The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC, December 10, 2014,

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID W. JOLLY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

NOTICE

If the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 24, 2014, a final issue of the Congressional Record for the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, will be published on Wednesday, December 31, 2014, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT–59 or S–123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Tuesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Wednesday, December 31, 2014, and will be delivered on Monday, January 5, 2015.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the Congressional Record may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators’ statements should also be formatted according to the instructions at http://webster/secretary/congressionalrecord.pdf, and submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at “Record@Sec.Senate.gov”.

Members of the House of Representatives’ statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at https://housenet.house.gov/legislative/research-and-reference/transcripts-and-records/electronic-congressional-record-inserts. The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT–59.

Members of Congress desiring to purchase reprints of material submitted for inclusion in the Congressional Record may do so by contacting the Office of Congressional Publishing Services, at the Government Printing Office, on 512–0224, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily.

By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, Chairman.

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 11:50 a.m.

THANKING THE PEOPLE OF THE 23RD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEG0) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thank you to the wonderful people of the 23rd District of Texas who, for the last 2 years, have given me the great privilege of serving as their voice here in the people’s House. I am living proof that this is a nation of opportunity and that the American Dream still exists. God has blessed me in many ways. I was born into a warm and loving family. My parents, Pete...
and Elena, taught me to work hard and respect others. I am married to a wonderful wife, Maria Elena, who has stood with me through the peaks and valleys of the last 25 years. We are the parents of a phenomenal son, Nicolas Miguel, who was the first to say we never knew possible and has taught us the true meaning of love. In addition, though my roots are humble, I have had the privilege of working in this Chamber. Few people get the privilege to serve here.

Yet Congress isn’t what it once was. Agreements are few, partisan rancor is common, statesmanship is rare. Who are the giants of history among us? Where are the statesmen—who accomplished historic feats through significant signature legislative achievements?

But we know that progress is still possible. We saw this session that when Congress put partisanship aside, and gets to work, like we did on VA reform, we can accomplish some great things for the American people. But those occasions were far too rare.

More often, this Chamber saw bickering, and this Congress made history as the least productive and most unpopular Congress in the history of this proud Nation. The American people responded by making history of their own. On election day, a record number of them simply threw up their hands, wondered what is the point, and didn’t go to the polls.

It is easy to see why Americans are so tired of politicians, to understand why many of us don’t check in on election day; when our democracy needs us the most, we check out.

Polarization, discontent, dissatisfaction, disappointment, dismay—all now normal in the course of our public discourse. And this Congress has given new meaning to the words truth and good manners and respect for others’ views and appreciation are no longer in vogue. Candidates and officeholders and super-PACs are shrill and mean—and yes, for some, the word would be even un-Christian—to one another.

Politicians distort truth and attempt to stampede people with fear, and many times our fears or our lack of faith win out. We fail to realize how truly lucky we are as Americans.

Before chiding people for not meeting their civic responsibilities, Congress as a body should reflect on whether it has been doing its own civic responsibilities. Because even Congress complains about Congress, yet it does nothing to change. Most Americans are somewhere in the middle, but that is not where Congress is. In our current system, many attack those Members who stick out middle grounds.

The American people deserve better than they are getting. Our country deserves better. Our future and our children’s future are too important. How Congress and our country must rise to the occasion and confront and conquer our own internal paralysis. Patriotism must trump partisanship.

A robust democracy requires active participation. Congress—indeed, America—needs all of us. It needs Democrats and Republicans and Libertarians and Latinos and Anglos and African Americans and Asians—Americans all.

Some will have the highest title that any American could have—not the title of an elected official, but the title of citizen. And as a citizen, I hope to continue to remind Congress of the importance of governing well and our fellow Americans of the importance of participation in our political system.

I have faith that ours is a resilient Nation blessed by God. Despite our frustrations and our fears and our failings, despite ourselves, we still live in the greatest Nation the world has ever known.

Sure, times are tough, but they were tougher for our parents and our grandparents. If you think back a moment and you compare your life to theirs, you can see how far you and all of us have come.

The job now is not to be mad about and continually relive the old battles of the past nor to be afraid of the future, but to look forward and to build our future together.

I leave this institution with no regrets and many accomplishments for the people of home, particularly grateful for the opportunity to work with and serve our veterans and our Active Duty military and amazed at the incredible and untapped potential of our amazing democracy.

I want to say thank you to each of my employees and thank you again to all the people of the 22nd District of Texas, especially to those I have had the privilege of representing since I first became a State legislator in 1991.

I wish my successor well, and I offer my prayers for all the Members of the 114th Congress. You are capable of doing great things for America when you remember to put people and policy ahead of partisanship and politics.

May God bless Texas, and may God bless the United States of America.

PROUDLY RESTORING OFFICERS OF PRIOR ENLISTMENT RETIREMENT ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Proudly Restoring Officers of Prior Enlistment Retirement, or PROPER, Act. The PROPER Act does not prevent further troop reduction. It merely assures these soldiers and those affected, through each military branch, can be made financially whole with due respect for their service.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, as The New York Times said in an editorial last week, there is an immigration crisis looming next year, but it has nothing to do with the border. Rather, it is the huge effort that will be needed to fulfill the President’s executive actions and get millions—millions—of American families out of harm’s way by protecting them from deportation and destruction.

Surely we are continuing the series of executive actions taken by the President, but we are also rolling up our sleeves and getting to work. So I want to talk just a little bit about what we are doing in the city of Chicago and what I am hoping my colleagues here in Congress and my colleagues across the country in community-based organizations, the legal community, and immigrant and Latino neighborhoods in every State will do to help with the necessary reductions to military force.

For the first time since the 1990s, our military continues to draw down in the Middle East, all service branches have been tasked with making difficult force reduction decisions.

Our All-Volunteer service has made considerable sacrifices, valiantly fighting two concurrent wars while solely remaining dedicated to the mission at hand.

As the Pentagon continues to implement a drawdown policy, provisions in the law could create unwarranted and unnecessary reductions in retirement pay for thousands of involuntarily separated servicemembers.

Mr. Speaker, these men and women have honorably served our country and deserve better. For example, some prior enlisted soldiers who received a commission into the officer corps are now facing a difficult situation. Years after being commissioned, the Army has made the determination to relieve these experienced soldiers from military service.

To make the situation worse, many of these individuals do not have the required time in the officer corps and are forced to receive a lesser retirement pension. Mr. Speaker, after having earned an officer’s rank, these soldiers have been reduced in rank for retirement purposes.

Mr. Speaker, our soldiers have honorably served our country and deserve better. These men and women deserve to collect full pension and benefits equivalent to their service in uniform and not subjected to an arbitrary reduction in rank and pay after being involuntarily separated from the military.

To prevent this injustice, I will soon be introducing the Proudly Restoring Officers of Prior Enlistment Retirement, or PROPER, Act. The PROPER Act does not prevent further troop reduction. It merely assures these soldiers and those affected, through each military branch, can be made financially whole with due respect for their service.
This coming Saturday, the 13th, at 9:30 in the morning I will be at Rebano Church on the north side of Chicago, and more than 500 families have already preregistered for an orientation. We will go over what the President’s announcement means for individual immigrants and their families. Then those who have preregistered will have an opportunity for a one-on-one preliminary evaluation of their eligibility from people we are calling family defenders.

We are already scheduling follow-up events this month and into the new year, and we will be ready to accommodate the huge demand for accurate and trustworthy information.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel has been my consistent and outstanding partner in the effort, and we are both committed to making Chicago the model for the rest of the country; and for the advocates, the legal community, the business community, the public sector, we are all working together to make that a reality.

That is right. New York. Listen up, L.A. Get ready, Miami, Houston, and Dallas. We are going to work to protect as many families as we possibly can in the city of Chicago, and we are challenging you to keep up.

But it is not just the major immigrant gateway cities where we need to organize to protect American families.

As the President showed us yesterday, cities in the South like Nashville are leading the way to integrate and assimilate immigrant populations. The spirit of inclusion is of utmost importance as we help families come forward, register with the government, submit their paperwork and fingerprints, and get ready and into the system.

I have told my House colleagues that I plan to be on the road a lot at the start of next year, traveling anywhere they travel to help them conduct outreach and educate immigrant communities where they live. But it is not just the blue districts where we must support our immigrant communities and make sure they register. It will be necessary in red districts, too; States like South Carolina, Arizona, and Alabama, States that tried unsuccessfully to push their immigrant community farther under ground. I will accept invitation from those States, too, to get the word out and educate the community in whatever way I can.

I can’t tell you how many people have come up to me and said: Congressmen, I don’t know if this will help my family, my dad, my mom, my neighbor, or my parishioner, but I hope they will not still have to live in fear of deportation.

There are millions who will not be able to come forward and sign up because they cannot be reached and under the President’s guidelines. I tell them that what the President has announced is bold, it is broad, and it is extremely generous and helpful to the United States and our immigrants who have no other way to get in the system and on the books; but it cannot go as far and it does not replace the need for congressional action and legislation.

But let us all remember that, by the end of this week we are going to have run out on the best chance the House has had in decades to address immigration in a bipartisan and measured manner. The Senate did half the work by giving us more than a year to craft a bipartisan answer to their proposal, and we tried in many, many different ways to help this House rise to the occasion, to get out of the partisan ditch we have dug for ourselves and to put the country on a path to a safe, legal, orderly immigration system that protects the country and its people by welcoming its strivers and innovators from around the world.

In the end, the House was asleep at the switch and let the country down. But even as I work with people across the country to protect as many American families as possible, I pledge to my colleagues in both parties in the House and Senate, please work with us to solve the immigration issue so that we can move forward as a nation.

CELEBRATING LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL LANCERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. CHABOT.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today a proud alumnus of Cincinnati’s La Salle High School because, for the first time in the school’s 54-year history, the Lancers have won the Ohio State football championship.

Last Friday evening the Lancers claimed the title with a 55-20 victory, breaking the record for most points ever scored in an Ohio Division II championship game.

La Salle’s offense was so strong this season that in each of their five playoff games they averaged nearly 50 points. Leading the offense was junior running back Jeremy Larkin, who ran over 2,000 yards in just 15 games, scored 22 touchdowns, and is now a finalist for the coveted Ohio Mr. Football Award.

All season long, La Salle competed with the best of the best, finishing with 14 wins and one nail-biting loss to the St. X Bombers, including victories over such powerhouses as Moeller, Elder, and Colerain High Schools.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, La Salle is my alma mater. I graduated in 1971 and played football all 4 years. I played on the defensive line. And in my senior year, we won seven games, lost one—coincidentally, to future Speaker JOHN BOEINER’s Moeller High School, where he played football too, although he had already graduated 3 years earlier—and we tied Elder 0-0 in the Pit and tied Elder again in the playoffs.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today a very proud alumnus of my high school.

I also want to mention that my brother Dave, who is 10 years younger than me, also played football at La Salle, and he was a defensive back there.

La Salle will always have a special place in my heart. I learned many of life’s most important lessons on her hails and on the football field. As a matter of fact, my political career got my start at La Salle when I was first elected to student council there.

La Salle is a great school. I want to thank the coaches and the teachers and the staff and especially the parents who have made the sacrifices to pay the tuition there to make it possible for their sons to receive a tremendous education at La Salle.

Mr. Speaker, boxing legend Muhammad Ali once said “Champions aren’t made in the gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them—a desire, a dream, and a vision.”

