''; and

(C) by adding the following:

''(III) the additional new budget authority provided in an appropriation Act for wildfire

suppression operations pursuant to subparagraph (E) for the preceding fiscal year.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(v) Beginning in fiscal year 2017 and in subsequent fiscal years, the calculation of the 'average funding provided for disaster relief over the previous 10 years' shall include the additional new budget authority provided in an appropriation Act for wildfire suppression operations pursuant to subparagraph (E) for the preceding fiscal year.''.

(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—If the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture determines that supplemental appropriations are necessary for a fiscal year for wildfire suppression operations, such Secretary shall promptly submit to Congress—

(1) a request for such supplemental appropriations; and

(2) a plan detailing the manner in which such Secretary intends to obligate the supplemental appropriations by not later than 30 days after the date on which the amounts are made available.

SA 3465. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2_____. FUNDING FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FUND.—The term ''Fund'' means the land and water conservation fund established under section 2 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460*l*–5).

(2) LEVEL OF RECEIPTS.—The term ''level of receipts'' means the level of taxes, receipts, bonuses, and rents credited to the Fund for a fiscal year as set forth in the budget baseline projection of the President, as determined under section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907), for that fiscal year submitted pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.

(3) TOTAL BUDGET RESOURCES.—The term ''total budget resources'' means the total amount made available by appropriations Acts from the Fund for a fiscal year for making expenditures under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460*l*–4 et seq.), as determined by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate.

(b) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION TRUST FUND GUARANTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, the total budget resources made available from the Fund shall be equal to the level of receipts credited to the Fund for that fiscal year.

(2) USE OF AMOUNTS.—The amounts described in paragraph (1) shall be used only to carry out land and water conservation activities authorized under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460*l*–4 et seq.).

(3) GUARANTEE.—No amounts may be appropriated for land and water conservation activities authorized under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460*l*–4 et seq.) unless the requirement under paragraph (1) has been met.

(c) ENFORCEMENT OF GUARANTEE.—It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives or the Senate to consider any Act making appropriations that would cause total budget resources for a fiscal year for land and water conservation activities described in subsection (b)(2) for that fiscal year to be less than the amount required by subsection (b)(1) for that fiscal year.

SA 3466. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

SEC. 2____. DEFERRED MAINTENANCE BACKLOG ON FEDERAL LAND.

Section 7(a) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460*l*–9(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) To address the maintenance backlog on Federal land.''.

SA 3467. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 44, strike lines 16 through 20, and insert the following:

(b) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—

(1) FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2024.—For each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024, of the amounts deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Account, there shall be transferred to the Treasury and used for Federal budget deficit reduction, $1,000,000.

(2) FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS.—For fiscal year 2025 and each subsequent fiscal year, 10 percent of the amounts deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Account shall be transferred to the Treasury and used for Federal budget deficit reduction.

SA 3468. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2___. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973.

Section 11(f) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1540(f)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after the subsection heading; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2)(A) Except as provided in this paragraph, regulations promulgated under paragraph (1), including policies, orders, or practices pursuant to such regulations, may not—

''(i) prohibit or restrict the possession, sale, delivery, receipt, shipping, or transportation, within the United States, of elephant ivory that has been lawfully imported into the United States;

''(ii) change any methods of, or standards for, determining if such ivory has been lawfully imported that were in effect on February 24, 2014, including any applicable presumptions with respect to such determinations;

''(iii) prohibit or restrict the importation of such ivory that was lawfully importable into the United States on February 24, 2014; or

''(iv) prohibit or restrict the possession of such ivory that was lawfully possessable in the United States on February 24, 2014.

''(B) Subparagraph (A) does not apply to regulations, including policies, orders, or practices pursuant to such regulations, that were in effect on February 24, 2014.

''(C) Regulations promulgated under paragraph (1), including policies, orders, or practices pursuant to such regulations, that became effective during the period beginning on February 25, 2014, and ending on the date of enactment of this paragraph, shall be revised, as necessary, to comply with the requirements specified in subparagraph (A) for regulations promulgated after such date of enactment.''.

SA 3469. Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 14, line 25, insert ''use the funds apportioned to it under section 4(c) to'' after ''a State may''.

SA 3470. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1___. NATIONAL RECREATIONAL PASSES FOR DISABLED VETERANS.

Section 805(b)(2) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(b)(2)) is amended as follows:

(1) By inserting ''and for the lifetime of the passholder'' after ''without charge''.

(2) By striking ''charge, to'' and inserting ''charge, to the following:''.

(3) By striking ''any United States'' and inserting the following:

''(A) Any United States''.

(4) By inserting after ''residency.'' the following:

''(B) Any veteran with a service-connected disability, as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.''.

(5) By striking the last sentence.

SA 3471. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—CROOKED RIVE COLLABORATIVE WATER SECURITY

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Crooked River Collaborative Water Security Act of 2014''.

SEC. 302. WILD AND SCENIC RIVER; CROOKED, OREGON.

Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (72) and inserting the following:

''(72) CROOKED, OREGON.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The 14.75-mile segment from the National Grassland boundary to Dry Creek, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in the following classes:

''(i) The 7-mile segment from the National Grassland boundary to River Mile 8 south of Opal Spring, as a recreational river.

''(ii) The 7.75-mile segment from a point ¼-mile downstream from the center crest of Bowman Dam, as a recreational river.

''(B) HYDROPOWER.—In any license application relating to hydropower development (including turbines and appurtenant facilities) at Bowman Dam, the applicant, in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, shall—

''(i) analyze any impacts to the scenic, recreational, and fishery resource values of the Crooked River from the center crest of Bowman Dam to a point ¼-mile downstream that may be caused by the proposed hydropower development, including the future need to undertake routine and emergency repairs;

''(ii) propose measures to minimize and mitigate any impacts analyzed under clause (i); and

''(iii) propose designs and measures to ensure that any access facilities associated with hydropower development at Bowman Dam shall not impede the free-flowing nature of the Crooked River below Bowman Dam.''.

SEC. 303. CITY OF PRINEVILLE WATER SUPPLY.

Section 4 of the Act of August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058; 73 Stat. 554; 78 Stat. 954), is amended—

(1) by striking ''during those months'' and all that follows through ''purpose of the project''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: ''Without further action by the Secretary of the Interior, beginning on the date of enactment of the Crooked River Collaborative Water Security Act of 2014, 5,100 acre-feet of water shall be annually released from the project to serve as mitigation for City of Prineville groundwater pumping, pursuant to and in a manner consistent with Oregon State law, including any shaping of the release of the water. The City of Prineville shall make payments to the Secretary for the water, in accordance with applicable Bureau of Reclamation policies, directives, and standards. Consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and other applicable Federal laws, the Secretary may contract exclusively with the City of Prineville for additional quantities of water, at the request of the City of Prineville.''.

SEC. 304. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

The Act entitled ''An Act to authorize construction by the Secretary of the Interior of the Crooked River Federal reclamation project, Oregon'', approved August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058; chapter 980; 73 Stat. 554; 78 Stat. 954), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 6. FIRST FILL STORAGE AND RELEASE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Other than the 10 cubic feet per second release provided for in section 4, and subject to compliance with the flood curve requirements of the Corps of Engineers, the Secretary shall, on a 'first fill' priority basis, store in and when called for in any year release from Prineville Reservoir, whether from carryover, infill, or a combination of both, the following:

''(1) 68,273 acre-feet of water annually to fulfill all 16 Bureau of Reclamation contracts existing as of January 1, 2011.

''(2) Not more than 2,740 acre-feet of water annually to supply the McKay Creek land, in accordance with section 305 of the Crooked River Collaborative Water Security Act of 2014.

''(3) 10,000 acre-feet of water annually, to be made available first to the North Unit Irrigation District, and subsequently to any other holders of Reclamation contracts existing as of January 1, 2011 (in that order), pursuant to Temporary Water Service Contracts, on the request of the North Unit Irrigation District or the contract holders, consistent with the same terms and conditions as prior such contracts between the Bureau of Reclamation and District or contract holders, as applicable.

''(4) 5,100 acre-feet of water annually to mitigate the City of Prineville groundwater pumping under section 4, with the release of this water to occur not based on an annual call, but instead pursuant to section 4 and the release schedule developed pursuant to section 7(c).

''(b) CARRYOVER.—Except for water that may be called for and released after the end of the irrigation season (either as City of Prineville groundwater pumping mitigation or as a voluntary release, in accordance with section 4 of this Act and section 306(c) of the Crooked River Collaborative Water Security Act of 2014, respectively), any water stored under this section that is not called for and released by the end of the irrigation season in a given year shall be—

''(1) carried over to the subsequent water year, which, for accounting purposes, shall be considered to be the 1-year period beginning October 1 and ending September 30, consistent with Oregon State law; and

''(2) accounted for as part of the 'first fill' storage quantities of the subsequent water year, but not to exceed the maximum 'first fill' storage quantities described in subsection (a).

''SEC. 7. STORAGE AND RELEASE OF REMAINING STORED WATER QUANTITIES.

''(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Other than the quantities provided for in section 4 and the 'first fill' quantities provided for in section 6, and subject to compliance with the flood curve requirements of the Corps of Engineers, the Secretary shall store in and release from Prineville Reservoir all remaining stored water quantities for the benefit of downstream fish and wildlife.

''(2) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall release the remaining stored water quantities under paragraph (1) consistent with subsection (c).

''(b) APPLICABLE LAW.—If a consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or an order of a court in a proceeding under that Act requires releases of stored water from Prineville Reservoir for fish and wildlife downstream of Bowman Dam, the Secretary shall use uncontracted stored water.

''(c) ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of Reclamation shall develop annual release schedules for the remaining stored water quantities in subsection (a) and the water serving as mitigation for City of Prineville groundwater pumping pursuant to section 4.

''(2) GUIDANCE.—To the maximum extent practicable and unless otherwise prohibited by law, the Commissioner of Reclamation shall develop and implement the annual release schedules consistent with the guidance provided by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and the State of Oregon to maximize biological benefit for downstream fish and wildlife, after taking into consideration multiyear water needs of downstream fish and wildlife.

''(3) COMMENTS FROM FEDERAL FISH MANAGEMENT AGENCIES.—The National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall have the opportunity to provide advice with respect to, and comment on, the annual release schedule developed by the Commissioner of Reclamation under this subsection.

''(d) REQUIRED COORDINATION.—The Commissioner of Reclamation shall perform traditional and routine activities in a manner that coordinates with the efforts of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and the State of Oregon to monitor and request adjustments to releases for downstream fish and wildlife on an in-season basis as the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and the State of Oregon determine downstream fish and wildlife needs require.

''(e) CARRYOVER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any water stored under subsection (a) in 1 water year that is not released during the water year—

''(A) shall be carried over to the subsequent water year; and

''(B)(i) may be released for downstream fish and wildlife resources, consistent with subsections (c) and (d), until the reservoir reaches maximum capacity in the subsequent water year; and

''(ii) once the reservoir reaches maximum capacity under clause (i), shall be credited to the 'first fill' storage quantities, but not to exceed the maximum 'first fill' storage quantities described in section 6(a).

''(f) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects the authority of the Commissioner of Reclamation to perform all other traditional and routine activities of the Commissioner of Reclamation.

''SEC. 8. RESERVOIR LEVELS.

''The Commissioner of Reclamation shall—

''(1) project reservoir water levels over the course of the year; and

''(2) make the projections under paragraph (1) available to—

''(A) the public (including fisheries groups, recreation interests, and municipal and irrigation stakeholders);

''(B) the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service; and

''(C) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

''SEC. 9. EFFECT.

''Except as otherwise provided in this Act, nothing in this Act—

''(1) modifies contractual rights that may exist between contractors and the United States under Reclamation contracts;

''(2) amends or reopens contracts referred to in paragraph (1); or

''(3) modifies any rights, obligations, or requirements that may be provided or governed by Federal or Oregon State law.''.

SEC. 305. OCHOCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT.

(a) EARLY REPAYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm), any landowner within Ochoco Irrigation District, Oregon (referred to in this section as the ''district''), may repay, at any time, the construction costs of the project facilities allocated to the land of the landowner within the district.

(2) EXEMPTION FROM LIMITATIONS.—Upon discharge, in full, of the obligation for repayment of the construction costs allocated to all land of the landowner in the district, the land shall not be subject to the ownership and full-cost pricing limitations of Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.)).

(b) CERTIFICATION.—Upon the request of a landowner who has repaid, in full, the construction costs of the project facilities allocated to the land of the landowner within the district, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide the certification described in section 213(b)(1) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm(b)(1)).

(c) CONTRACT AMENDMENT.—On approval of the district directors and notwithstanding project authorizing authority to the contrary, the Reclamation contracts of the district are modified, without further action by the Secretary of the Interior—

(1) to authorize the use of water for instream purposes, including fish or wildlife purposes, in order for the district to engage in, or take advantage of, conserved water

projects and temporary instream leasing as authorized by Oregon State law;

(2) to include within the district boundary approximately 2,742 acres in the vicinity of McKay Creek, resulting in a total of approximately 44,937 acres within the district boundary;

(3) to classify as irrigable approximately 685 acres within the approximately 2,742 acres of included land in the vicinity of McKay Creek, with those approximately 685 acres authorized to receive irrigation water pursuant to water rights issued by the State of Oregon if the acres have in the past received water pursuant to State water rights; and

(4) to provide the district with stored water from Prineville Reservoir for purposes of supplying up to the approximately 685 acres of land added within the district boundary and classified as irrigable under paragraphs (2) and (3), with the stored water to be supplied on an acre-per-acre basis contingent on the transfer of existing appurtenant McKay Creek water rights to instream use and the issuance of water rights by the State of Oregon for the use of stored water.