This season, the Lancers had the desire to make every game and play every game as if it were their last. They shared a dream that was strong enough to overcome the many distractions that high school kids often face in today’s world, and their coaches got them from the vision that their hard work and sacrifice would pay off in the end.

Mr. Speaker, Lancers roll deep. This season illustrated that to the team, the school, and the community. Congratulations on a season well played and a job well done. Go, Lancers.

CONCLUDING MY SERVICE IN CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, it has been my honor and privilege to serve in Congress for the past 10 years, representing the people of the 13th Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

As many of you know, my mother came to this country alone at the age of 18, a refugee of the Holocaust. America offered her safety, freedom, and opportunity. Her experience of fear and tragedy, resilience and hope inspired my commitment to public service, my love of our country, and all it can be.

As I conclude my congressional service, I want to thank my family and friends who believed in me and supported me, my constituents who trusted me, the civic and elected leaders, activists and advocates who gave voice to the wide array of concerns and causes, and to my talented staff, who enabled me to do all that we did.

I am proud of what we accomplished together, from the new parks and bike paths along the north Delaware River in northeast Philadelphia to the revitalization of main streets in towns and cities in Montgomery County. We made our streets safer, promoted economic growth, and improved the lives of families across the Philadelphia region.
I came to Congress in 2005 at a time of war. As the daughter of a Korean war veteran, I know how important it is for veterans to find meaningful work to support themselves and their families when they come home. That is why my first legislative initiative—to become law—was to meet the needs of young men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan by offering incentives to employers to hire our newest veterans.

In the time since that first legislative victory, I have sought to embrace innovative ideas, to find common ground, and to turn these ideas into action. I successfully championed legislation that is now law, including extending tax credits for energy-efficient commercial buildings, establishing incentives that changed the way physicians write prescriptions to reduce errors and save lives, new tax credits and grants to startup biotech companies, and changes in Medicare to improve access and protect seniors.

Ensuring all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care has been a priority for me throughout my professional life, in both the private sector and in elected office. I am proud of the progress made in the achievement of health coverage for all Americans and protecting and strengthening Medicare and advancing access to care for women and for children, including those with preexisting conditions.

Today, we see the benefits of this effort, with tens of thousands of Americans who now have meaningful health coverage for themselves and their families.

For this success and others, I want to express my appreciation to the other Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle who enabled us to get things done for the people we represent and for the Nation. I value the work that we did together, and I value your friendship.

As the only woman in the Pennsylvania delegation, I am proud that I had the opportunity to stand up for women’s rights and for women to be leaders in Pennsylvania and across our Nation. I am so honored to have served my State and our Nation here in Congress. It is my hope that we, Democrats and Republicans, activists, and everyday Americans can come together to continue to seek ways to ensure safety and security, prosperity and justice, hope and opportunity for the people of our great Nation, just as my mother would have hoped.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN FRANK WOLF, INDEFATIGABLE DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY

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

Mr. SMITH. Chairman FRANK Wolf of Virginia will cast his last vote this week, capping off a remarkable 34-year career of altruistic deeds, selfless service, bold humanitarian initiatives, and durable achievement.

Both of us got elected in 1980, the Ronald Reagan class. Many of us wanted to have a Special Order tomorrow night, including the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Wolf) to honor him. But he said, “Absolutely not.” That is the kind of guy he is. He never seeks any attention. But I am here today. Tough. I am going to speak about him.

At home and overseas, FRANK WOLF, the William Wilberforce of the United States House of Representatives, has been an indefatigable defender of human rights and human dignity. Last week, WORLD magazine named FRANK WOLF the 2014 Daniel of the Year.

Whether it be helping a young mother in a refugee camp in Sudan or political prisoners in Russia or jailed pastors in China or any number of the marginalized and persecuted, FRANK WOLF has always sought to rescue and to protect.

FRANK WOLF is the author of the landmark International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, which established both an independent commission and a State Department office led by an ambassador who is the author wholly dedicated to safeguarding—via sanctions, if necessary—religious freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I saw firsthand his devotion to human rights in a myriad of ways, including trips with FRANK to a refugee camp in Sudan, the infamous Perm camp 35; a gulag in China, Beijing prison number 2, right after Tiananmen Square; Vukovar, a city under military siege during the war in Yugoslavia; and Romania on behalf of persecuted believers, just to name a few. He has chaired the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission with great distinction.

A man of deep Christian faith, FRANK WOLF not only passionately believes in Jesus Christ, but he acts on that belief. He often admonishes us, in a way worthy of his calling. FRANK WOLF is a devoted family man. He, along with his wife, Carolyn, have five adult children and 16 grandchildren, all of whom are the apple of his eye.

In his district, FRANK WOLF has delivered as well. His casework is superb. His approach has enabled him to be an exceptional leader, and over the past year, earned her the reputation as an insightful leader, and over the past year, leadership.

As chairman, Appropriations subcommittees over the years—including his latest assignment as chair of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science—he has authored nine major appropriations laws, including five transportation statutes that funded major projects in his district and throughout the Nation.

FRANK WOLF’s many other accomplishments include: His bipartisan Bring Jobs Back to America Act, designed to return manufacturing jobs to the U.S. from countries like China; raising awareness of the growing threat from cyber attacks; efforts to address America’s unconsolable debt—it is $18 trillion now—through bipartisan reforms; the formation of two anti-terror task forces operating in the region, as well as the creation of the National Gang Intelligence Center in the FBI; and the funding of the 103-mile Metrorail system.

He led the work in obtaining about $1 billion to extend Metrorail from Tysons and out to Dulles Airport and to Loudoun County. He pushed for lower carpool restrictions on I-66 and has helped many commuters get to the Capital and to work. He led efforts to place Ronald Reagan Washington National and Washington Dulles International airports under a regional authority, providing the capital to build a new terminal at Reagan National and vastly expand Dulles.

He has been a leader in fighting with great tenacity Lyme disease. He has fought to address hunger by creating the Feds Feed Families food drive, which has generated more than 15 million pounds of donated food. And in 2014, he put language into an omnibus bill to create the National Commission on Hunger.

And one of the Nation’s newest national parks is in his 10th District, the Catoctin Creek and Belle Grove National Historic Park, established in 2002 through yet another one of FRANK’s laws.

Finally, let me make it clear: FRANK WOLF’s departure from the House is only the end of his current place of service to humanity and marks a new beginning, a transition to the private sector, where he will continue and even expand upon his extraordinary life’s work.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN MARCIA FUDGE

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to stand with my fellow members of the Congressional Black Caucus to pay tribute to the outstanding leadership of our outgoing chair, MARCIA FUDGE of Ohio.

Chair FUDGE has done much more than occupy a position in her time as CBC chair. She has truly led this caucus at a time where it required active leadership.

It has often been said that Chair FUDGE’s work ethic, problem-solving approach, and coalition building has earned her the reputation as an insightful leader, and over the past year, that leadership has been on display to an impressive degree. Her legislative priorities have included job creation, protecting voting rights, health and nutrition, protecting Medicare and Social Security, education, and housing.

Chair FUDGE’s simple philosophy is reflected in her daily pledge. “To do the people’s work.” That dedicated approach has enabled her to be an extraordinary chair of the Congressional
MOURNING THE LOSS OF JUDY BAAR TOPINKA, ILLINOIS STATE COMPTROLLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Rodney Davis) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROY LEE DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, my State of Illinois mourns the loss of a great friend and a great leader, our State comptroller, Judy Baar Topinka.

I awoke this morning to my phone buzzing incessantly, and I was sad to pick up that phone and hear the news that my friend passed away unexpectedly early this morning. Illinois has lost a great leader.

Judy was somebody who was an institution in Republican politics in my home State. She was the most gregarious politician I have ever met in my life. Judy was somebody who made everyone feel at ease walking through the State capitol in Illinois. I am proud to represent that State capitol now in Springfield, and it is going to be a sad day to walk into that capitol and not see Judy.

Mr. Speaker, Judy was somebody who knew no strangers. If she met you, whether you were standing out in front of the capitol building guarding the door or if you were the Governor of the State of Illinois, she treated you the exact same way.

She is somebody who inspired me to get into this arena of public service. As a young candidate for State representative in 1996, I had the opportunity to have many people tell me that I shouldn’t run, but I had Judy Baar Topinka to thank for encouraging me to go for it. I lost that race, but I made so many friends like Judy.

Judy came to my home town of Taylorville to do some campaign events with me one day. It was summer. It was a long day of events, and Judy went to my house to lay down and rest for a bit. I had a 1-year-old Boston terrier bulldog who decided that he really liked Judy.

He jumped up on that couch and started kissing her in the only way that my dog knew how. He went right to her face. Instead of helping Judy, we took pictures. Since that day, every single time I have seen Judy Baar Topinka, she asks me about that dog.

In 2012, when my dog Bruiser passed away, Judy was actually sad when I told her about that dog. In 2012, when my dog Bruiser passed away, Judy was actually sad when I told her about that dog.

Illinois is going to lose not just my friend, but we lose our comptroller who was just reelected. Illinois mourns the loss of a great leader.

Judy Baar Topinka. She was not just my friend, but she was my personal friend. And I do not mean just my chair but my close personal friend. And I do not mean just Chairwoman FUDGE, I am also extremely grateful for Chairwoman FUDGE’s leadership and extraordinary insight and energy in advocating for voting rights and for victims of excessive force.

Chairwoman FUDGE has played an indispensable role in preserving the CBC’s legacy as the “Conscience of the Congress.”

Illinois will never be the same without Judy Baar Topinka, and America will never be the same without leaders like her.
the traveling public. They set an aggressive schedule for repairs, and they kept it.

The air traffic controllers, FAA employees, and contractors who responded to this crisis performed admirably and deserve the highest thanks and appreciation. Under difficult circumstances, members of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association from throughout the Midwest rose to the challenge and kept the flying public safe. Within 4 days of the fire, O'Hare Airport regained its title as the busiest airport in the world.

I would like to say a special thank you to Toby Hauck, the Chicago Center NATCA Facility Representative; Gerry Waloszyk, the Chicago Center FAS Facilitiy Representative; Bill Coull, the Chicago Center Air Traffic Manager; Mike Paulsen, the Chicago Center Technical Operations Group Manager; and everyone else who worked to re-store Chicago Center. Because of all of you, repairs were completed, and Chicago Center returned to full capacity.

Mr. Speaker, important lessons have been learned, that the fire that crippled Chicago Center not only affected flights in the Midwest, but also those flying through Chicago's airspace to reach their destinations.

Between Friday and Sunday, more than 3,000 flights were canceled at O'Hare alone. The estimated cost to the airlines has been reported to be more than $350 million in total. However, what made this crisis unique wasn't the number of delays or cancelled flights. It was that just one person was able to disrupt the travel plans of so many thousands of people.

The systems that protect the flying public must be made more robust. Although the fundamental redundancy had been built into the system—the ability of nearby radar systems to see into the Chicago airspace—the FAA must and is improving contingency plans to restore service much faster than it was able to do.

In the long term, the best way to ensure the safety and reliability of the National Airspace System is to facilitate the transition to the NextGen air traffic transportation system.

Mr. Speaker, currently, the ground-based radar system is the foundation of the National Airspace System. NextGen will rely on GPS satellites that are more accurate than ground-based radar. It will also include a transition from radio voice communications to a digital network that is similar to the mobile phone service. This transition to NextGen will enable air traffic controllers to reestablish air traffic control services much more quickly after this type of disaster.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the FAA's response and well done, and to support the President's request for full funding for implementing NextGen in the 114th Congress.

THE OPEN ACT

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the 30 million Americans who suffer from a rare disease. One in ten, Mr. Speaker, 10 percent of the country suffers from a rare disease.

Over 95 percent of these diseases have no treatments because each rare disease impacts a small number of patients. That is why I introduced the OPEN Act, the Orphan Product Extensions Now Accelerating Cures and Treatments.

My bill has the potential to help millions of people, and the idea was born from an event in my district. Over the summer, I held two 21st Century Cures roundtables in my district. The 21st Century Cures is a bipartisan initiative to examine and improve the discovery, development, and marketing of new drugs. Treatments for patients suffering from chronic and rare diseases, whether it is from medical devices or medicine, must be discovered on the ground level through basic science; developed into a practical, usable, and marketable product; and delivered to the patients so that the treatment may be effectively utilized.

Mr. Speaker, the first roundtable featured patients and patient advocates. From some of those patients, I heard about the importance of repurposing drugs. This led to the introduction of the OPEN Act. My bill will leverage the free market to incentivize drugs to be repurposed to treat rare diseases and pediatric cancers.

Repurposing drugs has a twofold benefit. First, the OPEN Act has the potential to result in new treatments for individuals with rare diseases. As I mentioned, the vast majority of individuals suffering from rare diseases don't have treatments, let alone cures; yet I hear often about individuals with rare diseases who will take medication that has not been tested for their condition.

The OPEN Act incentivizes the testing of mainstream drugs on rare diseases. This bill opens the door for new treatments. The OPEN Act can also create a new surge in biotechnology jobs and investments. Creating jobs and helping the sick are laudable goals, Mr. Speaker. My bill takes a step toward accomplishing that.

This bill can help millions of people. It will ensure repurposed medications are safe and effective for rare conditions and can be reimbursed through insurance coverage—so important. This is a bipartisan piece of legislation which I introduced with my colleagues, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. McCaul, and Mr. HASTINGS.

Helping those with rare diseases is a cause worth supporting, and I am proud to have introduced the OPEN Act.
President’s executive orders on amnesty far transcend the issue of illegal immigration. The President’s action strikes at the very heart of our separation of powers. The Constitution reserves to Congress alone the power to enact and alter law, and it charges the President with responsibility to faithfully execute those laws.

If the President can seize legislative power in this manner and then boast to an audience that he, himself, has changed the law, then the separation of powers is meaningless, and our constitutional Republic will have crossed a very bright line that separates a nation of laws from the unhappy societies where rulers boast that the ‘law is in their mouths.’

If this precedent stands, every succeeding President, Republican and Democrat, will cite it as authority to make or alter law by decree. This cannot be allowed to happen.

The question occurs: What can the House do?

Well, it took its first step last week by passing H.R. 5759 that declares the President’s action unconstitutional and null and void. This was a symbolic act since the bill is subject to Presidential veto. If the President actually vetoes the bill, the President should have heeded. Obviously, he has not.

What else can the Congress do?

One of the fundamental checks held by Congress is the power of appropriation. The House is now considering the use of Federal funds to proceed with this unconstitutional act. I realize that is a very difficult thing to do with a dysfunctional Senate, but a temporary funding measure into January or February would protect us against the prospect of a government shutdown while we try to engage the Senate to rise in defense of the Constitution. And if the Democratic Senate will not defend our Constitution, and if it is a strong possibility, a few weeks from now the Republican Senate certainly will.

Why in the world would we want to lock in Federal spending through next September that reflects the priorities of the Democratic Senate that voters just thoroughly repudiated last month? Why in the world would we want to so greatly weaken our position to insist on the complete defunding of the President’s unconstitutional act in the next congressional session just 3 weeks hence?

Meanwhile, it is imperative that the House take every action available to engage the Supreme Court to resolve this constitutional crisis. Several States have already filed suit, and the House needs to join them. In addition, the House needs to vote as an institution to challenge this act directly. This is too important to be treated as an afterthought on current litigation over ObamaCare. It needs to be voiced on separate, unequivocal, and now.

Since the earliest days of our Republic, the Supreme Court has invalidated legislative acts that conflicted with the Constitution. Now it must be called upon to invalidate an executive act that strikes at the very core of our Constitution. Regardless of the ideologies of individual Justices, I cannot believe that any of them would sit idly by as the Executive seizes such fundamental powers from the legislative branch.

On behalf of the House, the Speaker announced last month that we would fight this act tooth and nail. To adjourn tomorrow, having taken only a symbolic step toward challenging our actual powers to challenge this act undermines the credibility of the House majority.

Elements on the extreme left argue that this act was justified due to congressional inaction over immigration reform. They fault the House for not adopting a Senate immigration measure, but they forget that the House passed a strong immigration bill this summer and the Senate refused to consider it.

Since when has congressional disagreement over legislation been license for the President to legislate himself? This argument abandons the Constitution and the rule of law for the expediency of one-man rule. We should recognize such arguments for what they are: the authoritarianism of the extreme left. We should reject these arguments and those who make them.

Mr. Speaker, the Roman Republic died when Julius Caesar seized the legislative authority of the Roman Senate. Repeated acts of usurpation went unchallenged until the constitutional structure of the Republic simply disintegrated.

Let that not be the epitaph of the American Republic. Of this crisis, let history record that men and women of good will on both sides of the aisle joined together to defend the Constitution that they swore to uphold, and that this generation passed that Constitution and all of the freedoms it has preserved, intact and inviolate, to the many generations of Americans who followed.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN MARCIA FUDGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, let me just thank my colleagues. Certainly, it has been a high honor to serve as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I will express that later on today at our meeting.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the recent tragedies that have occurred in my hometown of Cleveland, Ohio, but also the positive change that can come out of these tragedies.

In November 2012, Malissa Williams and Timothy Russell lost their lives following a high-speed chase involving more than 60 police vehicles. Cleveland police officers fired 137 rounds into their vehicle. The pair were unarmed.

I immediately wrote to the Department of Justice seeking an independent review and investigation surrounding the circumstances that led to this use of deadly force by law enforcement.

Following the death of Michael Brown and the unrest that followed, I again wrote to the Department of Justice in August 2014 asking for action. While waiting on the results of the Department of Justice investigation,
tragedy again struck my district on November 22, 2014, when a 12-year-old boy, Tamir Rice, was shot dead by a Cleveland police officer in a park outside the Cudell Recreation Center.

While my heart is still heavy, I believe some will rise from the ashes of this tragedy.

On Thursday, December 4, Attorney General Eric Holder announced the Department of Justice had concluded its review and found that the Cleveland Division of Police had exhibited systemic deficiencies and engaged in a pattern of excessive force. The city of Cleveland is committed to righting these wrongs through a court-enforced consent decree.

The DOJ’s announcement in Cleveland last week is an encouraging first step to tackling the systemic issues that are plaguing our communities. However, let us not for one second think our work is done. The use of excessive force, particularly when it comes to minority communities, is not a concern unique to Cleveland. The deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner are tragic reminders that this is a national concern.

The killing of men of color by those sworn to protect and serve must stay foremost in our minds until it stops.

I am encouraged by the young people who have taken to the streets to protest peacefully. They have finally found something that has energized them to be active and vocal about the change they seek. I urge them to continue to let their voices be heard to keep up the drumbeat for justice.

Having worked in the criminal justice system for many years, I understand more than most that police have a very difficult and dangerous job and deserve our respect and our thanks. Each day our police officers put their lives on the line to protect and serve, and they should be commended for the lives on the line to protect and serve, and they should be commended for the

ENSURING GOVERNANCE OF THE NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege as well to come to the floor of the House and pay tribute to our outgoing chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Before I do that, however, I believe it is important to say to this body that our charge and responsibility is to ensure the governance of this Nation. As the appropriations omnibus unfolded, I believe the continuing resolution that has been passed forward is evidence of the nonresponsibility and the nonthought of those who have the obligation to govern this Nation. I believe it is important to raise the question of where is the objectivity.

The continuing resolution is to fund the Nation’s homeland security. That means that we are saying to those who just lost their lives in Yemen, to the Americans who have been beheaded by ISIS, to Boko Haram, al Shabaab, to al Qaeda, and many other franchise terrorists that America will stand bare and unprepared, that her national security will be in jeopardy.

Mr. Speaker, it is crucial that we speak against that position, that funds homeland security partially.

Let me also say that I believe in this great Nation. I believe in the Constitution, and I fully realize that the executive order that was issued by the President dealing with the humanitarian relief and the discretion by agencies, prosecutorial discretion, is within the context of his authority under article II.

I am fully aware that the President’s executive order was well vetted by constitutional specialists, White House counsel, and the Department of Justice, objectively with regard to whether or not the President was making new law. In this executive order on immigration, no immigration status was conferred, no citizenship was conferred. The only thing that was determined in those executive, prosecutorial discretion on deporting individuals and deferring deportation.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the response is extreme. Not funding Homeland Security is extreme. I join with Secretary Johnson in standing against this discriminatory practice on an agency that is crucial to the security of airports and ports and the borders and protecting the American people.

As I ask for a reconsideration, it allows me to speak of a lady who represents the best of the Constitution, and that is Chairwoman FUDGE, who understood the quality of all and the importance of guiding this caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus, around the issues of justice. Let me thank her for the considerations made during tragedies like Trayvon Martin, as we began with briefings and involvement in that case, and looked to support members of the Congressional Black Caucus who were fighting in their districts to bring about justice; her continued support of Members when the tragedies of Michael Brown and Eric Garner occurred, and many other incidents; her balance, as we all have, respecting and appreciating the service of law enforcement officials, including those whom we oversee on the Judiciary Committee: the DEA, the FBI, the ATF, and many others, but recognizing that the Constitution, as she so understood, must be a document for all. I am so proud.

I must thank Chairwoman FUDGE for her dedicated commitment to the nutrition of children across America. She is almost like Shirley Chisholm, who came to the Agriculture Committee. People wondered what she would do there. But she understood, as a local elected official, that food stamps were not a handout, they were a hand-up. I thank her for that.

And then to lay a marker for the issues of all Members, her understanding of the energy industry, particularly in States like Louisiana and Texas, where she encouraged Members to introduce the energy industry to the Congressional Black Caucus in terms of giving information. That is what we are: we learn, we get information.

And then, of course, her commitment to having an international presence, that people would know that the Congressional Black Caucus cares about the international community. That is an important step.

As we move forward in 2015, I wish the incoming chair much success. I think it is extremely important that we go in 2015, to thank her, and she understands, she understands what is due, and I want to say, “Thank you.”

Many people claim friendship, but I will say to you, Chairwoman FUDGE, you have now gotten 40-plus new friends to your portfolio, and we will treat you as a friend because, as we worked together in this last Congress, as we worked with the United States President, President Barack Obama, as we worked with the Senate, as we worked with Federal agencies, as we worked with our community, you became a friend to us.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN MARCIA FUDGE

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague, a distinguished woman with a sweet name, MARCIA FUDGE, as her tenure as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus ends.

First of all, I want to thank MARCIA FUDGE for welcoming me to Capitol Hill, for being such a good friend and mentor. In my short time in Congress, she has been an invaluable resource to me, and I truly appreciate that.

As a servant of the people, I have long admired her as a woman for not just talking the talk, but for walking it too.

Secondly, I want to thank MARCIA FUDGE for her phenomenal leadership. She has successfully guided the Congressional Black Caucus in promoting some of the most pressing issues and concerns of the people in our communities. She has been the collective voice of the caucus, bringing light to necessary issues of social and economic justice.