(d) LIMITATION.—Except as otherwise provided in subsections (a) and (c), nothing in this section—

(1) modifies contractual rights that may exist between the district and the United States under the Reclamation contracts of the district;

(2) amends or reopens the contracts referred to in paragraph (1); or

(3) modifies any rights, obligations, or relationships that may exist between the district and any owner of land within the district, as may be provided or governed by Federal or Oregon State law.

SEC. 306. DRY-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND VOLUNTARY RELEASES.

(a) PARTICIPATION IN DRY-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLANNING MEETINGS.—The Bureau of Reclamation shall participate in dry-year management planning meetings with the State of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, municipal, agricultural, conservation, recreation, and other interested stakeholders to plan for dry-year conditions.

(b) DRY-YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Reclamation shall develop a dry-year management plan in coordination with the participants referred to in subsection (a).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The plan developed under paragraph (1) shall only recommend strategies, measures, and actions that the irrigation districts and other Bureau of Reclamation contract holders voluntarily agree to implement.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in the plan developed under paragraph (1) shall be mandatory or self-implementing.

(c) VOLUNTARY RELEASE.—In any year, if North Unit Irrigation District or other eligible Bureau of Reclamation contract holders have not initiated contracting with the Bureau of Reclamation for any quantity of the 10,000 acre feet of water described in subsection (a)(3) of section 6 of the Act of August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058) (as added by section 304), by June 1 of any calendar year, with the voluntary agreement of North Unit Irrigation District and other Bureau of Reclamation contract holders referred to in that paragraph, the Secretary may release that quantity of water for the benefit of downstream fish and wildlife as described in section 7 of that Act.

SEC. 307. RELATION TO EXISTING LAWS AND STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS.

Nothing in this title (or an amendment made by this title)—

(1) provides to the Secretary the authority to store and release the ''first fill'' quantities provided for in section 6 of the Act of August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058) (as added by section 304), for any purposes other than the purposes provided for in that section, except for—

(A) the potential instream use resulting from conserved water projects and temporary instream leasing as provided for in section 305(c)(1);

(B) the potential release of additional amounts that may result from voluntary actions agreed to through the dry-year management plan developed under section 306(b); and

(C) the potential release of the 10,000 acre feet for downstream fish and wildlife as provided for in section 306(c);

(2) alters any responsibilities under Oregon State law or Federal law, including section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1536); or

(3) alters the authorized purposes of the Crooked River Project provided in the first section of the Act of August 6, 1956 (70 Stat. 1058; 73 Stat. 554; 78 Stat. 954).

SA 3472. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. PETERSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield is modified to include the land and interests in land as generally depicted on the map titled ''Petersburg National Battlefield Boundary Expansion'', numbered 325/80,080, and dated June 2007. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(b) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES.—The Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') is authorized to acquire the land and interests in land, described in subsection (a), from willing sellers only, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, exchange, or transfer.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall administer any land or interests in land acquired under subsection (b) as part of the Petersburg National Battlefield in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

(d) ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION TRANSFER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is transferred—

(A) from the Secretary to the Secretary of the Army administrative jurisdiction over the approximately 1.170-acre parcel of land depicted as ''Area to be transferred to Fort Lee Military Reservation'' on the map described in paragraph (2); and

(B) from the Secretary of the Army to the Secretary administrative jurisdiction over the approximately 1.171-acre parcel of land depicted as ''Area to be transferred to Petersburg National Battlefield'' on the map described in paragraph (2).

(2) MAP.—The land transferred is depicted on the map titled ''Petersburg National Battlefield Proposed Transfer of Administrative Jurisdiction'', numbered 325/80,801A, dated May 2011. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(3) CONDITIONS OF TRANSFER.—The transfer of administrative jurisdiction under paragraph (1) is subject to the following conditions:

(A) NO REIMBURSEMENT OR CONSIDERATION.—The transfer is without reimbursement or consideration.

(B) MANAGEMENT.—The land transferred to the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall be included within the boundary of the Petersburg National Battlefield and shall be administered as part of that park in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

SA 3473. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, after line 11, add the following:

SEC. 2_____. NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.

(a) PURPOSES OF CONFERENCE.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Section 320(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) develop and submit to the Administrator a comprehensive conservation and management plan that—

''(A) identifies the estuary and estuary resources to be considered within the plan;

''(B) recommends priority protection, conservation, and corrective actions and compliance schedules that address point and nonpoint sources of pollution—

''(i) to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the estuary, including—

''(I) restoration and maintenance of water quality, including wetlands and natural hydrological flows;

''(II) a resilient and diverse indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife; and

''(III) recreational activities in the estuary; and

''(ii) to ensure that the designated uses of the estuary are protected;

''(C) identifies healthy and impaired watershed components by carrying out integrated assessments that include assessments of—

''(i) aquatic habitat and biological integrity;

''(ii) water quality; and

''(iii) natural hydrological flows;

''(D) considers current and future sustainable commercial activities in the estuary;

''(E) considers the effects of ongoing climate, hydrologic, and geologic changes on the estuary, including—

''(i) the identification and assessment of vulnerabilities in the estuary;

''(ii) the development and implementation of adaptation strategies; and

''(iii) the potential impacts of changes in sea level or coastal erosion on estuarine water quality, estuarine habitat, and infrastructure located in the estuary;

''(F) increases public education and awareness with respect to—

''(i) the ecological health of the estuary;

''(ii) the water quality conditions of the estuary; and

''(iii) ocean, estuarine, land, and atmospheric connections and interactions;

''(G) includes performance measures and goals to track implementation of the plan; and

''(H) includes a coordinated monitoring strategy for Federal, State, and local governments and other entities.''.

(2) MONITORING AND MAKING RESULTS AVAILABLE.—Section 320(b) of the Federal Water

Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

''(6) monitor (and make results available to the public regarding)—

''(A) water quality conditions considered by the comprehensive conservation and management plan developed under paragraph (4);

''(B) watershed and habitat conditions that relate to the ecological health and water quality conditions of the estuary; and

''(C) the effectiveness of actions taken pursuant to the comprehensive conservation and management plan developed for the estuary under this subsection;''.

(3) INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—Section 320(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(b)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

''(7) provide information and educational activities on the ecological health and water quality conditions of the estuary; and''.

(4) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The sentence following section 320(b)(8) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (as so redesignated) (33 U.S.C. 1330(b)(8)) is amended by striking ''paragraph (7)'' and inserting ''paragraph (8)''.

(b) COLLABORATIVE PROCESSES.—Section 320(d) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(d)'' and all that follows through ''In developing'' and inserting the following:

''(d) USE OF EXISTING DATA AND COLLABORATIVE PROCESSES.—

''(1) USE OF EXISTING DATA.—In developing''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) USE OF COLLABORATIVE PROCESSES.—In updating a plan under subsection (f)(7) or developing a new plan under subsection (b), a management conference shall make use of collaborative processes—

''(A) to ensure equitable inclusion of affected interests;

''(B) to engage with members of the management conference, including through—

''(i) the use of consensus-based decision rules; and

''(ii) assistance from impartial facilitators, as appropriate;

''(C) to ensure relevant scientific, technical, and economic information is accessible to members;

''(D) to promote accountability and transparency by ensuring members are informed in a timely manner of—

''(i) the purposes and objectives of the management conference; and

''(ii) the results of an evaluation conducted under subsection (f)(6);

''(E) to identify the roles and responsibilities of members—

''(i) in the management conference proceedings; and

''(ii) in the implementation of the plan; and

''(F) to seek resolution of conflicts or disputes as necessary.''.

(c) ADMINISTRATION OF PLANS.—Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

''(f) ADMINISTRATION OF PLANS.—

''(1) APPROVAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which a management conference submits to the Administrator a comprehensive conservation and management plan under this section, and after providing for public review and comment, the Administrator shall approve the plan, if—

''(A) the Administrator determines that the plan meets the requirements of this section; and

''(B) each affected Governor concurs.

''(2) COMPLETENESS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator determines that a plan is incomplete under paragraph (1) or (7), the Administrator shall—

''(i) provide the management conference with written notification of the basis of that finding; and

''(ii) allow the management conference to resubmit a revised plan that addresses, to the maximum extent practicable, the comments contained in the written notification of the Administrator described in clause (i).

''(B) RESUBMISSION.—If the Administrator determines that a revised plan submitted under subparagraph (A)(ii) remains incomplete under paragraph (1) or (7), the Administrator shall allow the management conference to resubmit a revised plan in accordance with subparagraph (A).

''(C) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—In determining whether to approve a comprehensive conservation and management plan under paragraph (1) or (7), the Administrator—

''(i) shall limit the scope of review to a determination of whether the plan meets the minimum requirements of this section; and

''(ii) may not impose, as a condition of approval, any additional requirements.

''(3) FAILURE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR TO RESPOND.—If, by the date that is 120 days after the date on which a plan is submitted or resubmitted under paragraph (1), (2), or (7) the Administrator fails to respond to the submission or resubmission in writing, the plan shall be considered approved.

''(4) FAILURE TO SUBMIT A PLAN.—If, by the date that is 3 years after the date on which a management conference is convened, that management conference fails to submit a comprehensive conservation and management plan or to secure approval for the comprehensive conservation and management plan under this subsection, the Administrator shall terminate the management conference convened under this section.

''(5) IMPLEMENTATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—On the approval of a comprehensive conservation and management plan under this section, the plan shall be implemented.

''(B) USE OF AUTHORIZED AMOUNTS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated under titles II and VI and section 319 may be used in accordance with the applicable requirements of this Act to assist States with the implementation of a plan approved under paragraph (1).

''(6) EVALUATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator shall carry out an evaluation of the implementation of each comprehensive conservation and management plan developed under this section to determine the degree to which the goals of the plan have been met.

''(B) REVIEW AND COMMENT BY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE.—In completing an evaluation under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall submit the results of the evaluation to the appropriate management conference for review and comment.

''(C) REPORT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In completing an evaluation under subparagraph (A), and after providing an opportunity for a management conference to submit comments under subparagraph (B), the Administrator shall issue a report on the results of the evaluation, including the findings and recommendations of the Administrator and any comments received from the management conference.

''(ii) AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC.—The Administrator shall make a report issued under this subparagraph available to the public, including through publication in the Federal Register and on the Internet.

''(D) SPECIAL RULE FOR NEW PLANS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), if a management conference submits a new comprehensive conservation and management plan to the Administrator after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall complete the evaluation of the implementation of the plan required by subparagraph (A) not later than 5 years after the date of such submission and every 5 years thereafter.

''(7) UPDATES.—

''(A) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the Administrator makes an evaluation of the implementation of a comprehensive conservation and management plan available to the public under paragraph (6)(C), a management conference convened under this section shall submit to the Administrator an update of the plan that reflects, to the maximum extent practicable, the results of the program evaluation.

''(B) APPROVAL OF UPDATES.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which a management conference submits to the Administrator an updated comprehensive conservation and management plan under subparagraph (A), and after providing for public review and comment, the Administrator shall approve the updated plan, if the Administrator determines that the updated plan meets the requirements of this section.

''(8) PROBATIONARY STATUS.—The Administrator may consider a management conference convened under this section to be in probationary status, if the management conference has not received approval for an updated comprehensive conservation and management plan under paragraph (7)(B) on or before the last day of the 5-year period beginning on the date on which the Administrator makes an evaluation of the plan available to the public under paragraph (6)(C).''.

(d) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) as subsections (h), (i), (j), (k), and (m), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

''(1) COORDINATION AND COOPERATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army (acting through the Chief of Engineers), the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, as determined by the Administrator, shall, to the maximum extent practicable, cooperate and coordinate activities, including monitoring activities, related to the implementation of a comprehensive conservation and management plan approved by the Administrator.

''(B) LEAD COORDINATING AGENCY.—The Environmental Protection Agency shall serve as the lead coordinating agency under this paragraph.

''(2) CONSIDERATION OF PLANS IN AGENCY BUDGET REQUESTS.—In making an annual budget request for a Federal agency referred to in paragraph (1), the head of such agency shall consider the responsibilities of the agency under this section, including under

comprehensive conservation and management plans approved by the Administrator.

''(3) MONITORING.—The heads of the Federal agencies referred to in paragraph (1) shall collaborate on the development of tools and methodologies for monitoring the ecological health and water quality conditions of estuaries covered by a management conference convened under this section.''.

(e) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (h) (as redesignated by subsection (d)) of section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) EFFECTS OF PROBATIONARY STATUS.—

''(A) REDUCTIONS IN GRANT AMOUNTS.—The Administrator shall reduce, by an amount to be determined by the Administrator, grants for the implementation of a comprehensive conservation and management plan developed by a management conference convened under this section, if the Administrator determines that the management conference is in probationary status under subsection (f)(8).

''(B) TERMINATION OF MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES.—The Administrator shall terminate a management conference convened under this section, and cease funding for the implementation of the comprehensive conservation and management plan developed by the management conference, if the Administrator determines that the management conference has been in probationary status for 2 consecutive years.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 320(i) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (as redesignated by subsection (d)) is amended by striking ''subsection (g)'' and inserting ''subsection (h)''.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) (as redesignated by subsection (d)) is amended by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

''(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator $35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019 for—

''(A) expenses relating to the administration of grants by the Administrator under this section, including the award and oversight of grants, except that such expenses shall not exceed 5 percent of the amount appropriated under this subsection;

''(B) making grants under subsection (h); and

''(C) monitoring the implementation of a conservation and management plan by the management conference, or by the Administrator in any case in which the conference has been terminated.

''(2) ALLOCATIONS.—The Administrator shall provide at least 80 percent of the amounts appropriated under this subsection per fiscal year for the development, implementation, and monitoring of each conservation and management plan eligible for grant assistance under subsection (h).

''(3) REQUIREMENT.—The Administrator shall include in the annual budget request of the Environmental Protection Agency a clear description of the amounts requested by the Administrator to make grants under paragraph (1)(B).''.