On the 10th of December, 2014.
and to make positive change in our communities.

She has certainly put the caucus on a solid foundation, which I know my North Carolina colleague, G.K. BUTTERFIELD, will continue.

On behalf of the residents of North Carolina’s 12th Congressional District, I salute Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE on her great leadership as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I say, “Thank you, thank you, thank you.”

H.R. 5407 DESERVES A HEARING

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I would like to say without reservation, hesitation, or equivocation, I have preeminence respect for who was a part of the constabulary. I believe that police officers have a very difficult job, and they do it under stressful circumstances, and I believe that most police officers are doing a good job every day.

I also want to say that there are many out the constabulary; however, who would have us get over Michael Brown, get over Eric Garner, get on with it. And then there are those who say in the alternative—not in these exact words but with words commingling the way they say, if you can’t get over Garner, get over Brown, because Garner is a better case for you to take to the court of public opinion.

To these people I say, we can’t get over Garner and we can’t get over Brown, because if the truth be told, Garner and Brown are two sides of the same coin, two sides of one coin. If the truth be told, without the eye of the camera, without what appears to be clear and convincing evidence, without what appears to be evidence that is beyond reproach, without the eye of the camera, Garner would be Brown. The Garner case is only what it is because the camera was there to capture the essence of what happened.

If the truth be told, without the camera, there would be questions about how Garner was arrested, there would be questions about how he was taken to the ground, there would be questions about whether he made comments about his inability to breathe. How many times did he say, “I can’t breathe?” There would be questions about whether or not he made some effort to harm some officer. There would be questions about whether the guns were somehow at risk of being taken from an officer.

If the truth be told, without the eye of the camera, Garner would be Brown.

This is why, Mr. Speaker, I have made an appeal to this House to bring H.R. 5407 to the floor. Let it go to a hearing. H.R. 5407 is the TIP Act, the Transparency in Policing Act. H.R. 5407 would accord the Justice Department the opportunity to do a survey and ascertain the cost of equipping munici- palities, counties, police departments—the constabulary, if you will—with cameras. Then it would go on to require those that can afford it to have the cameras, and those that cannot, it provides an exemption to them.

H.R. 5407 is good legislation. It is not a panacea; it won’t cure all. For those who are concerned about the camera not being enough to cause a proper decision to be reached before a grand jury, it may not be, but it sure does provide the opportunity to galvanize the country around the notion that something needs to be done. It is not a panacea, not a cure-all, but it does present an opportunity for officers to be exonerated.

H.R. 5407 would do more to help officers than anything out there right now that I can see, because it gives the evidence of what actually occurred at an event. It can cause officers not to be questioned about what they did, and it will cause the government to be able to go track the bad apples, the discriminatory, the vandalize and fraudulent circumstances upon officers to be properly prosecuted.

H.R. 5407 is a bill that is before the House and has good many supporters right now, more than 40. I believe that H.R. 5407 deserves a hearing. I make an appeal, I beseech, and I implore my colleagues, who have the plenitude authority to make a decision as to whether it moves forward, to please give H.R. 5407 an opportunity to be heard. This is not an appeal from one Congressperson; this is an appeal from those who are concerned about proper policing.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN MARCIA FUDGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlelwoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker. I come today unscripted to speak to you about a lady that made a difference in the lives of every single one of us. I am proud that Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES joined a panel with other scholars like Sharon Davies and Curtis Austin as we talked about moving forward from the Trayvon Martins, from the Michael Browns, from the Eric Garners, and the list goes on, across this Nation.

We must come together for our children, for our families, and, yes, we must also stand up for justice that meets the standards of the values of this Nation.

Today, I join my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to thank another woman, our Rosa Parks, our Sojourner Truth—Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, for being the seventh woman to be the president and the leader of the Congressional Black Caucus.

To you, Congresswoman FUDGE, to you, Mr. Speaker, I say, thank you for the Congressional Black Caucus through her leadership being more than the conscience of the Congress, but for being scholarly, for standing up for justice, for daring to be different, and, also, for understanding agriculture, the judiciary system. You see, she is not only a Member of Congress, she has served as a mayor, she has served as a judge, a prominent lawyer. But, more important than all of these, she is a crusader for children, she is a crusader for the least of us, and she understands relationships and partnerships, and working far beyond the CBC. She reaches across both sides of the aisle because, at the end of the day, if she really realizes the fight is not about one of us, the fight is for all of us.

CONDEMNING ANTI-SEMITISM

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

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, a few months ago, I stood here on the House floor to speak out against the troubling surge in global anti-Semitic demonstrations that followed the latest confrontation between Israel and Hamas terrorists. Crimes ranged from the desecration of synagogues and other Jewish institutions and businesses, to murders and acts of violence and terrorism against Jews.

At that time, I had just led a bipartisan coalition of over 70 Members of Congress in speaking out against the rise in anti-Semitism and calling on the United States to continue to be a global leader in combating such acts of hatred wherever they occur. The United States must lead by example which is why I am proud this body has continued to condemn anti-Semitism and support efforts to combat such actions.

With little agreement between the parties and Congress currently, I have been proud to see continual bipartisan efforts that not only impacts Jews, but all ethnic, religious, and minority groups; unfortunately, with anti-Semitic violence and incitement continuing to increase dramatically, leading by example is not enough.

That is why I have joined with my good friends, the gentlemen from Florida, Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. DIAZ-BALART,
and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) in leading over 80 of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle to urge the United Nations to take decisive action against anti-Semitic attacks globally. It is beyond troubling that across the world we are seeing anti-Semitic rhetoric being circulated widely on television, radio, and the Internet and that there are even national political parties that openly espouse racist views. Even more troubling is that these hateful actions are taking place in many of our fellow member states at the U.N.

The United Nations must join the United States in taking actions to encourage member states to become global partners in combatting anti-Semitism, which poses a severe threat to international peace and security. The U.N. can stem the surge of anti-Semitism through a variety of methods, including raising awareness of the global prevalence of anti-Semitic attitudes.

The U.N. should urge the adoption, implementation, and enforcement of strong hate crime laws. Hate crime laws demonstrate that a society will not tolerate unlawful actions motivated by bigotry and that minority and ethnic groups are valued members. It should also encourage countries to expand education on diversity and tolerance because it is crucial that children are brought up in an atmosphere of inclusion and taught the significance of valuing individuals of allバックgrounds and religious beliefs.

Additionally, the U.N. must encourage heads of state to forcefully speak out about the dangers of anti-Semitism which can create an environment where violence and escalating tensions can grow and impact all communities.

I thank all of my colleagues in this body who continue to stand up against such bigotry and violent acts of hatred, both here at home and abroad, as we continue to enlist others in our international community to promote freedom and democracy under the law. I also want to thank the local Jewish community relations council in my district which recently held a community forum on addressing anti-Semitism.

This is a conversation that must be held in every community across our Nation and around the world. I hope to see the United Nations and all member states join us in expanding this dialogue by denouncing such actions and taking decisive action in their own countries to halt these hate crimes and acts of hatred.

Only by working together across party lines and across the globe can we successfully eradicate such hate in our world.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HON. JOHN A. BORNEH, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 10, 2014 at 9:39 a.m.:

That the Senate passed H.R. 1067.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4681.
That the Senate passed with amendments H.Con. Res. 197.
With best wishes, I am Sincerely,
KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

☐ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Aaron McEmrys, Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Arlington, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Creator God, spirit of light, we come here today with our spirits open to the Sun of Your loving gaze. We come humbly by the work entrusted to us to tend to Your children—for we know that we are, all of us, Your children, bearers of Your divine spark.

May we remember this no matter how thick the stacks of paper on our desks.

When we are weary, may we be filled with Your generosity of spirit. We will pass it on with interest.

When we don’t know which way to turn, may we find stillness and listen for the soft voice of wisdom.

Help us today to do justice, to serve mercy, and to walk humbly with You and the better angels of our nature.

Most of all, beloved God, may we practice the arts of kindness in all that we do and all that we are.

To this we say amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND AARON McEMRYS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 1 minute. There was no objection.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to introduce and welcome Reverend Aaron McEmrys from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, which is in the heart of my congressional district.

Reverend McEmrys is an accomplished religious leader who thrives on collaboration and draws his energy from working with people. He has led a life of service and generosity, caring for his neighbors and working to protect his flock.

I am proud to share his views as a passionate supporter of marriage equality, of addressing the disparity in wealth and income throughout the country, of workers’ rights, and addressing the growing problems caused by global climate change.

He has spent years fighting to improve the daily lives of the neediest among us, spending years with the Hopi and Navajo Indian populations.

Reverend McEmrys holds a master’s of divinity from the Meadville Lombard Theological School and a bachelor’s of science in labor studies from Bard Theological School and a bachelor’s of divinity from the Meadville Lombard Theological School.

He is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School’s John F. Kennedy Jr. Scholars Program and the National Labor College, so he is well prepared to lead a highly informed and politically engaged congregation.

I am proud to consider him a constituent, a valued constituent, and thank him for opening our day with such a meaningful prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Poe of Texas). The Chair will entertain up
to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HANNAH AND FRIENDS

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representative JOLLY to recognize wonderful organizations in my district dedicated to helping children and adults with special needs, Hannah’s House.

Many football fans know the name Charlie Weis. He has coached at the University of Notre Dame, New England Patriots, and the New York Jets.

What many of you don’t know is he and his wife, Maura, are passionate about helping people off the field.

In 2003, Charlie and Maura founded Hannah’s House for the 1.5 million Hannah, who has global developmental delays. They wanted to find a way to inspire a special group of people with disabilities different from the athletes that he coached. Hannah and Friends provide grants to low- and middle-income families who have children with disabilities.

Hannah and Friends is helping individuals with special needs every day to realize their potential and plan for their future and to achieve their own personal best.

THE GREAT LAKES

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes represents the largest source of freshwater on this planet. They provide jobs for more than 1.5 million people. They provide those who live near them with countless opportunities for outdoor enjoyment and recreation.

My community of western New York considers its proximity to Lake Erie as one of its greatest assets. We must strive to guard the Great Lakes against imminent and future threats, and this week the House did just that.

Today we introduce the Guarding the Great Lakes Act, which will continue to help protect the Great Lakes from Asian carp and other invasive species. The act will also take necessary steps to focus on permanent solutions by beginning work on water quality and flood mitigation projects.

Yesterday the House passed the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act, providing $300 million in Federal funding annually to support projects related to the protection and restoration of Great Lakes for each of the next 5 years. These are two excellent steps forward as we continue to protect these great bodies of water.

CONGRATULATIONS, KARON KARAMI

(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. South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am grateful to express my appreciation for Karon Karami, the South Carolina Second Congressional District’s scheduler and office manager.

After interning for several months in the Washington office, Karon joined the Wilson team in December 2012. Al- though Karon lives in Great Falls, Virginia, and is a graduate of the University of Virginia, Karon has grown to adopt South Carolina as her second home.

The scheduling position is most challenging, but Karon has excelled. Her ability to connect with constituents, coordinate with my wife, Roxanne, and her eagerness to assist them has made a difference for the citizens of South Carolina.

Beginning in January, Karon will join New Hampshire’s First Congressional District Congresswoman-elect Frank Quinta’s office. I know her parents, Mo and Fatemah Karami, are proud of her accomplishments. I wish Karon best wishes and look forward to seeing her future successes.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and the President should take actions to never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. The President’s pardoning of Guantanamo terrorists endangers American families.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the House will join me in wishing Mike and Dee well for the next 5 years. These are two excellent legislative projects that will benefit all Americans.