(g) RESEARCH.—Section 320(k)(1)(A) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (as redesignated by subsection (d)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''paramenters'' and inserting ''parameters''; and

(2) by inserting ''(including monitoring of both pathways and ecosystems to track the introduction and establishment of nonnative species)'' before '', to provide the Administrator''.

(h) NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM EVALUATION.—Section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) is amended by inserting after subsection (k) (as redesignated by subsection (d)) the following:

''(l) NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM EVALUATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator shall complete an evaluation of the national estuary program established under this section.

''(2) SPECIFIC ASSESSMENTS.—In conducting an evaluation under this subsection, the Administrator shall—

''(A) assess the effectiveness of the national estuary program in improving water quality, natural resources, and sustainable uses of the estuaries covered by management conferences convened under this section;

''(B) identify best practices for improving water quality, natural resources, and sustainable uses of the estuaries covered by management conferences convened under this section, including those practices funded through the use of technical assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency and other Federal agencies;

''(C) assess the reasons why the best practices described in subparagraph (B) resulted in the achievement of program goals;

''(D) identify any redundant requirements for reporting by recipients of a grant under this section; and

''(E) develop and recommend a plan for eliminating any redundancies.

''(3) REPORT.—In completing an evaluation under this subsection, the Administrator shall issue a report on the results of the evaluation, including the findings and recommendations of the Administrator.

''(4) AVAILABILITY.—The Administrator shall make a report issued under this subsection available to management conferences convened under this section and the public, including through publication in the Federal Register and on the Internet.''.

(i) CONVENING OF CONFERENCE.—Section 320(a)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(2) CONVENING OF CONFERENCE.—'' and all that follows through ''In any case'' and inserting the following:

''(2) CONVENING OF CONFERENCE.—In any case''; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B).

SA 3474. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SECTION ____. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION THAT WOULD FURTHER RESTRICT THE RIGHT OF LAW-ABIDING AMERICANS TO OWN A FIREARM.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, amendment, resolution, or conference report that further restricts the right of law-abiding individuals in the United States to own a firearm.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''further restricts the right of law-abiding individuals in the United States to own a firearm'' means any further restriction on the right of law-abiding individuals in the United States to own a firearm not contained in law before the date of enactment of this Act, including any legislation that—

(1) prohibits, increases restrictions on, or regulates the manufacture or ownership of any firearm that is permitted under Federal law before the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) prohibits the manufacture or possession of specified categories of firearms based on the characteristics of such firearms that are permitted to be manufacture or possessed under Federal law before the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) prohibits specific firearms or categories of firearms that are permitted under Federal law before the date of enactment of this Act;

(4) limits the size of ammunition feeding devices or prohibits categories of ammunition feeding devices that are permitted under Federal law before the date of enactment of this Act;

(5) requires background checks through a Federal firearms licensee for private transfers of firearms if the transfers do not require a background check under Federal law before the date of enactment of this Act;

(6) establishes a record-keeping system for the sale of firearms not established before the date of enactment of this Act; or

(7) imposes prison sentences for sales, gifts, or raffles of firearms to veterans who are unknown to the transferor as a person prohibited from possessing a firearm that would not otherwise be imposed under Federal law before the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) SUPER MAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.—

(1) WAIVER.—In the Senate, subsection (a) may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

SA 3475. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF LAND.

(a) PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF LAND.—No land or interests in land may be added by acquisition, donation, transfer of administrative jurisdiction, or otherwise to the inventory of land and interests in land administered by the Bureau of Land Management until a centralized database of all lands identified as suitable for disposal by Resource Management Plans for lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau is easily accessible to the public on a website of the Bureau. The database required under this subsection shall be updated and maintained to reflect changes in the status of lands identified for disposal under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide to the Committee on Natural Resources in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in the Senate a report detailing the status and timing for completion of the database required by subsection (a).

SA 3476. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. SALE OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS SUITABLE FOR DISPOSAL.

(a) COMPETITIVE SALE OF LAND.—The Secretary shall offer the identified Federal land for disposal by competitive sale for not less than fair market value as determined by an independent appraiser.

(b) EXISTING RIGHTS.—The sale of identified Federal land under this section shall be subject to valid existing rights.

(c) PROCEEDS OF SALE OF LAND.—All net proceeds from the sale of identified Federal land under this section shall be deposited directly into the Treasury for reduction of the public debt.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate—

(1) a list of any identified Federal land that has not been sold under subsection (a) and the reasons such land was not sold; and

(2) an update of the report submitted to Congress by the Secretary on May 27, 1997, pursuant to section 390(g) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127; 110 Stat. 1024), including a current inventory of the Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary that is suitable for disposal.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) IDENTIFIED FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''identified Federal land'' means the parcels of Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary that were identified as suitable for disposal in the report submitted to Congress by the Secretary on May 27, 1997, pursuant to section 390(g) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127; 110 Stat. 1024), except the following:

(A) Land not identified for disposal in the applicable land use plan.

(B) Land subject to a Recreation and Public Purpose conveyance application.

(C) Land identified for State selection.

(D) Land identified for Indian tribe allotments.

(E) Land identified for local government use.

(F) Land that the Secretary chooses to dispose under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

(G) Land that is segregated for exchange or under agreements for exchange.

(H) Land subject to exchange as authorized or directed by Congress.

(I) Land that the Secretary determines contain significant impediments for disposal including—

(i) high disposal costs;

(ii) the presence of significant natural or cultural resources;

(iii) land survey problems or title conflicts;

(iv) habitat for threatened or endangered species; and

(v) mineral leases and mining claims.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SA 3477. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PROHIBITION ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subsection (b) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts may be obligated or expended to provide any direct United States assistance, loan guarantee, or debt relief to the Palestinian Authority, or any affiliated governing entity or leadership organization.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall have no effect for a fiscal year if the President certifies to Congress during that fiscal year that the Palestinian Authority has—

(1) formally recognized the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state;

(2) publicly recognized the state of Israel;

(3) renounced terrorism;

(4) purged all individuals with terrorist ties from security services;

(5) terminated funding of anti-American and anti-Israel incitement;

(6) publicly pledged to not engage in war with Israel; and

(7) honored previous diplomatic agreements.

SA 3478. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—SECOND AMENDMENT ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2014

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Second Amendment Enforcement Act of 2014''.

SEC. 302. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

(2) As the Congress and the Supreme Court of the United States have recognized, the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution protects the rights of individuals, including those who are not members of a militia or engaged in military service or training, to keep and bear arms.

(3) The law-abiding citizens of the District of Columbia are deprived by local laws of handguns, rifles, and shotguns that are commonly kept by law-abiding persons throughout the United States for sporting use and for lawful defense of their persons, homes, businesses, and families.

(4) The District of Columbia has the highest per capita murder rate in the Nation, which may be attributed in part to local laws prohibiting possession of firearms by law-abiding persons who would otherwise be able to defend themselves and their loved ones in their own homes and businesses.

(5) The Federal Gun Control Act of 1968, as amended by the Firearms Owners' Protection Act of 1986, and the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993, provide comprehensive Federal regulations applicable in the District of Columbia as elsewhere. In addition, existing District of Columbia criminal laws punish possession and illegal use of firearms by violent criminals and felons. Consequently, there is no need for local laws which only affect and disarm law-abiding citizens.

(6) Officials of the District of Columbia have indicated their intention to continue to unduly restrict lawful firearm possession and use by citizens of the District.

(7) Legislation is required to correct the District of Columbia's law in order to restore the fundamental rights of its citizens under the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and thereby enhance public safety.

SEC. 303. REFORM D.C. COUNCIL'S AUTHORITY TO RESTRICT FIREARMS.

Section 4 of the Act entitled ''An Act to prohibit the killing of wild birds and wild animals in the District of Columbia'', approved June 30, 1906 (34 Stat. 809; sec. 1–303.43, D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''Nothing in this section or any other provision of law shall authorize, or shall be construed to permit, the Council, the Mayor, or any governmental or regulatory authority of the District of Columbia to prohibit, constructively prohibit, or unduly burden the ability of persons not prohibited from possessing firearms under Federal law from acquiring, possessing in their homes or businesses, or using for sporting, self-protection or other lawful purposes, any firearm neither prohibited by Federal law nor subject to the National Firearms Act. The District of Columbia shall not have authority to enact laws or regulations that discourage or eliminate the private ownership or use of firearms. Nothing in the previous two sentences shall be construed to prohibit the District of Columbia from regulating or prohibiting the carrying of firearms by a person, either concealed or openly, other than at the person's dwelling place, place of business, or on other land possessed by the person.''.

SEC. 304. REPEAL D.C. SEMIAUTOMATIC BAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(10) of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 (sec. 7–2501.01(10), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

''(10) 'Machine gun' means any firearm which shoots, is designed to shoot, or may be readily restored to shoot automatically, more than 1 shot without manual reloading by a single function of the trigger, and includes the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed and intended, for use in converting a weapon into a machine gun, and any combination of parts from which a machine gun can be assembled if such parts are in the possession or under the control of a person.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO PROVISIONS SETTING FORTH CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Section 1(c) of the Act of July 8, 1932 (47 Stat. 651; sec. 22–4501(c), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) 'Machine gun', as used in this Act, has the meaning given such term in section 101(10) of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975.''.

SEC. 305. REPEAL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT.

(a) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 201(a) of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 (sec. 7–2502.01(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking ''any firearm, unless'' and all that follows through paragraph (3) and inserting the following: ''any firearm described in subsection (c).''.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF FIREARMS REMAINING ILLEGAL.—Section 201 of such Act (sec. 7–2502.01, D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) A firearm described in this subsection is any of the following:

''(1) A sawed-off shotgun.

''(2) A machine gun.

''(3) A short-barreled rifle.''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 201 of such Act (sec. 7–2502.01, D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking ''Registration requirements'' and inserting ''Firearm Possession''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO FIREARMS CONTROL REGULATIONS ACT.—The Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 is amended as follows:

(1) Sections 202 through 211 (secs. 7–2502.02 through 7–2502.11, D.C. Official Code) are repealed.

(2) Section 101 (sec. 7–2501.01, D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking paragraph (13).

(3) Section 401 (sec. 7–2504.01, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''the District;'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''the District, except that a person may engage in hand loading, reloading, or custom loading of ammunition for firearms lawfully possessed under this Act.''; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking ''which are unregisterable under section 202'' and inserting ''which are prohibited under section 201''.

(4) Section 402 (sec. 7–2504.02, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''Any person eligible to register a firearm'' and all that follows through ''such business,'' and inserting the following: ''Any person not otherwise prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm under Federal or District law, or from being licensed under section 923 of title 18, United States Code,''; and

(B) in subsection (b), by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) The applicant's name;''.

(5) Section 403(b) (sec. 7–2504.03(b), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking ''registration certificate'' and inserting ''dealer's license''.

(6) Section 404(a)(3) (sec. 7–2504.04(a)(3)), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking ''registration certificate number (if any) of the firearm,'';

(B) in subparagraph (B)(iv), by striking ''holding the registration certificate'' and inserting ''from whom it was received for repair'';

(C) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking ''and registration certificate number (if any) of the firearm'';

(D) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking ''registration certificate number or''; and

(E) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E).

(7) Section 406(c) (sec. 7–2504.06(c), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) Within 45 days of a decision becoming effective which is unfavorable to a licensee or to an applicant for a dealer's license, the licensee or application shall—

''(1) lawfully remove from the District all destructive devices in his inventory, or peaceably surrender to the Chief all destructive devices in his inventory in the manner provided in section 705; and

''(2) lawfully dispose, to himself or to another, any firearms and ammunition in his inventory.''.

(8) Section 407(b) (sec. 7–2504.07(b), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking ''would not be eligible'' and all that follows and inserting ''is prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm under Federal or District law.''.

(9) Section 502 (sec. 7–2505.02, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(A) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) Any person or organization not prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm under Federal or District law may sell or otherwise transfer ammunition or any firearm, except those which are prohibited under section 201, to a licensed dealer.'';

(B) by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

''(c) Any licensed dealer may sell or otherwise transfer a firearm to any person or organization not otherwise prohibited from possessing or receiving such firearm under Federal or District law.'';

(C) in subsection (d), by striking paragraphs (2) and (3); and

(D) by striking subsection (e).

(10) Section 704 (sec. 7–2507.04, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''any registration certificate or'' and inserting ''a''; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking ''registration certificate,''.

(c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2(4) of the Illegal Firearm Sale and Distribution Strict Liability Act of 1992 (sec. 7–2531.01(4), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or ignoring proof of the purchaser's residence in the District of Columbia''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''registration and''.

SEC. 306. REPEAL HANDGUN AMMUNITION BAN.

Section 601(3) of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 (sec. 7–2506.01(3), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking ''is the holder of the valid registration certificate for'' and inserting ''owns''.

SEC. 307. RESTORE RIGHT OF SELF DEFENSE IN THE HOME.

Section 702 of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 (sec. 7–2507.02, D.C. Official Code) is repealed.

SEC. 308. REMOVE CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR POSSESSION OF UNREGISTERED FIREARMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 706 of the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 (sec. 7–2507.06, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) by striking ''that:'' and all that follows through ''(1) A'' and inserting ''that a''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to violations occurring after the 60-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 309. REMOVE CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR CARRYING A FIREARM IN ONE'S DWELLING OR OTHER PREMISES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(a) of the Act of July 8, 1932 (47 Stat. 651; sec. 22–4504(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking ''a pistol,'' and inserting the following: ''except in his dwelling house or place of business or on other land possessed by that person, whether loaded or unloaded, a firearm,''; and

(2) by striking ''except that:'' and all that follows through ''(2) If the violation'' and inserting ''except that if the violation''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5 of such Act (47 Stat. 651; sec. 22–4505, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) by striking ''pistol'' each place it appears and inserting ''firearm''; and

(2) by striking ''pistols'' each place it appears and inserting ''firearms''.

SEC. 310. AUTHORIZING PURCHASES OF FIREARMS BY DISTRICT RESIDENTS.

Section 922 of title 18, United States Code, is amended in paragraph (b)(3) by inserting after ''other than a State in which the licensee's place of business is located'' the following: '', or to the sale or delivery of a handgun to a resident of the District of Columbia by a licensee whose place of business is located in Maryland or Virginia,''.

SEC. 311. REPEALS OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ACTS.

The Firearms Registration Amendment Act of 2008 and the Firearms Registration Emergency Amendment Act of 2008, as passed by the District of Columbia, are repealed.

SEC. 312. FIREARMS PERMITTED ON POSTAL PROPERTY.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 930(g)(1) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and'';

(2) by striking ''The term 'Federal facility' means'' and inserting the following: ''The term ''Federal facility''—

''(A) means''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) does not include a building or part thereof owned or leased by the United States Postal Service.''.

(b) CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS.—The Postal Service shall amend section 232.1 of title 39, Code of Federal Regulations, to specify that an individual who is otherwise permitted under law to carry a firearm may, in accordance with the law of the State in which the postal property is located—

(1) carry a firearm while on postal property, either openly or concealed; and

(2) store a firearm on postal property.

SEC. 313. PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BEAR ARMS ON PUBLIC LAND.

Section 512 of the Credit CARD Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 1a–7b) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BEAR ARMS ON PUBLIC LAND.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) AGENCY.—The term 'agency' has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

''(B) PUBLIC LAND.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'public land' means any land owned or administered by the United States.

''(ii) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'public land' does not include—

''(I) land located on the outer Continental Shelf; or

''(II) land located in—

''(aa) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

''(bb) Guam;

''(cc) American Samoa;

''(dd) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

''(ee) the Federated States of Micronesia;

''(ff) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

''(gg) the Republic of Palau; or

''(hh) the United States Virgin Islands.

''(2) POSSESSION OF A FIREARM ON PUBLIC LAND.—The head of any agency shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm, including an assembled or functional firearm, on public land if—

''(A) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and

''(B) the possession of the firearm complies with the law of the State in which the public land is located.''.

SEC. 314. SEVERABILITY.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, if any provision of this title, or any amendment made by this title, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, this title and amendments made by this title, and the application of such provision or amendment to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SA 3479. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 25, strike lines 1 through 20, and insert the following:

(1) FEDERAL PUBLIC LAND.—The term ''Federal public land'' means any land or water that is owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate, and the public, that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to explore wildland fire preparedness and to consider the President's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2015 for the Forest Service.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by e-mail to john__assini@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Meghan Conklin at (202) 224–8046 or John Assini at (202) 224–9313.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 8, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 8, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Role of Regulation in Shaping Equity Market Structure and Electronic Trading.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, on July 8, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Falling Through the Cracks: The Challenges of Prevention and Identification in Child Trafficking and Private Re-homing.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 8, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 8, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., to hold an East Asian and Pacific Affairs subcommittee hearing entitled, ''Combating Forced Labor and Modern-Day Slavery in East Asia and the Pacific.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 8, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a European Affairs subcommittee hearing entitled, ''Renewed Focus on European Energy Security.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 12 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2014, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 906, 797, and 904; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form on each nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote, without intervening action or debate, on the nominations in the order listed; that all rollcall votes after the first be 10 minutes in length; further, that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 440, S. Res. 447.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 447) recognizing the threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in the efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble.

(Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic.)

(Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic.)

S. RES. 447

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted at Paris December 10, 1948, states that ''everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers'';

Whereas, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 3 of each year as ''World Press Freedom Day'' to celebrate the fundamental principles of freedom of the press, to evaluate freedom of the press around the world, to defend the media from attacks on its independence, and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession;

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/68/163) on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, which unequivocally condemns all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers, including torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, and intimidation and harassment in both conflict and non-conflict situations;

Whereas 2014 is the 21st anniversary of World Press Freedom Day, which focuses on the theme ''Media Freedom for a Better Future: Shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda'';

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note; Public Law 111–166), which was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate and signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010, expanded the examination of freedom of the press around the world in the annual human rights report of the Department of State;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, 71 journalists and 39 citizen journalists were killed in 2013 in connection with their collection and dissemination of news and information;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the 3 deadliest countries for journalists on assignment in 2013 were Syria, Iraq, and Egypt, and in Syria, the deadliest country for such journalists, an unprecedented number of journalists were abducted;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 617 journalists have been murdered since 1992 without the perpetrators of such crimes facing punishment;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the 5 countries with the highest number of unpunished journalist murders between 2004 to 2013 are Iraq, Somalia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Syria;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, 826 journalists and 127 citizen journalists were arrested in 2013;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 211 journalists worldwide were in prison on December 1, 2013;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, the 5 countries with the highest number of journalists in prison are Syria, China, Eritrea, Turkey, and Iran;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, the Government of Syria and extremist rebel militias have intentionally targeted professional and citizen journalists, causing dramatic repercussions for the freedom of the press throughout the region;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has engaged in an unprecedented campaign to silence the independent press and undermine freedom of expression, including its recent efforts to destabilize Ukraine;

Whereas Reporters Without Borders has expressed concern that journalists in Cuba have suffered physical attacks, arbitrary detention, and death threats, and have been prevented access to information;

Whereas Freedom House has cited a deteriorating environment for internet freedom around the world and has ranked Iran, Cuba, China, Syria, and Ethiopia as having the worst obstacles to access, limits on content, and violations of user rights among the countries and territories rated by Freedom House as ''Not Free'';

Whereas freedom of the press is a key component of democratic governance, the activism of civil society, and socioeconomic development; and

Whereas freedom of the press enhances public accountability, transparency, and participation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern about the threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world following World Press Freedom Day, held on May 3, 2014;

(2) commends journalists and media workers around the world for their essential role in promoting government accountability, defending democratic activity, and strengthening civil society, despite threats to their safety;

(3) pays tribute to the journalists who have lost their lives carrying out their work;

(4) calls on governments abroad to implement United Nations General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/68/163), by thoroughly investigating and seeking to resolve outstanding cases of violence against journalists, including murders and kidnappings, while ensuring the protection of witnesses;

(5) condemns all actions around the world that suppress freedom of the press, such as the recent kidnappings of journalists and media workers in eastern Ukraine by pro-Russian militant groups;

(6) reaffirms the centrality of freedom of the press to efforts by the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world; and

(7) calls on the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to ensure that the United States Government rapidly identifies, publicizes, and responds to threats against freedom of the press around the world;

(B) to continue to urge foreign governments to transparently investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks against journalists; and

(C) to continue to highlight the issue of threats against freedom of the press year-round.

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute to the preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 447), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2569

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I understand that S. 2569, introduced earlier today by Senator WALSH, is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2569) to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2014

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each and the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session, as provided under the previous order; and, finally, that following disposition of the Adams nomination and resuming legislative session, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, and that all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate proceed to vote on adoption of the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, tomorrow there will be at least one rollcall vote at 12 noon on confirmation of the Castro nomination to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. We expect voice votes on confirmation of the Vetter and Adams nominations and on adoption of the motion to proceed to the sportsmen's bill.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DONNELLY. 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 6:03 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 9, 2014, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CARPENTER/WALDEN FAMILY REUNION

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Carpenter/Walden Family Reunion, and I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this wonderful occasion. This reunion affirms the importance of family gatherings, drawing together relatives from Atlanta and as far away as Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Baltimore, Washington, DC, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. They are continually reaching out for more relatives to come from all parts of the United States to reunite for a weekend of activities to reconnect and celebrate the meaning of ''Family.''

The Carpenter family celebrates the matrimonial union of Pason Carpenter (born 1828) to his wife, who predeceased him, and from this union, nine children were born and raised by his second wife, Henrietta. From this union, there have been at least 100 direct descendants and hundreds of other relatives who bear the Surnames of Carpenter and Walden. We are the descendants of Pason Carpenter, whose son, Charlie Carpenter, bore a son named John H. Carpenter (who married Arie) and among 7 children, their grandfather, Willie Carpenter (who married Estelle Moody) and their 8 children were: Leroy, Florence, Naomi, Hawthorne, Georgetta, Willie Jr., Earl, and Curley. This reunion committee is largely comprised of the children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren of Leroy Carpenter.

The Carpenter/Walden's first reunion was started by Emma Shands, who hosted mass cook-outs in her backyard many years ago during the 1950s in Hopewell, Virginia. In July each year, all of the Carpenters and Waldens along with friends and relatives came. This ''cook-out'' tradition still goes on today and serves as a traditional homecoming that takes place on the first Sunday of August and everyone gathers in Virginia to celebrate. The Carpenters and Waldens connect with family and friends and worship at Diamond Grove Baptist Church in Skippers, Virginia. One of the family's most senior members, Emma's brother, Buddy Walden, has extended his efforts to link the family, and his research of the family roots entailed venturing from state to state. This tradition prompts an inquiry at each reunion closeout for a family volunteer to host the next reunion held bi-annually in that family's hometown. This has been the Carpenter/Walden tradition for the past 10–20 years where hundreds of relatives from all corners of the United States reunite for a weekend of activities, reconnecting, and celebrating. Youth filled with exuberance along with the elders seasoned by wisdom of years will unite because of this occasion. They honor Johnny Walden, the oldest of the family's seasoned elders at the age of 90+, twins Jeff and Kaiser Carpenter who are our Carpenter/Walden history/storytellers, and the family now welcomes the youngest additions, Simone Carpenter and Jerome Goode, Jr.

The Governor of the State of Georgia, Nathan Deal, recognizes this momentous gathering with a welcome letter and the host city of Stockbridge, GA, issued a proclamation to honor the Carpenter/Walden reunion. I ask that this great legislative body stand with me and add to these acknowledgements by honoring the Carpenter and Walden families. I am proud to represent the Carpenter/Walden family members who call the 13th Congressional District of Georgia home.

IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIOCESE OF MONTEREY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey. Established in 1984, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey is a faith-based, nonprofit social service agency providing aid to individuals and families in the four California Central Coast counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and San Luis Obispo. Formed with a mission to assist individuals and families of all backgrounds and beliefs by providing them with tools, training, and resources to help meet basic necessities for life, Catholic Charities also provides information and referrals to social service agencies in each community it serves.

The people of California's Central Coast are fortunate to be served by this distinguished organization. Serving over 20,000 individuals annually, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey provides help and creates hope through its three core areas of service: Mental Health Counseling, Immigration and Citizenship, and Family Supportive Services. By taking into account the whole person as well as the family and life situation, the organization takes a holistic approach to helping people change their lives, rise up out of poverty, and overcome the barriers to self-sufficiency. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey is affiliated with Catholic Charities USA, the nation's largest social services network that serves more than seven million people each year. Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey is dedicated to addressing the root causes of poverty and participates in the Campaign to Cut Poverty, part of a nationwide effort started by Catholic Charities USA, and collaboration with coalitions of community-based organizations, interfaith allies, government representatives, and business leaders in the four counties of the Diocese of Monterey to cut poverty in half by 2020.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Monterey is one of the few non-profit organizations in the region that is certified by the Board of Immigration Appeals, which is the highest administrative body responsible for recognizing and accrediting organizations that practice before the immigration courts. They provide guidance for those who struggle in achieving lawful permanent residence status and those who wish to become citizens of our nation. Catholic Charities staff are a significant resource in our communities known for their experience in the processes of becoming legal residents and/or citizens. Staff ensures full and accurate assistance for the current and ever growing, caseload of 5,000 clients annually in addition to over 9,000 services for consultation, replacement of legal permanent cards, work authorization renewal, applications for U.S. citizenship and English translation of certificates of birth, marriage, divorce, death and adoption. In the fall of 2013, Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey assisted 400 youth and young adults with the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and work authorization applications. No doubt those numbers will continue to grow given the recent extension of the program. Catholic Charities is one of the few trusted organizations in our community and we are lucky to have them.

Mr. Speaker, I know the whole House joins me in congratulating Catholic Charities Diocese of Monterey on its 30th anniversary, and commend the organization for its many contributions and quality of service to the public.

PASTOR DUONG KIM KHAI DUONG

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, since the early 1990s, Pastor Duong Kim Khai Duong has been detained or arrested thirteen times, usually for organizing prayer sessions.

Most recently, he was arrested in August 2010 for his efforts to advocate for religious freedom and social justice. The trumped up charge? Attempting to overthrow the government.

Following his arrest, it took over two months for authorities to tell his family where he was being detained.

Now, he faces five years in prison followed by five years of house arrest.

In 2011, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention ruled that the Vietnam government's detention and conviction of Pastor Duong Kim Khai and six other activists were in violation of international law.

But the State Department continues to ignore the situation, refusing to include Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern for religious freedom.

Pastor Duong Kim Khai Duong looks forward to the day he meets his Maker but that will be an awful day for the Communist government of Vietnam.

And that's just the way it is.

● This ''bullet'' symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

RECOGNIZING THE TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE APACHES' NJCAA DIVISION III WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great honor to extend most heartfelt congratulations to the Tyler Junior College Apaches Baseball Team in completing an outstanding season which concluded with the team's triumph in the 2014 NJCAA Division III World Series baseball tournament.

Through hard work and determination, the TJC Apaches defeated Cumberland County (New Jersey) Community College in front of a wildly enthusiastic crowd with a final score of 6–3.

In spite of a rain delay which lasted two and a half hours, hundreds of devoted fans remained to cheer on the Apaches in a game which lasted until after midnight.

The TJC Apaches made history for their school by bringing home the second national baseball championship title, and the fiftieth national championship for TJC since athletics was first organized back in the 1940s.