More importantly, I am proud to say Colorado played an enormous role in making Orion possible. Lockheed Martin and United Launch Alliance facilities played a leading role in this mission.

Other Colorado contractors that played an important role include Lockheed Martin Space Systems Advanced Solutions Inc., Ball Aerospace, Deep Space Systems, Denver Research Institute, Erickson Metals of Colorado, ISYS Technologies, Red Canyon Engineering, SEAKR Engineering, St. Vrain Manufacturing Syzygyx, Syzygyx, and TT&J & Inc.

Orion supports thousands of jobs all around the country and is an engine for innovation and space exploration in our State and the Nation. This is something that we all can be proud of as a Nation, and we look forward to further space exploration.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN MIKE McINTYRE

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

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and colleague from North Carolina, Congressman Mike McIntyre. Mike and I are blessed to represent the southeastern region of North Carolina and some of the most hardworking, genuine, and thoughtful people you will ever meet.

Mike has his priorities in order. He has dedicated his life to God, his family, and serving his constituents, and he has done so with unparalleled honor and integrity.

In Congress, he has been a voice for common sense, and he has never been afraid to reach across the aisle to get things done for our local communities. During his years of service on the House Agriculture and the House Armed Services Committees, Mike has, time and again, stood up for issues folks care about back home in North Carolina.

I am honored that I inherited Robeson County from Mike, a place my family has called home for generations, and I am thrilled to call Mike and his amazing wife, Dee, my constituents.

I can tell you firsthand that Mike is respected across southeastern North Carolina because he has a sincere passion for the people he represents and serves.

I thank Mike McIntyre for his leadership to North Carolina over the years. It has been a privilege to get to know Mike, to call him a friend, and to work with him to make life better for the folks of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the House will join me in wishing Mike and Dee well in their future endeavors. We are going to miss him around here.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to renew the call for Congress to act on comprehensive immigration reform. The job of Congress is to legislate, and immigration reform needs a legislative solution. It is, therefore, disappointing that we will be finishing this Congress in a few days without the House having passed or even voted on comprehensive immigration reform. But I hope that starting immediately in the new Congress we can work together for comprehensive, commonsense, and compassionate legislation that will provide opportunities to those who
want to come here and opportunities for the 12 million undocumented residents who are already here.

This legislation can grow our economy, decrease our deficit, secure our borders, protect our workers, unite families, and provide an earned pathway to citizenship. A majority of Americans support this framework, and it has the support of both labor and business as well as religious and civic organizations. Let us come back in January ready to get the job done and pass comprehensive immigration reform.

**GRUBER WASN'T TALKING ABOUT REPUBLICANS**

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, a lot of my Republican friends have been upset with the comments of Jonathan Gruber, where he was quoted accurately as saying about Obamacare: "A lack of transparency is a huge political advantage. Call it the stupidity of the American voter or whatever."

He also said that they—President Obama and the Democrats—proposed it and it "passed because the American people are too stupid to understand the difference."

Now, I would say to my Republican colleagues: chill out. Don't worry. Not a single Republican voted for that bill. Not a single Republican in the Senate voted for that bill. He wasn't talking about Republicans. He wasn't talking about the Democrats, Independents, or Republicans who voted for Republicans to come to the House or the Senate. He was talking about the people he was paid millions by to work on Obamacare. That is right—he called the Democrats stupid.

He wasn't talking about Republicans. He knew we were smarter than that.

**RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF COACH VINCENT ASCOLESE**

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the life of the legendary North Bergen High School football coach Vincent Ascolese.

Coach Ascolese, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, neighbor, and friend, passed away on December 3 after a long battle with cancer.

His career as a high school football coach spanned 50 years, beginning with 11 years in Hoboken, New Jersey, and then taking over the North Bergen football program in 1973. He retired after the 2011 season as New Jersey's third winningest coach in history.

As a member of the Hudson County Hall of Fame and the New Jersey Football Coaches Hall of Fame, he guided the North Bergen Bruins to 12 Hudson County crowns and six State championships.

As a Jersey City native, Coach Ascolese was named Hudson County Coach of the Year 14 times, and in 1997, he was named the Toyota Coach of the Year for the Eastern United States. In 2011, the North Bergen home field was renamed as the Vincent Ascolese Field.

Coach Ascolese will be remembered for his lasting impact on and off the field and his ability to inspire his players and the community. My thoughts are with his family, former players, and the North Bergen community.

**HONORING JOSE DIAZ-BALART**

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate my friend, journalist, and television anchorman, Jose Diaz-Balart.

For over 30 years, Jose has been reporting on momentous events from international crises to breaking news in order to properly inform his diverse audience.

As the first U.S. journalist to broadcast in two languages—English and Spanish—simultaneously on two networks, Jose has proven to be a valuable voice to the Hispanic American community. Jose has been the recipient of many accolades, including three Emmys, the George Foster Peabody Award, and the 2014 CHCI Medallion of Excellence.

Jose's role in our society should not be taken for granted. There are hundreds of journalists in Cuba and around the world who are being persecuted and imprisoned for showcasing the realities within their own countries. Jose speaks for them.

I congratulate Jose for 30 years within the industry and thank him for his commitment to the principles of independent journalism and freedom of the press.

**THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, as we begin a meaningful debate on the 66th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we must ensure actions and decisions reflect our ideals to ensure that we protect our country, grow the economy, and provide every American a fair shot at success.

**THE CHRISTMAS RESOLUTION**

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, it is the most wonderful time of the year, a time when millions of Americans gather together to celebrate Christmas. For many of us, Christmas is a time to remember the humble birth of our Savior on a holy night more than 2,000 years ago in the town of Bethlehem. We give thanks for Jesus’ message of love and peace and remember the sacrifice He made for us all. It is a season of giving, of love, and of joy.

According to a recent poll, 9 out of 10 Americans celebrate Christmas. Sadly, however, there is a troubling effort in America led by a vocal minority to remove the symbols and traditions of Christmas from the public arena.

There have been many examples of atheist groups working to remove public nativity displays and other decorations. Just last year in my home State of Colorado, an anti-religious organization filed a lawsuit against school officials for their support of student-led involvement with Operation Christmas Child.

Mr. Speaker, these petty efforts by groups offended by the religious significance of Christmas violates the freedom of religion our Founding Fathers provided for us in the Constitution. This Congress and in Congresses past, I have introduced a resolution to protect the symbols and traditions of Christmas for those who celebrate the holiday.

This resolution also disapproves of efforts to ban references to Christmas. We must not allow those who chose to take offense to shut down the religious celebration of every other American.

**THE CR/OMNIBUS**

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, last night, the House Rules Committee filed the 2015 government funding bill. My top priority is keeping the government open, and this bill will prevent the kind of widespread economic damage that would be caused by a government shutdown, but funding the government is more than just about dollars and cents. It is a statement about our national values. We must make difficult choices with limited resources and fight for what we stand for.

This so-called CR/Omnibus provides $1.1 trillion to fund the government through 2015. It provides funding to combat ISIL and support our troops, fight Ebola in West Africa, and it invests in critical science and research programs.

However, I am deeply disappointed that it responds to the President's executive action on immigration by providing only short-term funding for the Department of Homeland Security. I deeply oppose these anti-immigrant policy riders that impact women’s health and the environment.

As we begin a meaningful debate on this bill and as the new Congress approaches, we must ensure actions and decisions reflect our ideals to ensure that we protect our country, grow the economy, and provide every American a fair shot at success.

**THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of my newly-introduced
resolution which recognizes today as the 66th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the celebration of Human Rights Day.

Sixty-six years ago today, the world spoke for the first time with one voice to proclaim the fundamental rights and freedoms of all people. Today, it is our duty to continue to speak out for human rights for all people. Imprisoned bloggers in Vietnam, LGBT activists in Russia, and murdered students in Mexico all have shown us that there is still a very long road ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to take up my resolution and encourage my colleagues to set aside today to recognize Human Rights Day in honor of all those who are struggling to reclaim their fundamental rights.

SUPPORTING THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY ACT

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5656, the Global Food Security Act of 2014, which is a recognition here by the House of Representatives of the important lead role that the United States of America can and must play in fighting poverty and hunger throughout the world.

The simple truth is that a hunger epidemic of crisis proportion is spreading across the developing world leading to mass unrest, armed conflict, needless suffering, and death.

Every day, more than 21,000 people die of hunger or hunger-related causes. The United Nations reports that in developing countries, 842 million people are chronically hungry, one out of every three children who die before the age of 5 die of hunger, and one out of four children suffer mental or physical impairments due to malnutrition.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has been more than willing to spend trillions on warfare, while upon the Congress of the United States to declare war on hunger and give people in need a good reason to be grateful to America.

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.

BORDER PATROL AGENT PAY REFORM ACT OF 2014

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1691) to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents.

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

S. 1691. 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 “Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. BORDER PATROL RATE OF PAY.

(a) Purpose.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to strengthen U.S. Customs and Border Protection and ensure that border patrol agents can sufficiently ready to conduct essential work and will perform overtime hours in excess of a 40-hour workweek based on the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

(2) to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection has the flexibility to cover shift changes and retain the right to assign and scheduled work for missed and unscheduled work for mission- and agency requirements and planning based on operational need.

(b) Rates of Pay.—Subchapter V of chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5549 the following:

S. 1691. Sec. 2. Section 5550. Border patrol rate of pay.

(a) Definitions.—In this section—

(i) the term ‘basic border patrol rate of pay’ means the hourly rate of pay subject to the applicable border agent, as determined without regard to this section;

(ii) the term ‘border patrol agent’ means an individual who is appointed to a position assigned to the Border Patrol Enforcement classification series 1896 or any successor series, consistent with classification standards established by the Office of Personnel Management;

(iii) the term ‘level 1 border patrol rate of pay’ means the hourly rate of pay equal to 1.25 times the otherwise applicable hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol agent;

(iv) the term ‘level 2 border patrol rate of pay’ means the hourly rate of pay equal to 1.25 times the otherwise applicable hourly rate of basic pay of the applicable border patrol agent; and

(v) the term ‘work period’ means a 14-day biweekly pay period.

(b) Receipt of border patrol rate of pay.

(i) In general.—Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), and notwithstanding any other provision of law, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall take such action as is necessary, including the bilateral assignment of border patrol agents to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, to ensure that not more than 10 percent of the border patrol agents stationed at a location are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay.

(ii) Waiver.—U.S. Customs and Border Protection may waive the limitation under clause (i) on the percent of border patrol agents stationed at a location who are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay, if the border patrol agent is unable to perform overtime on a daily basis; that the border patrol agent is able to perform scheduled overtime on a daily basis; unless the analysis conducted under section 2(e) of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014 indicates that, in order to more adequately fulfill the operational requirements of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, such border patrol agents should be elected or be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay;

(iii) in an administrative position; or

(IV) as a fitness instructor; and

(v) a border patrol agent may be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay until such time as U.S. Customs and Border Protection concludes that a border patrol agent is unable to perform overtime on a daily basis; that the border patrol agent is able to perform scheduled overtime on a daily basis; unless the analysis conducted under section 2(e) of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014 indicates that, in order to more adequately fulfill the operational requirements of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, such border patrol agents should be elected or be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, to ensure that not more than 10 percent of the border patrol agents stationed at a location are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay.

(iv) Reimbursement of overtime.

(I) In general.—If a border patrol agent is unable to perform overtime on a daily basis, that the border patrol agent is able to perform scheduled overtime on a daily basis; unless the analysis conducted under section 2(e) of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014 indicates that, in order to more adequately fulfill the operational requirements of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, such border patrol agents should be elected or be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, to ensure that not more than 10 percent of the border patrol agents stationed at a location are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay, then the agent shall be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay if the agent works—

(i) at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection headquarters;

(ii) as a training instructor at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection training facility;

(iii) in an administrative position; or

(iv) as a fitness instructor; and

(v) a border patrol agent may be assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, to ensure that not more than 10 percent of the border patrol agents stationed at a location are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay.

(vi) Waiver.—U.S. Customs and Border Protection may waive the limitation under clause (i) on the percent of border patrol agents stationed at a location who are assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay or the basic border patrol rate of pay, if based on the analysis conducted under section 2(e) of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, U.S. Customs and Border Protection determines it may do so and adequately fulfill its operational requirements.

(vi) Certain locations.—Otherwise, persons shall not apply to border patrol agents working at the headquarters of U.S. Customs and Border Protection or a training location of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(vii) Canine care.—For a border patrol agent assigned to provide care for a canine and assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay in accordance with subparagraph (D)(i)—

(i) that rate of pay covers all such care;

(ii) for the purposes of scheduled overtime under paragraph (2)(A)(ii), such care shall be counted as 1 hour of scheduled overtime on each regular workday without regard to the actual duration of such care or whether such care occurs on a regular workday;

(iii) no other pay shall be paid to the border patrol agent for such care.

(viii) Pay assignment continuity.—

(I) In general.—Within 1 year after the date of enactment of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, and in
consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall develop and implement a plan to ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that the border patrol agent under this section during the 3 years of service before the border patrol agent becomes eligible for immediate retirement are consistent with the border patrol rate of pay level to which the border patrol agent has been assigned during the course of the career of the border patrol agent.

(3) Reporting.—U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit the plan developed under clause (1) to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(4) GAO Review.—Not later than 6 months after U.S. Customs and Border Protection submits the plan required under clause (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the effectiveness of the plan in ensuring that border patrol agents are not able to artificially enhance their retirement annuities.

(b) Definition.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

(1) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(c) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to limit the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to assign border patrol agents to border patrol rates of pay as necessary to meet operational requirements.

(2) Level 1 Border Patrol Rate of Pay.—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay—

(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with—

(i) 8 hours of regular time per workday, which may be interrupted by an unpaid off-duty meal break; and

(ii) 2 additional hours of scheduled overtime during each day the agent performs work under—

(C) any other purpose expressly provided for by law;

(E) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with—

(i) 8 hours of regular time per workday, which may be interrupted by an unpaid off-duty meal break; and

(ii) 2 additional hours of scheduled overtime during each day the agent performs work under

(2) prior to the level 1 border patrol rate of pay,

(3) subject to paragraph (2), shall be treated as basic pay for the purposes of calculations of overtime pay, night pay, Sunday pay, and holiday pay in accordance with section 5542(g).

(b) Level 2 Border Patrol Rate of Pay.—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the level 2 border patrol rate of pay—

(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with—

(i) 8 hours of regular time per workday, which may be interrupted by an unpaid off-duty meal break; and

(ii) 1 additional hour of scheduled overtime during each day the agent performs work under—

(B) for paid hours of regular time described in subparagraph (A)(i), the border patrol agent shall receive pay at the level 2 border patrol rate of pay;

(C) compensation for the hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in subparagraph (A)(ii) is provided indirectly through the 10.75 percent supplement within the level 2 border patrol rate of pay, and the border patrol agent may not receive for such hours—

(i) any compensation in addition to the compensation under subparagraph (B) under this section or any other provision of law; or

(ii) any compensatory time off;

(D) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay for hours of work in excess of 100 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g);

(E) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays per week with—

(i) 8 hours of regular time per workday, which may be interrupted by a 10.75 percent supplement within the level 2 border patrol rate of pay—

(ii) any compensatory time off or other paid time off for each hour (or part thereof) the agent is absent from work during regular time of the border patrol agent—

(i) shall be paid at the level 1 border patrol rate of pay—

(ii) any overtime work applied toward the obligation under clause (i) shall not be credited as overtime work under any other provision of law; and

(iii) any advance training in addition to the advanced training described in clause (i), shall be paid at the basic border patrol rate of pay; and

(3) Basic Border Patrol Rate of Pay.—For a border patrol agent who is assigned to the basic border patrol rate of pay—

(A) the border patrol agent shall have a regular tour of duty consisting of 5 workdays during each scheduled overtime described in subsection (b) and any other provision of law; or

(B) the border patrol agent shall receive compensatory time off or pay at the overtime hourly rate of pay for hours in excess of 80 hours during a work period, as determined in accordance with section 5542(g).

(c) Eligibility for Other Premium Pay.—A border patrol agent—

(1) shall receive premium pay for nightwork in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of section 5545; and premium pay and holiday pay in accordance with section 5546, without regard to the rate of pay to which the border patrol agent is assigned under this section, except that—

(A) no premium pay for nightwork, Sunday, or holiday work shall be provided for hours of regularly scheduled overtime work described in paragraph (2)(A)(i) or (3)(A)(i) of subsection (b); and

(B) section 5546(d) shall not apply and instead eligibility for pay for, and the rate of pay for, any overtime work on a Sunday or a designated holiday shall be determined in accordance with this section and section 5542(g);

(2) except as provided in paragraph (3) or section 5542(g), shall not be eligible for any other form of premium pay under this title; and

(3) shall be eligible for hazardous duty pay in accordance with section 5545(d).

(d) Treatment as Basic Pay.—Any pay in addition to the basic border patrol rate of pay for a border patrol agent resulting from application of the level 1 border patrol rate of pay or the level 2 border patrol rate of pay—

(1) subject to paragraph (2), shall be treated as basic pay for the purposes of calculating overtime pay, night pay, Sunday pay, or holiday pay under section 5542, 5545, or 5546.

(e) Travel Time.—Travel time to and from a border patrol agent’s home and duty station by a border patrol agent (as described in paragraph (2)(A)(i), (3)(A)(i), or (4)(A) of subsection (b))

(A) purposes of sections 5595(c), 8114(e), 8331(3)(I), and 8706(c); and

(B) any other purpose that the Director of the Office of Personnel Management may by regulation prescribe; and

(C) any other purpose expressly provided for by law; and

(2) shall not be treated as part of basic pay for the purposes of calculating overtime pay, night pay, Sunday pay, or holiday pay under section 5542, 5545, or 5546.

(f) Leave Without Pay and Substitution of Pay.—A border patrol agent—

(1) regular time—

(A) in general.—For a period of leave without pay during the regular time of a border patrol agent (as described in paragraph (2)(A)(i), (3)(A)(i), or (4)(A) of subsection (b)) within a work period, an equal period of work outside the regular time of the border patrol agent—

(i) shall be substituted and paid for at the rate applicable for the regular time; and

(ii) shall not be credited as overtime hours for any purpose.

(B) priority for same day work.—In substituting hours of work under subparagraph (A), work performed on the same day as the period of leave without pay shall be substituted first.

(C) priority for regular time substitution.—Hours of work shall be substituted for hours under this paragraph before being substituted for scheduled overtime under paragraphs (2), (3), and (4).

(2) overtime work.—For a period of absence during scheduled overtime (as described in paragraph (2)(F) or (3)(F) of subsection (b))
within a work period, an equal period of additional work in the same work period—

(i) shall be substituted and credited as overtime hours under any other provision of law.

(ii) Priorit[y] for same day work.—In substituting hours of work under subparagraph (A), any hours performed on the same day as the period of absence shall be substituted first.

(3) Application of compensatory time.—If a border patrol agent does not have sufficient hours of overtime work in that work period to substitute for all periods of absence during scheduled overtime (as described in paragraph (2) of subparagraph (a) of this section) performed in that work period, any accrued compensatory time off under section 5542(g) shall be applied to satisfy the hours obligation.

(4) Exempted from clause.—If a border patrol agent has a remaining hours obligation of scheduled overtime after applying paragraphs (2) and (3), any additional work in subsequent work periods that would otherwise be credited under section 5542(g) shall be applied toward the hours obligation until that obligation is satisfied.

(c) Overtime work.—

(1) In general.—Section 5542 of title 5, United States Code, is amended, by adding at the end of the following:

(g) Authority to require overtime work.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to require a border patrol agent to perform overtime work in accordance with the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, including in the event of a local or national emergency.

(2) Independent validator.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Comptroller General receives the report required by paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(A) examines the methodology used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to carry out the analysis; and

(B) indicates whether the Comptroller General concurs with the findings in the report under paragraph (1).

(3) Definition.—In this subsection, the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Reform and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(f) Rules of construction.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to—

(A) limit the right of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to assign both scheduled and unscheduled work to a border patrol agent based on the needs of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in excess of the hours of work normally applicable under the election of the border patrol agent, regardless of what the border patrol agent might otherwise have elected;

(B) require compensation of a border patrol agent other than for hours during which the border patrol agent is actually performing work or using approved paid leave or other paid time off; or

(C) exempt a border patrol agent from any limitations on pay, earnings, or compensation, including the limitations under section 5546 of title 5, United States Code.

(g) Technical and Conforming Amendments.—

(1) Section 5547 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end of such section—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking, "and before "5546"; and

(ii) by striking "5550", and 5550" after "5546 (a) and (b); and

(B) by adding at the end the following:
SEC. 3. CYBERSECURITY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

(a) In General.—At the end of subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.) there is added the following:

"(c) Table of Contents Amendment.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5549 the following:

"5550. Border patrol rate of pay.".

(b) Regulations.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall promulgate regulations to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 226. CYBERSECURITY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

"(1) Appointing Committees of Congress.—The term "appointing committees of Congress" means the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

"(2) Collective Bargaining Agreement.—The term "collective bargaining agreement" has the meaning given that term in section 7103(a)(6) of title 5, United States Code.

"(3) Exceptioned Service.—The term "exceptioned service" has the meaning given that term in section 2103 of title 5, United States Code.

"(4) Preference Eligible.—The term "preference eligible" has the meaning given that term in section 2108 of title 5, United States Code.

"(5) Qualified Position.—The term "qualified position" means a position, designated by the Secretary for the purpose of this section, which is an exceptioned position, management, or supervisory function that executes the responsibilities of the Department relating to cybersecurity.

"(6) Senior Executive Service.—The term "Senior Executive Service" has the meaning given that term in section 2108A of title 5, United States Code.

"(b) General Authority.—

"(1) Establish Positions, Appoint Personnel, and Fix Rates of Pay.—

"(A) General Authority.—The Secretary may—

"(i) establish, as positions in the excepted service, such qualified positions in the Department as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Department relating to cybersecurity, including positions formerly identified as—

"(II) senior level positions designated under section 5356 of title 5, United States Code; and

"(ii) positions in the Senior Executive Service;

"(B) appoint an individual to a qualified position (after taking into consideration the availability of preference eligibles for appointment to the position); and

"(C) have the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3), fix the compensation of an individual for service in a qualified position.

"(B) Construction with Other Laws.—The authority of the Secretary under this subsection applies without regard to the provisions of any other law relating to the appointment, number, classification, or compensation of employees.