The TJC Apaches exemplify what it means to work seamlessly as a team, with remarkable victorious results. Their sportsmanship, humility, determination, hard work, and skill are to be commended, admired, and emulated.

The national championship team was led to victory by an outstanding coaching and administrative staff including: Head Baseball Coach Doug Wren; Assistant Coaches Travis Chick and Josh Salmon; Training Staff Eddy McGuire, Jeff Derrick, MacKenzie Stilwell, Daniel Garcia, and Martha Rascon; and Student Support Staff consisting of Trenton Buchhorn, Talyn Callucci, and Chad Cunningham.

Great praise goes to the team members Manny Galvan, Tim Hunter, Daniel Brown, Dusty Lynch, Gunnar Quick, Cody Broussard, Kevin Kubeczka, Collin Lawrence, Justin Monsour, Dynas Doud, Brandon Webb, Garrett Johnston, Reid Russell, Kevin Williams, Anthony Soriano, Jarrett Dooley, Travis Johnson, Eric Polivka, Zane Otten, Will Abbott, Eric Stegent, Brandon Koncaba, Brent Ellerbee, Connor Wrye, Cody Brown, Kash Armstrong, Grant Freels, Jacob Hickman, Lane Norwood, and Tyler Gaines.

Tyler Junior College has a rich history of academic and athletic achievement, and once again students and staff have risen to the pinnacle of success under the expert leadership of TJC President Dr. L. Michael Metke; Athletic Director Dr. Tim Drain; Assistant Athletic Director Chuck Smith; and Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Juan Mejia.

Accolades must also be given to the players' families and the entire community of supporters who reside in east Texas and beyond, who embraced the warrior spirit for which the team was named. Without these devoted fans' support and encouragement, the Apaches' road to yet another national championship would have been much more difficult.

It is with great pride that I join the constituents of the First District of Texas in congratulating the players and athletic staff of the 2014 NJCAA Division III World Series National Champions, the TJC Apaches Baseball Team. Their legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

HONORING MS. FRANCES DUNHAM CATLETT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Ms. Frances Dunham Catlett. Known throughout the Bay Area as a writer, painter, social worker, poet and devoted mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great-great grandmother, Ms. Catlett has left an indelible mark on our community. With her passing on April 22, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of her life's work.

Born on July 3, 1908 in Hartford, Connecticut, Ms. Frances Dunham Catlett was raised with an acute awareness of slavery in America. Her mother was formerly enslaved and her father was the son of a white slave trader. As the youngest of ten siblings, Ms. Catlett always proved to be an excellent student. Graduating high school in 1926, she received a four-year scholarship to the University of Chicago.

In 1945, Ms. Catlett and her two sons, Kaye Lawrence and Michael Andrew, moved to San Francisco, where she worked at the Welfare Department. Breaking racial barriers, she was known as one of the first African American social workers in San Francisco. In addition, she later enrolled in Mills College and was one of the first African Americans to earn a graduate degree from that university. Ms. Catlett went on to teach social welfare at California State University, Sacramento.

After moving to Berkeley, California, Ms. Frances Dunham Catlett enrolled in an art class at the de Young Museum in San Francisco and discovered her love of painting. Her artwork was showcased at the Oakland Museum of California and other galleries in Oakland and San Francisco.

In addition, she published her third person autobiography in a compilation of stories entitled ''Black Women Stirring the Waters.'' Her entry, ''Soft Colors, Bold Statements,'' acknowledged the strong role her family and supportive church community played in her success in life.

Ms. Frances Dunham Catlett was an inspiration to many African American women. At the age of 103, Carolyn Schlam painted Ms. Catlett's portrait to share her character and life story with others. This portrait, ''Frances at 103,'' was displayed in the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC and will move to the National Museum of African American History and Culture when it opens in 2015.

With an adventurous spirit, Ms. Catlett traveled extensively, hiked with the Sierra Club, did Tai Chi into her 90's and bowled and painted until she was 102. She was featured as one of six women in the documentary ''Still Kicking: Six Artistic Women of Project Arts & Longevity,'' which challenged the perception and attitudes about aging. She was truly a woman for all seasons.

Several years ago, I visited Frances at her apartment in Berkeley. We talked about many things, including politics and art. She showed me many of her beautiful paintings, which inspired me to purchase one and hang in my office for my constituents to admire. This painting is a reminder of her artistic genius, her lively and beautiful spirit and her big heart.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual, Ms. Frances Dunham Catlett. Ms. Catlett's contributions have truly impacted so many lives throughout the Bay Area. I join all of Frances' loved ones in celebrating her incredible life. She will be deeply missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BABCOCK & WILCOX COMPANY

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, nothing is more important to our Nation's security than its nuclear deterrent. And yet, most of us give little thought to the care, attention, and expertise required to keep these aging machines safe, secure, and reliable.

It is my honor to represent a substantial number of the people who make sure that our nuclear deterrent can be trusted. Those who work at the Pantex Plant near Amarillo cannot talk much about their work because it is classified, but every day they do extraordinary work that is central to keeping our country safe.

For the last 13 years, the management team at the Pantex Plant, as well as the Y–12 facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, has been led by the Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) Company. In my view—and it is proven by their record—B&W has done an outstanding job of managing these very important facilities under quite difficult circumstances.

With tight or declining budgets and constant demands to find ways to cut costs yet having no room for error in carrying out the mission, B&W has helped ensure that workers were safe, that the weapons and material were secure, and that our Nation's security was protected. At Pantex, they received a number of awards for worker safety, security certification, and outstanding performance.

All along, B&W also supported the community by donating more than half a million dollars annually to worthwhile charities and causes.

Usually, when we hear about government contractors, it is when something has gone wrong. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to take a moment to recognize more than a decade of contributions to our Nation's security at these key facilities.

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MONTH

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, for nearly two decades, one of my primary missions in Congress has been a simple one—to make our federal government a better partner to our local communities. Specifically, I believe we need to focus on making our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure by dealing with low-tech, high-impact, inexpensive solutions to some of society's most expensive problems. In many instances that means making the communities that our landscape architects know how to create, a reality. As an honorary member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and humble recipient of the Olmsted Medal, it's an honor to highlight the importance of National Landscape Architecture Month and the many men and women who carry out this critical and visionary work.

National Landscape Architecture Month (NLAM) provides all of us—the professionals, the outside advocates like myself, and future designers—with an opportunity to more fully appreciate landscape architecture's benefits and contributions. In recognition of NLAM, I would like to highlight the landscape architecture profession and how landscape architects utilize design to make our lives not only better and more enjoyable by creating engaging public spaces, but also more secure by creating efficient, cost-effective infrastructure solutions. Landscape architecture connects the analysis, planning, design, management, and stewardship of the natural and built environments through science and design. The presence of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and landscape architect professionals in our communities has always been positive, and as the desire for livable spaces grows and the natural environment continues to get squeezed by increased urbanization, this profession will get significantly more attention.

During the month of April, landscape architects in my hometown of Portland, Oregon and across the country held public events showcasing the work of the profession that directly engage the public through local projects, speaking engagements, and in-school presentations. This year's theme, Career Discovery, introduced young people to landscape architecture as a possible career path and focused on introducing underrepresented minorities to the profession, illustrating the fundamentals of landscape architecture and design, and demonstrating how the profession can unlock human creativity and imagination to develop sustainable, livable spaces in communities across the Nation.

In addition to beautifying and making our communities more livable, in which people can walk, bike, or take public transportation, landscape architecture is a critical tool for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and responding to the effects of climate change and extreme weather events. The field is also making new strides to improve America's aging transportation infrastructure. Landscape architects are now incorporating multiuse transportation corridors that accommodate all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, people with disabilities, and people who rely on public transportation.

Landscape architecture also touches our everyday lives in the design of residential communities, commercial developments, and streetscapes. Landscape architects manage storm water and other water quality issues through green infrastructure practices—reducing runoff, improving water quality, and recharging groundwater supplies. The use of trees and vegetation in urban design are critical to a sustainable environment, and are major combatants to ground and water pollution.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Landscape Architecture Month and the contributions landscape architects are making to transform our aging infrastructure into well-planned communities across the Nation. Every day, these well-qualified, licensed professionals continue to lead the way in improving the lives and safety of the American people for generations, both present and future.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS BOUCHER 2014 PAUL BUNYAN ''SERVICE ABOVE SELF'' AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on ''National Paul Bunyan Day,'' it is fitting to announce the incredibly deserving winner of the 2014 Paul Bunyan ''Service Above Self'' Award. Wisconsin's 7th District is home to the final resting place of Paul Bunyan, but the legend of this larger-than-life lumberjack is alive and well. Paul Bunyan is a symbol of might, the willingness to work hard, and the resolve to overcome all obstacles. This year's Paul Bunyan ''Service Above Self'' Award winner is Dennis Boucher of Marshfield. He embodies the larger-than-life spirit of Paul Bunyan and has gone above and beyond to improve our 7th District community.

Rural homelessness is a prevalent issue in our area. About 2 years ago, a group of community leaders, including Dennis, got together to brainstorm ways to address this issue. Discussions led to the local St. Vincent de Paul Society, which had a plot of land available that could be used to build transitional housing.

Dennis took up the mighty challenge of leading the effort to establish a transition housing facility for those in need in Marshfield.

According to his nominator, ''From the moment of his involvement, Dennis has never wavered. He has, with quiet confidence and supreme faith, pushed the project forward such that today there is a fourteen apartment family homeless shelter in Marshfield. Currently, there are nine families housed there; soon to be eleven.

''Dennis has spent hours as a volunteer, charitable donation coordinator, construction worker, janitor, cook, and now as a volunteer to provide oversight to the shelter as we build a base of volunteers and paid staff to assure 24/7 supervision of the facility. There is no task too big or too small for Dennis to address with all of his energy. Dennis Boucher's impact on our community will continue for years to come.''

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize this honorable man. On behalf of this body and my constituents, I'd offer to Dennis our congratulations and thanks for his invaluable commitment to our community and the people we strive to serve.

CONGRATULATING MR. HARRY C. McCANN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the retirement of Harry C. McCann, Bucks County Director of Law Enforcement Training, I acknowledge his 25 years of exemplary service and commitment to the County of Bucks and his many contributions as an educator of municipal police officers and administration of justice students. As director, he developed, coordinated, and implemented training programs for more than 800 law enforcement officers in Bucks County's 42 outstanding police departments. These officers went on to save countless lives in Southeastern Pennsylvania—a lasting legacy well beyond his own retirement. Harry served as project manager for the county's DUI and expansive highway safety programs and was responsible for oversight of the Bucks County Department of Corrections In-Service and Correctional Academy programs. In wearing many hats, Harry McCann has demonstrated tireless service and leadership and, in so doing, has set an example for others who may follow in his path. I wish him happiness and continued success in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DIANA POTEAT STALLINGS HOBBY: SCHOLAR, PHILANTHROPIST, PUBLIC SERVANT AND PATRON OF THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and remember the late Diana Hobby, wife of former Texas Lt. Governor William P. Hobby, Jr. and one of the most accomplished and public spirited women in the history of the great State of Texas.

Diana Hobby died on Friday, July 4, 2014, in Houston, Texas after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease and cancer, with her beloved husband and four children at her bedside.

Diana Poteat Stallings Hobby, was born April 22, 1931, in New York, New York to Helen Poteat and Laurence Tucker Stallings and raised in North Carolina.

She was a brilliant student, graduating from the Chatham Hall School in 1948 and with honors from Radcliffe College in 1952 where she was also admitted to Phi Beta Kappa—the oldest honor society for Liberal Arts and Sciences in the United States.

On September 11, 1954, she married the love of her life, the dashing William P. ''Bill'' Hobby, the future Lt. Governor of Texas, who

was then an ensign in the U.S. Navy, and moved to his duty station in Washington, DC.

The young couple lived in Washington until 1957 during which time Diana earned an M.A. in English Literature from Georgetown University and worked for the Central Intelligence Agency.

In 1957, the couple moved to Houston, Texas, when Bill's father, former Texas Governor William P. Hobby, Sr., fell into declining health, necessitating Bill Jr. to assume managerial control of his publication, the ''Houston Post.''

Diana Hobby supported and helped her husband greatly during this time, serving as the book editor of the Houston Post from 1957 to 1971.

While in Houston, Diana Hobby earned her Ph.D. in English Literature from Rice University and served as Associate Editor of Studies in English Literature from 1979 until her retirement in 1991.

Diana Hobby, a noted scholar of the great Irish poet, William Butler Yeats, had a great passion for the English language and literature. She was a lifelong supporter of libraries and the humanities in Texas.

Diana Hobby also served on the board of directors for many organizations such as St. John's School, Memorial Park Conservancy, Friends of Hermann Park, Harry Ransom Center, Texas Institute of Letters, Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute in Alpine, and the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts in Virginia.

Diana Hobby was also passionate about natural beauty and environment conservation. She was a founding member for the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and served on the selection committee for the Johnson Highway Beautification Awards.

Diana Hobby is survived by her husband of 60 years, William P. Hobby, Jr.; their four children Laura, Paul, Andrew and Kate; and many grandchildren.

Together with her husband, Lt. Governor William P. Hobby, Jr., Diana has truly left a legacy of excellence in education, in the arts, and in literature that continue to yield benefits to the Houston community and the State of Texas.

I ask that the House observe a moment of silence in memory of my friend, Diana Poteat Stallings Hobby, one of the great ladies in the history of Texas.

COMMEMORATING CLIFTON SORENSON'S 14 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE EAU CLAIRE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Clifton Sorenson's service as Eau Claire County's Veterans Service Officer. Clifton is a native Wisconsinite from the Chippewa Valley area. After high school, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, majoring in Business Administration, before entering the U.S. Air Force. He served honorably in the USAF at four bases in the United States and two bases in the Republic of Vietnam.