"(2) Basic Pay.—

"(A) Authority to Fix Rates of Basic Pay.—In accordance with this section, the Secretary shall fix the rates of basic pay for any qualified position established under this paragraph in relation to the rates of pay provided for comparable positions in the Department of Defense and subject to the same limitations on maximum rates of pay established for such employees by law or regulation.

"(B) Prevailing Rate Systems.—The Secretary may, consistent with, and not in excess of the level authorized for, comparable positions authorized by title 5, United States Code.

"(C) Collective Bargaining Agreements.—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to impair the continued effectiveness of a collective bargaining agreement with respect to an office, component, subcomponent, or equivalent of the Department that is a successor to an office, component, subcomponent, or equivalent of the Department covered by the agreement before the succession.

"(D) Required Regulations.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Director of Personnel Management, shall prescribe regulations for the administration of this section.

"(E) Annual Report.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and every year thereafter for 4 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a detailed report that—

"(i) discusses the process used by the Secretary in accepting applications, assessing candidates, ensuring adherence to veterans' preference, and selecting applicants for vacancies to be filled by an individual for a qualified position;

"(ii) describes—

"(A) how the Secretary plans to fulfill the critical need of the Department to recruit and retain employees in qualified positions;

"(B) the measures that will be used to measure progress toward that goal;

"(C) any actions taken during the reporting period to fulfill such critical need;

"(D) discusses how the planning and actions taken under paragraph (2) are integrated into the strategic workforce planning of the Department;

"(E) provides metrics on actions occurring during the reporting period, including—

"(a) the number of employees in qualified positions hired by occupation and grade and level or pay band;

"(B) the placement of employees in qualified positions by directorate and office within the Department;

"(C) the total number of veterans hired;

"(D) the number of separations of employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band; and

"(F) the number and amounts of recruitment, retention, and retention incentives paid to employees in qualified positions by occupation and grade and level or pay band; and

"(G) describes the training provided to supervisors of employees in qualified positions at the Department on the use of the new authorities.

"(F) Three-Year Probationary Period.—The probationary period for all employees hired under the authority established in this section shall be 3 years.

"(g) Incumbents of Existing Competitive Service Positions.—

"(1) In General.—An individual serving in a position on the date of enactment of this section that is selected to be converted to a position in the excepted service under this section shall have the right to refuse such conversion.

"(2) Subsequent Conversion.—After the date on which an individual who refuses a conversion under paragraph (1) stops serving in the position selected to be converted, the position may be converted to a position in the excepted service.

"(1) Study and Report.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section, the National Protection and Programs Directorate shall submit a report regarding the availability of, and benefits (including cost savings and security) of using, cybersecurity personnel and facilities outside of the National Capital Region (as defined in section 2674 of title 10, United States Code) to serve the Federal and national need to—

"(A) the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

"(B) the Committee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

"(b) Conforming Amendment.—Section 3323(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended in the matter following subparagraph (E)—

"(1) in clause (1), by striking "or" at the end;

"(2) in clause (ii), by inserting "or" after the semicolon; and

"(3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

"(iii) any position established as a qualified position in the excepted service by the Secretary of Homeland Security under section 226 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002;"

"(c) Table of Contents Amendment.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 226 the following:

"Sec. 226. Cybersecurity recruitment and retention."
SEC. 4. HOMELAND SECURITY CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as "Homeland Security Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act".

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(2) CYBERSECURITY WORK CATEGORY; DATA ELEMENT CODE; SPECIALTY AREA.—The terms "Cybersecurity Work Category", "Data Element Code", and "Specialty Area" mean the meanings given such terms in the Office of Personnel Management's Guide to Data Standards.

(c) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of Homeland Security.

(d) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

(e) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(f) NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE MEASUREMENT INITIATIVE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) identify all cybersecurity workforce positions across the Department; and

(B) determine the primary Cybersecurity Work Category and Specialty Area of such positions; and

(2) recommend to each such position, using agreed definitions of such terms, the corresponding Data Element Code as set forth in the Office of Personnel Management's Guide to Data Standards which is aligned with the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education's National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework report, in accordance with paragraph (2).

(g) EMPLOYMENT CODES.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the report is submitted under subsection (c), the Secretary shall assign the appropriate employment code to each position within the Department to which the provisions of this section are applicable.

(h) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The appropriate congressional committees shall—

(1) identify any positions that include cybersecurity functions (as defined in the Office of Personnel Management's Guide to Data Standards); and

(2) assign the appropriate employment code to each such position, using agreed definitions of such terms.

(i) CODE ASSIGNMENTS.—Not later than 9 months after the date on which the Secretary assigns a code to a position, the appropriate congressional committees shall—

(1) review the assignment of codes by the Secretary to determine whether the assignment is appropriate.

(2) submit such report to the appropriate congressional committees.

(3) PROGRESS REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit a progress report on the implementation of this section to the appropriate congressional committees.

(4) IDENTIFICATION OF CYBERSECURITY SPECIALTY AREAS OF CRITICAL NEED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit a progress report on the implementation of this section to the appropriate congressional committees.

(B) IDENTIFY CYBERSECURITY WORK CATEGORIES.—The Director shall—

(i) identify Cybersecurity Work Categories and Specialty Areas identified under subsection (a) that are critical to the Department's cybersecurity workforce; and

(ii) substantiate the critical need designations.

(Cybersecurity Critical Needs Report.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, shall—

(A) identify Specialty Areas of critical need for cybersecurity workforce across the Department; and

(B) submit a progress report on the implementation of this section to the appropriate congressional committees.

(D) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STATUS REPORTS.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) analyze and monitor the implementation of subsections (c) and (d); and

(2) not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the status of such implementation.

(E) SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) each will control 20 minutes.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we love the Border Patrol and the men and women who serve on the Border Patrol. We cannot thank them enough for the hard and tough duties that they provide. It is difficult.

It is hard.

I have been out there in Arizona as they do this out on ATVs, chasing drug runners. It is amazing what they do and how they do it. We love them, and the bill before us, Mr. Speaker, is a good bill to help them and their families, properly pay them and their families, but actually save some money for the Federal Government. This is truly a bill, Mr. Speaker, that is a win-win situation. I am honored to have that bill before us today, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014 would replace Border Patrol’s current pay system and create a consistent and reliable pay system, enhance border security, and save taxpayers literally hundreds of millions of dollars.

Established in 1924, today's Border Patrol relies on roughly 21,000 agents to secure some 6,000 miles of international borders between Mexico and Canada and 2,000 miles of coastal waters surrounding Florida and Puerto Rico.

Properly paying Border Patrol agents and responsibly managing a payroll are critical to the effective operation of the United States Customs and Border Patrol, often referred to as CBP.

Thirteen months ago, November 20, 2013, the Subcommittee on National Security held a hearing to examine the Border Patrol compensation policies. The hearing focused on a report by the Office of Special Counsel documenting abuse of a type of overtime within the Border Patrol.

The OSC testified to longstanding abuse of overtime within the Border Patrol. The hearing focused on a report by the Office of Special Counsel documenting abuse of a type of overtime within the Border Patrol.

The OSC testified to longstanding abuse of overtime within the Border Patrol.
Under the bill, agents will annually elect one of three pay options: number one, work 100 hours per biweekly pay period and increase their base salary by 25 percent; work 90 hours and receive a 12.5 percent base salary increase; or work no overtime at all. Unscheduled overtime will be treated as comp time with no monetary compensation. The bill eliminates Fair Labor Standards Act overtime which results in significant savings to the taxpayer.

The Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act generally requires 90 percent of Border Patrol agents to work 100 hours per pay period while CBP expects that most remaining agents would work 90 hours per pay period. This staffing floor will allow supervisors to more effectively plan border security operations.

To help ensure accountability, the bill requires the Border Patrol to undertake a detailed assessment of its operational requirements and staffing needs at every Border Patrol station within 1 year of enactment and submit it to Congress for review.

The GAO will examine CBP’s methodology and analysis and within 90 days submit a report to Congress indicating whether GAO concurs with CBP’s assessments. Border Patrol has flexibility in the staffing floor based on the results of that assessment.

The bill grants CBP management authority to unilaterally assign agents to work additional hours if the security situation along the border necessitates it. The bill reflects the need for these employees to work additional hours.

The legislation would also require the Department of Homeland Security to report annually on the program’s progress.

S. 1691 would provide much-needed reform to the compensation of Border Patrol agents and would also add provisions allowing the Department of Homeland Security to recruit and retain cyber professionals by granting authority to hire qualified experts on an expedited basis and to pay them competitive salaries, and incentives.

This legislation, which is supported by the National Border Patrol Council, the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act, bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. CHAFFETZ, for not only coming forward to manage this bill, but I thank him because he is the sponsor of a bipartisan bill very similar to the bill before us today, H.R. 3463; and I rise in strong support of S. 1691, the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, a bipartisan bill sponsored by Senators TESTER and McCAIN.

S. 1691 would enhance the Customs and Border Protection’s ability to secure and patrol more than 6,000 miles of our Nation’s borders between Mexico and Canada, and 2,000 miles of our coastal water from Florida and Puerto Rico. It would also respond to the growing threat of cyber attacks. This legislation, which is supported by the Border Patrol Council, would also save the American taxpayers about $100 million annually, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The bill would dramatically simplify the current pay system for our country’s more than 21,000 courageous Border Patrol agents by eliminating compensatory time and what is called administratively uncontrollable overtime. Under a newly created pay system, Border Patrol agents would have three work schedule and compensation options. They could choose to, one, work 100 hours for each pay period and receive an increase in base salary by 25 percent; two, work 90 hours each pay period and receive an increase in base salary by 12.5 percent; or three, work 80 hours per pay period with no overtime and would be compensated overtime beyond these hours would be treated as compensatory time off, with an annual maximum of 240 hours.

The legislation would also set a minimum staffing requirement requiring that at least 90 percent of Border Patrol agents in any given location work 100 hours every pay period to ensure that Customs and Border Protection has the man-hours it needs to respond to threats and to secure the border.

The legislation also would require the Department of Homeland Security to report annually on the program’s progress.

S. 1691 would provide much-needed reform to the compensation of Border Patrol agents and would also add provisions allowing the Department of Homeland Security to recruit and retain cyber professionals by granting authority to hire qualified experts on an expedited basis and to pay them competitive salaries, and incentives.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to continue to thank some other Members for making this possible.

Yvette Clarke has been very helpful. She worked diligently on H.R. 3107, which passed 395–8. It has been included in the Senate version, and I am glad to have her involvement in this.

I also want to thank Blake Farenthold for his good work on this. Coming from Texas, he cares deeply about these issues and was very helpful in supporting it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. Norton. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman, and I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to continue to thank some other Members for making this possible.

Mrs. Norton. Mr. Speaker, I insist on a 2-minute division of the time.

I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O’ROURKE), an original cosponsor of H.R. 3463, the House companion version of S. 1691.

Mr. O’ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman Norton for her work in managing this bill on the floor today and for yielding me this time to speak in support of it. And I especially want to thank my colleague, Mr. CHAFFETZ from the State of Utah for his work on this House version of this bill.

On behalf of my constituents in El Paso, Texas, and especially on behalf of the Border Patrol agents, more than 2,500 in my community, I want to give
you our thanks from the largest city on the U.S.-Mexico border.

I support this bill because I do represent more than 2,500 agents in El Paso. In addition, for the more than 21,000 agents on our northern and southern borders, this is an important bill that provides a consistent and reliable pay system that addresses problems in administratively uncontrolable overtime and provides more predictable work schedules for our Border Patrol agents.