Clifton devoted much of his time to caring for veterans. For four years before joining the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs in Madison, Wisconsin, Clifton served as the Barron County Veterans Service Officer. There he provided veterans counseling and information for medical, education, and housing benefits—striving to assist veterans and their families in any way possible. Additionally, he began a special and continuing interest in serving the aging, homeless, and incarcerated veterans. Clifton would continue those added duties for over two decades.

Since 2000, Clifton has served as Eau Claire County's Veterans Service Officer, counseling veterans, active servicemembers, dependents, and survivors of veterans on benefits available. As an advocate, he worked extensively with other veterans' service offices, veterans' service organizations, and civic organizations in an effort to provide the best service possible to veterans in the Chippewa Valley and throughout the State of Wisconsin. Clifton is a member of numerous service and professional organizations, including the American Legion and the National Coalition for Homeless veterans.

Clifton served on the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Hospital Committees at the department level. On the national level he served as Vice Chairman of the National Foreign Relations Council and is a member of the National Legislative Council. He has been awarded the National Homeless Veterans Outreach Award and a National Certificate of Appreciation for his assistance to the homeless veteran population.

It is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Clifton for his years of service to the men and women of our armed services and their families, and I congratulate him on his retirement after 14 years of service at the Eau Claire County Veterans Service Office.

CONGRATULATING SPENCER HAIK

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Glendale High School senior Spencer Haik for being the first Class 4 athlete to win the 1,600-meter run state title three years in a row.

Spencer led the race from start to finish and finished a full two seconds ahead of the competition. Spencer finished with a personal best time of 4 minutes, 9.41 seconds. He also won the 3,200-meter state championship.

Furthermore, I want to congratulate Spencer on his win at the Nike Festival of Miles in St. Louis on June 5. His time was 4:04.55, which is to date the second fastest 1600-meter in the Nation this year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Spencer's coaches, Ron Hamilton and Jeff Berryessa, for their dedication and leadership.

I wish Spencer the best as he continues his track career at Columbia University.

I am honored to recognize Spencer Haik for his Class 4 State Championship in both the 1,600 and 3,200-meter runs.

CONGRATULATING CHRISTOPHER MURPHY OF MURPHY'S AUTO BODY SHOP

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Christopher Murphy of Murphy's Auto Body Shop, the recipient of my 2014 D.C. Small Business of the Year award. The award is given each year to an outstanding D.C. small business at my annual Small Business Fair. I commend Murphy's Auto Body Shop for its accomplishments and service to our city.

Murphy's Auto Body Shop is a family and minority owned small business located in Ward 8. During its time in the District, Murphy's Auto Body Shop has grown to become one of the largest auto repair facilities in the national capital region. The business prides itself on quality craftsmanship, integrity and customer service. The business has 28 highly skilled, well-trained technicians and support staff, who are known for honesty, integrity and customer service. Murphy's understands the importance of reliability, timeliness, and hard work.

Christopher Murphy opened Murphy's Auto Body Shop in 1993 in Forestville, Maryland along with his father and a small staff. In 1997, Christopher Murphy, a lifelong resident of Ward 7, moved his burgeoning auto body shop to his hometown of the District of Columbia—where it remains to this day.

We are particularly proud that Murphy's Auto Body Shop established itself at an accessible location in the heart of a neighborhood east of the Anacostia River. Yet it has attracted official affiliations with multiple insurance companies and towing services. Murphy's also has performed work in the District of Columbia and the region for government agencies, such as the General Services Administration (GSA), the Federal Protective Service (FPS), the D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, the D.C. Department of Public Works, and Potomac Jobs Corps.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Christopher Murphy and Murphy's Auto Body Shop as this year's recipient of the 2014 D.C. Small Business of the Year award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on June 27th and missed roll Nos. 360 through 368. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on roll Nos. 361, 362, 363, 364, 366, and 367. I would have voted ''nay'' on roll Nos. 360, 365, and 368.

SALUTE TO MR. RICHARD A. ENNIS

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to salute the career accomplishments and community service of Mr. Richard A. Ennis on the occasion of his retirement as the Executive Director of the Melbourne International Airport, a position which he has held for the past nine years.

Our community credits an increase in tourism and airline traffic to Richard's tireless work and advocacy for our airport. He is noted for positioning Melbourne International Airport as a prime location for the aviation and the aerospace industry. Due to his strategic plans, the airport is now one of the world's fastest growing aviation and aerospace manufacturing and maintenance hubs.

Our economy has been positively impacted by Richard's efforts to increase the airport's capital improvements by more than $150 million which has led to the expansion of new manufacturing and maintenance facilities and resulted in the creation of hundreds of new jobs.

Richard's community service includes serving as the Chairman of the Babcock Street Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee.

I also commend Richard's service to the United States Air Force from 1966 to 1970.

Richard holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry which he earned while attending the University of Florida. He also attained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Rollins College.

Previously Richard was employed with Hoyman, Dobson & Company in 1982 where he audited the City of Melbourne and Melbourne International Airport's records for two years. He then served as the Assistant Finance Director with the City of Melbourne in January 1984 and served as the Deputy Director of Finance and Administration with the Melbourne International Airport in 1992.

Mr. Ennis received his national certification as a Certified Public Finance Officer in 2001 and assumed additional duties of Deputy Director of Finance and Administration and Operations.

Richard was promoted to interim Executive Director of the Melbourne International Airport in February 2005 and officially became the Executive Director on August 17, 2005.

I urge my Colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Richard A. Ennis for his dedication to our community and his exceptional service to our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE BROOK HILL BOYS VARSITY GOLF TEAM AS 2014 STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is an esteemed honor to recognize and congratulate the Brook Hill Boys Varsity Golf Team on capturing the top title as TAPPS AAA Texas State Champions for 2014.

The Brook Hill Boys Golf Team overcame a seven stroke deficit entering the second and final round at the course of Clear Creek in Killeen, Texas, to ultimately win the TAPPS AAA State Golf Championship for the second year in a row by twenty strokes over second place Midland Trinity.

The talented athletes at Brook Hill have brought home numerous championship titles to east Texas over the years, including the State AAA Golf Championship in 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014 under the experienced and skillful leadership of Head Coach Tim Moore along with the unwavering support of Athletic Director Wally Dawkins and Headmaster Rod Fletcher.

Senior Team Captain Jeffrey Yeager led the way to the championship crown, shooting a 169, ranking him as the 4th place medalist. Sophomore Nutchapon Pattamakijsakul was the 7th place medalist, shooting a 171.

Brook Hill varsity team members also included Matt Webb—182, Brooks Garner—178, Austin Savage—184, and Jacob Yeager—alternate.

It is a great privilege to extend my enthusiastic and most sincere congratulations to the 2014 TAPPS Division III State Golf Champions, as their back to back championship legacy is now recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that will endure as long as there is a United States of America.

CONGRATULATING OUR NEW CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate the individuals who took their oath of citizenship on July 4, 2014. In true patriotic fashion, on the day of our great Nation's celebration of independence, a naturalization ceremony took place, welcoming new citizens of the United States of America. This memorable occasion, coordinated by the League of Women Voters of the Calumet Area and presided over by Magistrate Judge Andrew Rodovich, was held at The Pavilion at Wolf Lake in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. The oath ceremony was a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On July 4, 2014, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Lucy Lucia Griffith, Susete Margarida Psimos, Ricarda Kurzinski, Salma Mardi, Sulka Tyagi, Andrija Cesljarev, Mira Cesljarev, Juana Cruz Lopez, Teodoro Obien Abadilla, Daliborka Nonkovic, Maria Del Rosari Gonzalez Carrillo, Tyson Francis, Irene Garcia Garcia, Ilija Trajanoski, Jagoda Markovska, Mary Ugonwa Hardin, Daniel Lodewikus Smith, Sophia Johanna Ca Smith, Alma Delia Torres De Gonzalez, Toni Kitevski, Jefferson Marcos Caldeira, Esther Mukabacondo, Alejandro Escobedo Roman, Majid Latif, Xuan Loc Thi Hoang, Paulina Joanna Jagodzinska, Ivy Mwansa Chirwa Cox, Philip Papai Muturi, Maria Soledad Araos De La Fuente, Manuel Garza, Hector Javier Balza Medina, Wladyslawa Skauba, John Munene Njiru, Rosendo Hernandez Fierros, Noreen Nothando Ncube, Dolores Irene De Santiago Martinez, Dmitri Valentinov Boulanov, Haralambos Nikolaos Kladis, Meilute Ona Zinkus, Severo Ramirez Madera, Tatiana Silvia Sanjines Del Llano, Danica Rnic, Janette Atillo Jasmin-Wallace, Ana Ma Galicia Reyes, Angelica Maria Saucedo De La Cruz, Ma Teresa Valdovinos, Gerald Joseph Oblina Rinon, Darshan Lal Wadhwa, and Mustafa Musleh.

Though each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country ". . . of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals, who became citizens of the United States of America on July 4, 2014, the day of our Nation's independence. They, too, are American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,586,595,427,577.23. We've added $6,959,718,378,664.15 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

FAREWELL TO AMBASSADOR TATOUL MARKARIAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a bittersweet farewell to Tatoul Markarian,

Armenia's long-serving Ambassador to the United States and a man with whom I have had the pleasure of working for much of the past decade, since his appointment as Ambassador to the United States in March 2005.

The last nine years have been challenging ones for Armenia. Turkey and Azerbaijan have continued their campaign to isolate Armenia diplomatically and economically, even as the country has worked to move forward on the path to full democracy, while also seeking to develop its economy and bring needed services and opportunity to the people of Nagorno-Karabakh. I have been proud to work with Ambassador Markarian and his team at the embassy on these and many other challenging issues, including recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the United States Congress, and on behalf of the tens of thousands of Armenian-Americans in my district, I wish him all the best as he takes up his position in Brussels as Armenia's Ambassador to the European Union.

Prior to taking up his post in Washington, Ambassador Markarian served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia since June 2000. In that capacity, his responsibilities included the Ministry's Departments of Politico-Military Affairs; International Organizations; CIS Countries; and Asia-Pacific and Africa. He was also the Armenian coordinator for the U.S.-Armenia Strategic Dialogue as well as the NATO-Armenia Political-Military Dialogue. In 2002–2004, Ambassador Markarian was also Special Representative of the President of Armenia for Nagorno Karabakh negotiations. In 1999–2000, he served as Advisor to Foreign Minister.

The United States has had a great friend in Ambassador Markarian and the U.S.-Armenian relationship has been greatly strengthened by his work here.

HONORING THE FRENCH LAUNDRY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The French Laundry, a renowned fine-dining restaurant in Yountville, California, as it celebrates twenty years of service on July 6th. Since its opening, The French Laundry has consistently served diners only the most delectable, high-quality and inventive dishes. This exemplary establishment certainly deserves to be recognized and honored today.

Under the leadership of Chef Thomas Keller, The French Laundry has earned worldwide acclaim. By September 1994, Michael Bauer of the San Francisco Chronicle awarded The French Laundry a four-star rating. Since then, The French Laundry has continued to receive awards and recognition at an impressive pace. The French Laundry has earned a 3-star rating from the Michelin Guide every year since 2007. Wine Spectator has bestowed its Grand Award upon The French Laundry for seven consecutive years. The restaurant has been named as one of the ''Top 100 Bay Area Restaurants'' by the San Francisco Chronicle in addition to being ranked #1 in ''The World's 50 Best Restaurants'' by Restaurant Magazine. And this just to name a few of The French Laundry's impressive accolades.

Mr. Speaker, The French Laundry has contributed to, if not defined, Napa Valley's tradition of, and reputation for, fine dining. On behalf of a grateful district, I thank Chef Thomas Keller and his entire staff for their unwavering dedication, passion and creativity.

HONORING MARY KASTEN

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Kasten who is receiving the Southeast Missourian ''Spirit of American Award'' in recognition of her outstanding service to the community of Cape Girardeau and the state of Missouri.

Mary's service expands from God, family, country and her fellow man. She volunteered much of her time as a Sunday school teacher and choir member in the St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. Mary also served as a member of the Cape Girardeau School Board and held various offices on the board for 20 years. Mary continued to be dedicated to education by serving on the Board of Regents at Southeast Missouri State University, her alma mater. Mary also served in the Missouri General Assembly for nearly 20 years where she represented her family, friends and neighbors with distinction.

One of Mary's greatest works for others was the beginning of the Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council. Her vision of this program began in Southern Missouri and is now being replicated in the rest of the State and nationwide.

If anyone deserves the ''Spirit of American Award'' it would be Mary Kasten. I applaud her for her achievements and service.

IN MEMORY OF DAVID K. PAGE AND HIS PASSIONATE PURSUIT OF BUILDING A STRONGER GREATER DETROIT COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound sadness to mark the passing of an incredible leader in the Greater Detroit community and a dear friend to my family, David Page.

From early in life, David charted a course of excellence—graduating with a Bachelor's Degree from Dartmouth College and a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School. In addition to these degrees, he studied at the London School of Economics as a Fulbright Scholar.

At Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, where David worked for more than 50 years, he brought his considerable talents to bear in the field of law. While there, David developed a reputation of tireless service to his clients and a commitment to providing excellent counsel.

While David's legal career came into focus, he became an active leader in the Greater Detroit community, where he was a force in the effort to revitalize the region. Throughout his decades of loyal service to the community, David served on the boards of many community organizations that have improved the quality of life for the residents of Southeast Michigan. The boards he served on included: the Detroit Zoological Society, City Year Detroit and the Detroit Chamber Music Society. David was a founding trustee of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and was directly engaged in the efforts that led to the creation of endowments that will power the work of future generations of community organizations in the Greater Detroit region. As a committed leader of the Jewish community, David served as president of the Jewish Fund, the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, and Temple Beth El. David also served as chair of the board of the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation and as chairman of the hospital's board for almost a decade of his more than 40 years of tenure with that organization.

While David provided invaluable leadership to many organizations in Southeast Michigan and helped empower them to magnify their impact, one of his most satisfying endeavors was his work with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, where he served as vice chair of the board. With a prominent view of the Detroit River from his office, David leveraged his position as vice chair and trustee of the Kresge Foundation to build the public-private partnership that would become the Conservancy, which is transforming the Detroit riverfront. With a focus on a 5.5 mile stretch of riverfront between Belle Isle and the Ambassador Bridge, the Conservancy has realized the revitalization of Gabriel Richard Park, Rivard Plaza, and the Dequindre Cut greenway linking Eastern Market to the riverfront and one of Michigan's crown jewels, William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor—the first urban state park in Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, over the years my wife, Colleen, and I have been so fortunate to work with David and share many warm memories with him and his family. All of us who have had the fortune to know him will greatly miss his leadership and indomitable spirit. David's passion for helping others was rivaled only by his passion for his family, and my thoughts are with his loving wife, Andrea, their children: Jason, Mark and Sarah, and their grandchildren during this difficult time. However, even amidst the sadness, there is so much from which David's family may take solace—a legacy of dedicated service toward building a brighter future for the Greater Detroit region, which continues to impact the lives of so many across our community. I am confident his legacy will be a beacon that continues to inspire not only those of us who currently seek to strengthen and revitalize the Southeast Michigan region, but to future generations of leaders and community activists as well.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 4812 ''HONOR FLIGHT ACT''

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and the former ranking member and chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4812, the Honor Flight Act of 2014.

H.R. 4812 authorizes the collaboration between the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Honor Flight Network, as well as other non-profit organizations that transport veterans to visit memorials, to ensure continued expedited and dignified passenger screening for veterans travelling to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials and other tributes to their bravery, heroism, and sacrifice in the cause of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of veterans across the country fought to protect the freedoms we take for granted and to keep our nation safe. They are deserving of our gratitude for the valor and courage they displayed in risking their lives to keep us free and to liberate captive peoples in other lands.

They are veterans of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf Wars—Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

With each passing day, the number of World War II and Korea veterans declines by the hundreds. For many of these heroes, one of their last wishes is to visit the national war memorials in Washington, D.C.

Honoring and facilitating that request is the least we can do for those who did so much for us.

TSA works with the Honor Flight Network in expediting the screening process for veterans visiting the national war memorials, saving the veterans' time and showing them their due respect and appreciation.

The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to transporting veterans on charter flights operated by commercial airlines to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials built in honor of their service.

Currently, the Honor Flight Network gives priority to WWII veterans and those from any war who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

The Honor Flight Network plans to expand the program in the future to include the veterans who served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, followed by veterans of the wars in the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Speaker, my home state of Texas has the second largest number of veterans of any state in the nation, with just over 1.6 million veterans. My home city of Houston is proud to be the residence of more than 300,000 veterans.

I strongly support the bill before us because I strongly support the efforts of TSA and the Honor Flight Network in making real the dreams, and in many cases the last wishes, of thousands of veterans who wish to visit the memorials dedicated by the nation in their honor.

I urge all members to join me in supporting H.R. 4812 so that our veterans continue to receive the security accommodations they need and deserve as they travel to Washington, D.C. to view the national memorials consecrated by their sacrifice in defense of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I requested leave and was absent from the House on June 25 and June 26 due to a death in the family, and missed several rollcall votes during that time.

Had I been present on Wednesday, June 25, I would have voted as follows: Roll 355 on the Previous Question: ''yea;'' roll 356 on the Adoption of the Rule: ''yea;'' Roll 357 on the Adoption of the DeFazio Amendment to H.R. 6: ''nay;'' roll 358 on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 6: ''nay;'' roll 359 on the Passage of H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act: ''yea.''

Had I been present on Thursday, June 26, I would have voted as follows: Roll 360 on the Adoption of the Wittman Amendment to H.R. 4899: ''yea;'' roll 361 on the Adoption of the Lowenthal Amendment to H.R. 4899: ''nay;'' roll 362 on the Adoption of the Capps Amendment to H.R. 4899: ''nay;'' roll 363 on the Adoption of the Deutch Amendment to H.R. 4899: ''nay;'' roll 364 on the Adoption of the Blumenauer Amendment to H.R. 4899: ''nay;'' roll 365 on the Adoption of the Bishop of Utah Amendment to H.R. 4899: ''yea;'' roll 366 on the Adoption of the DeFazio Amendment to H.R. 4899: ''nay;'' roll 367 on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 4899: ''Nay;'' roll 368 on the Passage of H.R. 4899, the Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act of 2014: ''yea.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I write to inform you that I was unable to be on the House floor for votes on June 25, 2014 related to H.R. 6, the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act (rollcall No. 359). Had I been there, I would have voted in support of the legislation.

IN MEMORY OF PAUL ''MR. PAUL'' S. AMOS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, July 5 funeral services were held for Paul ''Mr. Paul'' S. Amos. Mr. Amos, 88, was remembered as a man of ''rock-solid integrity'' and was the last surviving founder of Columbus-based Aflac Insurance. As a representative of South Carolina's Second District, I especially appreciate Aflac's extraordinary success and expansion acquiring Continental American Insurance Company led by CFO Chris Goodall in Columbia generating hundreds of jobs.

Funeral services were held at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Columbus, Georgia, with interment following the service in Parkhill Cemetery.

His obituary in The Ledger-Enquirer of Columbus, Georgia, contained this tribute:

Paul S. Amos, who with his two brothers founded Aflac Incorporated nearly six decades ago, passed away late Wednesday night, July 2, 2014, after a lengthy illness. He was 88 years old. Funeral services will be held at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Columbus, GA, at 3:00 PM on Saturday, July 5, 2014. It will be preceded by public visitation beginning at 2:00 PM at the St. Luke United Methodist Church Ministry Center. There will be a private burial service following the funeral.

Paul S. Amos was born April 23, 1926 in Enterprise, Ala. the son of the late John Shelby and Helen Mullins Amos. Mr. Amos was raised in Enterprise, Ala. and Milton, Fla. He and his wife, the former Jean Roberts, met in church when she was just 17 years old and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in October of last year. The couple's only child, Daniel P. Amos, is Aflac's current chairman and CEO. The Amos brothers founded Aflac in 1955 and, in its first year of business, the company had 6,426 policyholders and $388,000 in assets. Today, it is a Fortune 500 company with more than $121 billion in assets and insures more than 50 million people worldwide. Aflac is the leading provider of supplemental insurance products and pays cash directly to policyholders to use as needed. During his long tenure at Aflac, Mr. Amos held numerous positions, both at corporate headquarters and as a hands-on member of the sales force. He served as state sales manager for Alabama/West Florida, first vice president/director of marketing, president, vice chairman and chairman. Although he retired in 2001, he remained a familiar figure at Aflac and loved to be among the employees and sales team members who continued the company's legacy. Amos, who continued to make daily visits to Aflac's offices in Columbus, Ga., and served as Chairman Emeritus, was beloved by the insurer's more than 8,000 employees and 185,000 agents worldwide. He was known affectionately throughout the company as ''Mr. Paul.''

In addition to helping build the world's largest supplemental insurance company, Amos established a quiet history of philanthropy and community service. Through anonymous donations and the endowment of educational funds and scholarship programs, he and Jean touched thousands of lives with major financial commitments. Their efforts included the Paul and Jean Amos Educational Fund at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Ky.; the Paul S. Amos Family Foundation at Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga.; the Scholarship Fund at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky.; and many unheralded contributions to those in need. Amos received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Cumberland College in May 2001. Columbus State University honored him with an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree in May 2002. In 2004, Amos received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Asbury Theological Seminary.

Amos is survived by his wife, Jean; their son Daniel P. Amos and his wife Kathelen; two grandchildren, Lauren Amos and her husband Tyler Clayton, and Paul S. Amos II and his wife, Courtney; and four great-grandchildren, Dan Amos, Mansell Amos, Knox Amos and Eden Amos.

In lieu of flowers, however, the family asks that contributions in his memory be made to the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorder Center in Atlanta or St. Luke United Methodist Church in Columbus.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO SSG SCOTT R. STUDENMUND

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Green Beret Staff Sergeant Scott R. Studenmund of Pasadena, California, who died on June 9, 2014 in Gaza Valley, Zabul Province, Afghanistan during a combat mission.

Born on June 26, 1989, Scott Richard Studenmund was fearless from birth and embraced life fully. Scott was known for his rambunctious spirit, good sense of humor, intelligence and humility. He attended Clairbourn School from nursery school until 6th grade, Flintridge Preparatory School for middle and high school, Occidental College and Pitzer College. In high school, Scott was an avid scholar, football star and a history aficionado. He was a National Merit Finalist, an All-Area and All-League Football player and an excellent sprinter. Interested in the military since a young child, Scott spent many days practicing his tactical maneuvers with family and friends while on vacation at Lake Arrowhead or the beach. He traveled to Thailand and Cambodia and performed community service as a part of the Rustic Pathways program with his fellow schoolmates. During his time at Flintridge Preparatory School, he made a tight-knit group of friends with whom he stayed in close contact after graduation. An intense competitor, Scott was also a true gentleman who would not participate in or abide hurtful comments against others. He was extremely close to his family and was protective and proud of his sister Connell; indeed his parents never recall the two siblings ever arguing.

In 2009, Scott left college to join the U.S. Army with the goal of becoming a Green Beret. Twenty-five months later, Scott earned his Green Beret, having completed 11 different rigorous training programs, passing each one on the first try. At his Green Beret ceremony, Scott won the Leadership Award in the Special Forces Weapons Sergeant Course. He also received an Army Achievement Medal for performing ''with distinction'' in a training exercise, and earned an Expert Infantryman Badge, also known as ''The Mark of a Man,'' by completing a rigorous 40-part competition with over 100 Green Berets. In 2013, Scott completed the infamous Combat Dive School, which is considered to be the hardest school in the U.S. Army. He and his teammate won a top team award in the rigorous Special Forces Level II Sniper Course. Scott rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant while working in the 1st battalion of the 5th Special Forces Group, Bravo Company, at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Scott received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star with Valor Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Scott is survived by his parents, Arnold H. and Jaynie Studenmund, sister, Connell, and half brother, Brent. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, next to his friend and fellow Green Beret. Scott will be near his grandfather, Jack R. Miller, who was a U.S. Senator and Brigadier General in the Air Force Reserve and his grandmother, Jerry Miller.

Staff Sergeant Studenmund was an athlete, scholar and soldier, who loved his family, his job and his country. I ask all Members to join with me in remembering Staff Sergeant Scott Richard Studenmund, a Green Beret in the U.S. Army, a hero who died while achieving the highest honor of serving our country.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT (S. 1681)

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) (S. 1681).

The FY2014 IAA includes provisions to ensure that men and women of our Intelligence Community (IC) have the resources, capabilities, and authorities necessary to protect our nation and its citizens, while ensuring critical and continuous Congressional oversight of the IC.

The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) passed H.R. 3381, its companion bill to S. 1681, last November. Unfortunately, the House never acted on it, and the HPSCI passed a combined FY2014/FY2015 IAA (H.R. 4681) containing many of the same provisions as the HPSCI-passed FY14 IAA and S. 1681, with some important additional provisions. The FY2014/FY2015 IAA recently passed our body with overwhelming support.

The FY2014 IAA contains a provision I authored and was originally included in the HPSCI-passed bill, requiring a report, within 90 days of enactment, on the extent to which the IC has implemented the Inspector General of the IC's recommendations contained in the May 2013 report, entitled ''Study of Intelligence Community Electronic Waste Disposal Practices.''

This provision is also included in FY2014/FY2015 IAA requiring a report in unclassified form, with a classified annex as necessary. Because H.R. 4681 is unlikely to be enacted before this report is due, I encourage the Director of National Intelligence to submit this report in unclassified form, with a classified annex as necessary.

Of great importance to the citizens of my district is another provision I authored for H.R. 4681, which directs the Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence & Analysis (I&A) to conduct an assessment of the security of our nation's oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure. It directs I&A to make recommendations on how to improve intelligence collection and sharing of information to better protect those facilities and the surrounding communities from any harm.

My district is home to several oil refineries, which employ thousands of people and provide well-paying middle class jobs. They are a key part of the regional economy. As domestic oil production continues to increase in the region, I have heard from several of my constituents about their growing concerns regarding the security of the shipment and storage of crude oil and subsequent refined products.

Constituents have reported tanker cars parked in their communities covered in elaborate graffiti. If a vandal has the opportunity to deface a tanker car, imagine what could be done by someone with more sinister motives?

I take all concerns my constituents share with me seriously, and I believe we have the responsibility to protect our workers, our domestic refineries and our communities from potential threats.

While I support the passage of the FY2014 IAA, I will continue to work with my colleagues on the HPSCI and in the Senate to ensure that the FY2015 IAA continues my refinery and rail infrastructure security provision.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church as the congregation joins together in celebration of the church's 100th anniversary. The parishioners, along with Parish Priest, Reverend Father Marko Matic, and Parish President, Mr. Mike Ajder, will be commemorating this momentous occasion with a special 3-day celebration taking place from November 21 through November 23, 2014. The event will honor all who have contributed to the success of Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church.

Founded in Gary, Indiana, Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church is now located in Merrillville and is one of the oldest churches in the Midwest. In 1914, the church's founders declared their mission before the Secretary of the State in Indianapolis: ''The purpose of this parish is to preach the Word of God (the Lord Jesus) and take spiritual care of its members; to spread goodness, justice, brotherly love and respect among its members.''

In 1914, Saint Sava's first church-school congregation was organized. It was named after Saint Sava, the first Archbishop of the Serbian Church. The church was built on 20th Avenue and Connecticut Street in Gary. After a devastating fire in 1978, Saint Sava relocated to their previously built chapel and parish hall located in Hobart, where the congregation held services until 1991. Very Reverend Father Jovan Todorovich led committed efforts in the construction of their current place of worship in Merrillville, which was completed in May of 1991. Today, the parishioners and church leaders gather together in this magnificent building to worship, celebrate, and continue the mission of the founding fathers.

Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church continues to touch the lives of countless individuals through its compassionate service and charitable work. Most recently, parishioners and church leaders participated in a relief effort to raise funds and collect needed supplies to help the victims in Serbia and surrounding communities recover from devastating floods. In addition, the members of this parish continue to preserve the traditions of the Serbian culture and the Orthodox faith through the church's historical society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville, Indiana on its 100th anniversary. The members and church leaders have dedicated themselves to upholding Serbian heritage, tradition, and the Orthodox faith. For their noteworthy commitment to serving so many in need, the congregation is worthy of the highest praise.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SENATOR ALAN J. DIXON

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and celebrate the life and service of former United States Senator to the State of Illinois, Alan J. Dixon, who recently passed away at his home in Fairview Heights, Illinois, on Sunday, July 6, 2014, one day short of his 87th birthday.

Sen. Dixon, born in Belleville, Illinois, on July 7, 1927, led a life dedicated to service to the great State of Illinois and to our nation. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and his law degree from Washington University in St. Louis. He also served our nation in the Navy Air Corps during World War II.

Sen. Dixon began his political career as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives, for which he served from 1951 to 1963. He followed that by serving as a member of the Illinois State Senate from 1963 to 1971. In 1970 he was elected Illinois State Treasurer and then Illinois Secretary of State from 1976 until 1981. In 1981, Sen. Dixon took office as the U.S. Senator from Illinois, a position he held until 1993.

Sen. Alan Dixon, who served the State of Illinois for more than four decades, was known as someone who got along with everyone. He happily would work with his colleagues across the aisle in order to get things done, a characteristic that is in short supply today. He also was recognized for his hard work, honesty, and gentlemanly conduct. Following his career as a public servant, Sen. Dixon returned to practice law with the Bryan Cave law firm in St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to again commemorate the life and service of Senator Alan J. Dixon. I am very grateful for his service to our State and Nation. His passing weighs especially heavy on my family and I, as my father had the distinct honor to serve as his Chief of Staff for 23 years. Sen. Dixon is survived by his wife, Jody, three children, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. It is my hope that I can live up to the example he has set forth as a statesman.

CONGRATULATING DANSBY SWANSON, 2014 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES' MOST OUTSTANDING PLAYER

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Marietta native and Vanderbilt second baseman, Dansby Swanson, on his accomplishments in the 2014 NCAA College World Series.

Swanson was awarded the College World Series' Most Outstanding Player Award and was an incredible asset in helping Vanderbilt clinch its first College World Series Championship.

Throughout the 2014 season, Swanson became one of the key players on Vanderbilt's tremendously talented roster and was key in Vandy's 3–2 victory over the University of Virginia in the final to cap off a landmark 50 win season.

Just a sophomore, Swanson batted .323 with five runs scored and two RBI in Omaha—the most impressive performance of any player in the tournament.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Georgia's 11th Congressional District, I applaud Dansby for his achievement and look forward to his future successes. I extend my enthusiastic congratulations to him on achieving the highest level of recognition possible in the NCAA College World Series.

IN HONOR OF ESTONIA'S SONG AND DANCE FESTIVAL

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Estonia who from July 4 to 6 completed their remarkable Song and Dance Festival in the capital of Tallinn. The festival, which takes place once every five years and attracts roughly 100,000 visitors and participants, is a cornerstone of Estonian cultural tradition and has been named one of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage events. It is something the Estonian people, and indeed the entire Baltic region, should be rightly proud of.

Such celebrations of independence are particularly important during this time. We continue to support our friends in Estonia, and indeed our friends and allies in all of Europe, as they face the threat of increased Russian aggression. Now is as important a time as any for the U.S. to reaffirm its commitment to Estonia and the Baltic states.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have a long and proud history of supporting Estonians as they rejected authoritarianism, gained their independence and built the vibrant, modern country they have today. Estonia has likewise been a great friend to the United States. I am certain that this relationship will continue far into the future. Once more, congratulations to all of Estonia on such a successful festival.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF MR. MICHAEL MURPHY

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael Murphy, and offer my condolences to his family and friends in light of his passing.

In his time as Grays Harbor County Commissioner and his years at the Washington State Auditor's Office he worked tirelessly for the community and local governments. His voice and support will be greatly missed.

Murphy graduated from Central Washington University and began his public service as a Radarman in the U.S. Navy. After his service he came to Washington, DC, and worked as an aide to U.S. Representative Don Bonker.

In 1977, he was elected to the Grays Harbor County Commission where he served for 11 years. During his tenure he worked to establish Vance Creek Park, the Grays Harbor County Fairground Pavilion, and helped preserve Grays Harbor's public forests. Under his leadership Grays Harbor became the only county in the state to manage its own tax-title timberlands, rather than grant that authority to the state.

After his time as a county commissioner, Murphy joined the Washington State Auditor's Office in 1996, and as Local Government Liaison worked closely with local governments who trusted him as a result of his excellent reputation and his intimate knowledge with the challenges of local government.

Murphy was an avid outdoorsman and sportsman, and a dedicated public servant. He had a passion for his work, for the people he served, and for the Pacific Northwest. He served for a time as Chairman of the State Liquor Control Board, and helped found what would become Venture Bank. As President of the Washington State Association of Counties he also advocated on behalf of local governments at the state legislature.

Mr. Speaker, Washington State and our nation owe a debt of gratitude to Michael Murphy for his dedication to serving the needs of those he worked for while helping local governments remain effective and efficient. His work and his experience left Washington better able to provide for its citizens. I am pleased to recognize his service to the community and honor his legacy today in the United States Congress.

CORRECTION

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, Pages S4233–S4285

Measures Introduced: Five bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2565–2569, and S.J. Res. 40. **Page S4271**

Measures Passed:

Freedom of the Press and Expression Around the World: Senate agreed to S. Res. 447, recognizing the threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in the efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and an amendment to the preamble. **Pages S4284–85**

Measures Considered:

Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, post-cloture. **Pages S4244–46, S4248–61**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that following disposition of the nomination of William D. Adams, of Maine, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Senate continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and that all post-cloture time be considered expired and Senate vote on adoption of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S4285**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency originally declared on October 27, 2006 in Executive Order 13413 with respect to the Democratic Republic of the Congo; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–48) **Pages S4267–68**

Castro, Vetter, and Adams Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 12 p.m., on Wednesday, July 9, 2014, Senate begin consideration of the nominations of Julian Castro, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Darci L. Vetter, of Nebraska, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, and William D. Adams, of Maine, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities; that there be two minutes for debate, equally divided in the usual form on each nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed; that all roll call votes after the first vote be 10 minutes in length; and that no further motions be in order to the nominations. **Page S4284**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S4268, S4285**

Executive Communications: **Pages S4268–71**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4271–72**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4272–73**

Additional Statements: **Pages S4264–67**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S4273–83**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S4284**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S4284**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:03 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4285.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

SITUATIONS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Armed Services: Committee received a closed briefing on the situations in Iraq and Afghanistan from Charles T. Hagel, Secretary, General Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Alyssa Slotkin, Acting Deputy Assistant

Secretary for International Security, all of the Department of Defense.

EQUITY MARKET STRUCTURE AND ELECTRONIC TRADING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the role of regulation in shaping equity market structure and electronic trading, after receiving testimony from Jeffrey Sprecher, Intercontinental Exchange, and Kevin Cronin, Invesco Ltd., both of Atlanta, Georgia; Kenneth C. Griffin, Citadel LLC, Chicago, Illinois; James J. Angel, Georgetown University McDonough School of Business, Fairfax, Virginia; Tom Wittman, NASDAQ OMX, Mullica Hill, New Jersey; Joe Ratterman, BATS Global Markets, Inc., Overland Park, Kansas; and David Lauer, KOR Group LLC, Collingswood, New Jersey.

COMBATING FORCED LABOR AND MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs concluded a hearing to examine combating forced labor and modern-day slavery in East Asia and the Pacific, after receiving testimony from Scot Marciel, Acting Assistant Secretary, and Luis CdeBaca, Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, both of the Department of State; and Neha Misra, Solidarity Center, and Jesse Eaves, World Vision USA, both of Washington, DC.

EUROPEAN ENERGY SECURITY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on European Affairs concluded a hearing to examine renewed focus on European energy security, after receiving testimony from Amos J. Hochstein, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Diplomacy, Bureau of Energy Resources, and Hoyt Yee, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, both of the Department of State; and Edward C. Chow, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Brenda Shaffer, Georgetown University Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies, Edward Lucas, Center for European Policy Analysis, and Andras Simonyi, former Hungarian Ambassador to the United States and NATO, and Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, all of Washington, DC.

CHILD TRAFFICKING AND PRIVATE REHOMING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Children and Families concluded a hearing to examine the challenges of prevention and identification in child trafficking and private rehoming, after receiving testimony from Joo Yeun Chang, Associate Commissioner, The Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services; Abigail English, Center for Adolescent Health & the Law, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Jenee Littrell, Grossmont Union High School District, San Diego County, California; and Megan Twohey, Reuters, New York, New York.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 12 public bills, H.R. 5020–5031; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 657–659, were introduced. **Pages H5875–76**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5876–77**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Womack to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5831**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:19 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H5833**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:09 p.m. and reconvened at 3:31 p.m. **Page H5834**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2014: H.R. 1528, amended, to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow a veterinarian to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice outside of the registered location; **Pages H5834–36**

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2014: H.R.

4653, amended, to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom; **Pages H5836–39**

Concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents: H. Res. 588, amended, concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents; **Pages H5839–42**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "Concerning the suspension of exit permit issuance by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopted Congolese children seeking to depart the country with their adoptive parents.". **Page H5842**

Preclearance Authorization Act of 2014: H.R. 3488, amended, to establish the conditions under which the Secretary of Homeland Security may establish preclearance facilities, conduct preclearance operations, and provide customs services outside the United States; **Pages H5842–45**

Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Authorization and Accountability Act of 2014: H.R. 4007, amended, to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program; **Pages H5845–54**

Social Media Working Group Act of 2014: H.R. 4263, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 375 yeas to 19 nays, Roll No. 369; and **Pages H5854–56, H5860–61**

Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act: H.R. 4289, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 393 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 370. **Pages H5856–59, H5861**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:36 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H5860**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he reported to Congress that he has issued an Executive Order taking additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006 relating to the Democratic Republic of the Congo—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 113–128). **Pages H5859–60**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5860 and H5861. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Committee Meetings

VA WHISTLEBLOWERS: EXPOSING INADEQUATE SERVICE PROVIDED TO VETERANS AND ENSURING APPROPRIATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "VA Whistleblowers: Exposing Inadequate Service Provided to Veterans and Ensuring Appropriate Accountability". Testimony was heard from Christian Head, M.D., Associate Director, Chief of Staff, Legal and Quality Assurance, Los Angeles VA Health Care System; Katherine Mitchell, M.D., Medical Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Post-Deployment Center, Phoenix VA Health Care System; Scott Davis, Program Specialist, VA National Health Eligibility Center; Carolyn Lerner, Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel; James Tuchschmidt, M.D., Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs; and a public witness.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D734)*

S. 1681, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System. Signed on July 7, 2014. (Public Law 113–126)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine promoting the well-being and academic success of college athletes, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine Russia and developments in Ukraine, 9:45 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine challenges at the border, focusing on the causes, consequences, and responses to the rise in apprehensions at the southern border, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine S. 2442, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land and mineral rights on the reservation of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana and other culturally important land into trust for the benefit of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, S. 2465, to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico, S. 2479, to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada, S. 2480, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to Elko County, Nevada, and to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and S. 2503, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Tribe Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, to provide for the lease of certain land located within Planet Ranch on the Bill Williams River in the State of Arizona to benefit the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, and to provide for the settlement of specific water rights claims in the Bill Williams River watershed in the State of Arizona, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine improving audits, focusing on strengthening the Medicare program for future generations, 2:15 p.m., SH–216.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Horticulture, Research, Biotechnology, and Foreign Agriculture, hearing to consider the societal benefits of biotechnology, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, markup on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill FY, 2015, 10 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''A Progress Report on the War on Poverty: Working with Families In Need'', 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''21st Century Cures: Modernizing Clinical Trials'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, markup on legislation regarding Targeting Rogue and Opaque Letters; H.R. 4450, the ''Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014''; and H.R. 4013, the ''Low Volume Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Act of 2014'', 4 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Spotlighting Human Rights in Southeast Asia'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, hearing on H.R. 3994, the ''Federal Lands Invasive Species Control, Prevention, and Management Act''; and H.R. 4751, to make technical corrections to Public Law 110–229 to reflect the renaming of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled ''Examining Solutions to Close the $106 Billion Improper Payments Gap'', 1:30 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee hearing on H.R. 4718, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation; and H.R. 5016, the ''Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2015'', 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Navigating the Clean Water Act: Is Water Wet?'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine political pluralism in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mediterranean Partners, focusing on political developments among the Mediterranean Partners in the years following the popular uprisings that began in late 2010, 10 a.m., SVC–203/202.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, July 9

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 12 noon), Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Julian Castro, of Texas, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Darci L. Vetter, of Nebraska, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, and William D. Adams, of Maine, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Upon disposition of the nomination of William D. Adams, Senate will vote on adoption of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2363, Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, July 9

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Begin consideration of H.R. 4923—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of the following measure under suspension of the rules: H.R. 803—Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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