We ask these brave men and women to put their lives on the line to do what I think is the toughest job in Federal employment, but so far we have failed to provide financial certainty both to those agents and to their families.

I want to remind my colleagues that El Paso, Texas, the community I have the honor of representing, which is conjoined with Ciudad Juarez to form the largest truly binational community in the world, is the safest city in the U.S. today. It is the safest city in the United States, and that is not an anomaly. It has been the safest city in America 4 years running, and we have, in large part, to thank the Border Patrol agents who help to secure that. Not only do they keep our communities and our country secure, they do it in a very professional way. In 2013, there were exactly zero complaints filed against the Border Patrol in the El Paso sector. I want to thank them for the great job that they do.

This bill creates a reliable pay system that responsibly secures our border. Supporting our agents, which this bill does, is the key to keeping our border communities and our country safe.

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

I want to thank Mr. O’ROURKE for his passion on this issue. He is a fine gentleman to work with on these types of issues, and I am happy to serve with him on both Homeland Security and in this body. I thank him for his good work.

There has been good bipartisan work on both sides of the aisle and in both bodies to get to this point today.

I also thank ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON for her personal commitment to these issues, and Federal workers in general.

This truly is a win-win situation. We make it better for Border Patrol agents and their families. We give more certainty to them and their families to help them with their mortgages. We also happen to save money for the American taxpayer. I appreciate the creativity and good work to get to this point.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), the ranking member of the Cybersecurity Subcommittee of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished ranking member from the District of Columbia, Ms. HOLMES NORTON, for yielding me this time, and I want to thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) for his leadership on these very important matters of homeland security.

I rise today in support of S. 1691, and I am pleased that today we are considering legislation containing language I introduced earlier this year to address fundamental cyber workforce challenges at the Department of Homeland Security. Important parts of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 3307, the Homeland Security Cybersecurity Boots-on-the-Ground Act, are included in the measure we are considering today.

The cyber workforce language included in S. 1691 generally does two important things. First, it grants special hiring authority to DHS to bring on board topnotch cyber recruits. The Department desperately needs a more flexible hiring process with incentives to secure the highly competitive cyber skills market. Second, it requires the Secretary of the Department to assess its cyber workforce to give Congress and the Office of Personnel Management a clearer picture of how well the National Guard, that DHS faces in carrying out its important cyber mission in helping protect both the dot-gov and dot-com arenas.

Importantly, the bill also directs the Comptroller General to analyze, monitor, and report on the implementation of DHS cybersecurity workforce measures.

Today, many of the Department’s top cyber positions are filled by nonpermanent contractors, and DHS reports having difficulty competing with other executive branch agencies and the private sector for talent. In an effort to address DHS’s cyber workforce challenges, the Department asked the Homeland Security Advisory Committee for the Intelligence Community to identify a task force to help secure its cyber skills to provide recommendations on the best ways DHS can foster the development of a national cybersecurity workforce and DHS can improve its capability to recruit and retain cybersecurity talent.

The legislation I introduced sought to address a number of the task force’s key recommendations, as does this bill, S. 1691. Cybersecurity is a complex mission for the Department and requires a wide range of talent at all levels. Given the urgent nature of the DHS’s recruitment efforts, it is essential the Department have at its disposal certain hiring authorities and training procedures in place.

Before I close, I would like to acknowledge that there is a lot of interest on our side of the aisle to make progress on cybersecurity. Hopefully, in the coming days, old jurisdictional squabbles can be laid aside for the betterment of the country, as was done on this bill, and again the Oversight Committee can work with the Homeland Security Committee to bring forth critical cybersecurity legislation. We need to put in place legislation to advance the ball with respect to protecting Federal civilian networks and codifying DHS’ role.

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

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

I want to say how much I appreciate the views of the two Members who have spoken, the bipartisan way in which this bill has been handled in the House and the Senate, and look forward to more bipartisanship to come, Mr. CHAFFETZ.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In conclusion, I thank the gentlewoman from Washington, D.C. I look forward to working with her on a host of issues as we serve on the same committee. I can only hope that as many of these can be as bipartisan as possible. We both have a tenacious nature to fight to represent the constituencies which we represent, and do so in the spirit of making this country better.

This is the reason that this bill has come here today with good, broad bipartisan support. I cannot thank enough Brandon Judd from the National Border Patrol Council. He heads that group. He has been absolutely wonderful on this issue, good leadership from him.

It is my honor to recommend to my colleagues and urge all Members to support the passage of S. 1691.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1691.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015

H8951

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4681) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

SECTION I. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title—This Act may be cited as the “Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015”. 
TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the conduct of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the following elements of the United States Government:

(1) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence;

(2) The Central Intelligence Agency;

(3) The Department of Defense;

(4) The Defense Intelligence Agency;

(5) The National Security Agency;

(6) The Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force;

(7) The Coast Guard;

(8) The Department of the Treasury;

(9) The Department of Justice;

(10) The Drug Enforcement Administration;

(11) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency;

(12) The National Reconnaissance Office;

(13) The National Imagery and Mapping Agency;

(14) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency;

(15) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency;

(16) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

Sec. 102. Authorization of personnel ceiling adjustments.

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account for the conduct of the intelligence activities of the following elements of the United States Government:

(1) The Department of Homeland Security;

(2) The Department of State;

(3) The Department of the Treasury;

(4) The Department of Justice;

(5) The Drug Enforcement Administration;

(6) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency;

(7) The National Reconnaissance Office;

(8) The National Imagery and Mapping Agency;

(9) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency;

(10) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency;

(11) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency;

(12) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

Sec. 103. Personnel ceiling adjustments.

(a) Authority for increases.—The Director of National Intelligence may authorize employment of civilian personnel in excess of the number authorized for fiscal year 2015 by the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) if the Director of National Intelligence determines that such action is necessary to the performance of important intelligence functions, except that the number of personnel employed in excess of the number authorized under such section may not, for any element of the intelligence community, exceed 2 percent of the number of civilian personnel authorized under such Schedule for such element.

(b) Treatment of certain personnel.—The Director of National Intelligence shall establish guidelines that govern, for each element of the intelligence community, the treatment under the personnel levels authorized under section 102(a), including any exemption from such personnel levels, of employment or assignment in—

(1) a student program, trainee program, or similar program;

(2) a reserve corps or as a reemployed annuitant;

(3) details, joint duty, or long term, full-time training;

(4) personnel levels authorized for the Intelligence Community Management Account by subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for the Community Management Account for fiscal year 2015 such additional amounts as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2016.

(5) the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence are authorized 794 positions as of September 30, 2015.

(c) Classified authorizations.—

(1) Authorization of appropriations.—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account by subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for the Community Management Account for fiscal year 2015 such additional amounts as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a).

(2) Authorization of personnel.—In addition to the personnel authorized by subsection (b) for elements of the Intelligence Community Management Account as of September 30, 2015, there are authorized such additional personnel as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a).

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

Sec. 301. Increase in employee compensation.


Sec. 303. Annual report on intelligence community effectiveness.

Sec. 304. Software licensing.

Sec. 305. Reporting of certain employment activities.

Sec. 306. Special pay and benefits.

Sec. 307. Management and oversight of financial management and accountability.

Sec. 308. Analysis of private sector policies and procedures for countering insider threats.

Sec. 309. Procedures for the retention of incidentally acquired communications.

Sec. 310. Clarification of limitation of access to classified information.

Sec. 311. Feasibility study on consolidating classified databases.

Sec. 312. Sense of Congress on cybersecurity threat and cybercrime cooperation.

Sec. 313. Replacement of locally employed staff serving at United States diplomatic facilities in the Russian Federation.

Sec. 314. Inclusion of Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities in United States diplomatic facilities in the Russian Federation and adjacent countries.

Sec. 315. Authorization of appropriations for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System.

Sec. 316. Authorization of appropriations for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System.
TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—General Matters

SEC. 301. INCREASE IN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Appropriations authorized by this Act for salary, pay, retirement, and other benefits for Federal employees may be increased by such additional or supplemental amounts as may be necessary, in such compensation or benefits authorized by law.

SEC. 302. RESTRICTION ON CONDUCT OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

The administration of appropriations by this Act shall not be deemed to constitute authority for the conduct of any intelligence activity which is not otherwise authorized by the Constitution or United States law.

SEC. 303. NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 104 the following:

SEC. 104A. NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in 2017, and once every 4 years thereafter, the Director of National Intelligence shall develop a comprehensive national intelligence strategy to meet national security objectives for the following 4-year period, or a longer period, if appropriate.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Each national intelligence strategy required by subsection (a) shall—

"(1) delineate a national intelligence strategy consistent with—

"(A) the most recent national security strategy report submitted pursuant to section 108;

"(B) the strategic plans of other relevant departments and agencies of the United States; and

"(C) other relevant national-level plans;

"(2) address matters related to national and military intelligence, including counternelligence and counterterrorism;

"(3) identify the major national security missions that the intelligence community is currently pursuing and will pursue in the future to meet the anticipated security environment;

"(4) describe how the intelligence community will utilize personnel, technology, partnerships, and other capabilities to pursue the major national security missions identified in paragraph (3);

"(5) assess current, emerging, and future threats to the intelligence community, including threats to counterintelligence and security services and insider threats;

"(6) outline the organizational roles and missions of the elements of the intelligence community and of authorized enterprises to meet customer demands for intelligence products, services, and support;

"(7) identify sources of strategic, institutional, programmatic, fiscal, and technological risk; and

"(8) analyze factors that may affect the intelligence community’s performance in pursuing the major national security missions identified in paragraph (3) during the following 10-year period.

(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on the strategy required by subsection (a) as part of its budget justification for the fiscal year following the date of the submission.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 104 the following new item:

"Sec. 108A. National intelligence strategy.".
and tools, and an education and training model for elements of the intelligence community that carry out financial intelligence activities.

(c) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall brief the congressional intelligence committees on the actions the Director proposes to implement the requirement under subsection (a).

SEC. 308. ANALYSIS OF PRIVATE SECTOR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR COUNTERING INSIDER THREATS.

(a) ANALYSIS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the National Counterintelligence Executive, shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees an analysis of private sector policies and procedures for countering insider threats.

(b) CONTENT.—The analysis required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a review of whether and how the intelligence community could utilize private sector hiring and human resources best practices to screen, vet, and validate the credentials, capabilities, and character of applicants for positions involving trusted access to sensitive information;

(2) an analysis of private sector policies for holding supervisors and subordinates accountable for violations of established security protocols and, to the extent possible, how the intelligence community should adopt similar policies for positions of trusted access to sensitive information;

(3) an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of training personnel in industry similar to those endorsed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Securities and Exchange Commission to identify fraud in the financial services industry, to certain positions within the intelligence community; and

(4) recommendations for how the intelligence community could utilize private sector risk indicatives, such as credit risk scores, to make determinations about employee access to sensitive information.

SEC. 309. PROCEDURES FOR THE RETENTION OF INCIDENTALLY ACQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED COMMUNICATION.—The term ‘‘covered communication’’ means any nonpublic telephone or electronic communication acquired without the consent of a person who is a party to the communication, including communications in electronic storage.

(2) HEAD OF AN ELEMENT OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ‘‘head of an element of the intelligence community’’ means, as appropriate—

(A) the head of an element of the intelligence community; or

(B) the head of the department or agency having such element.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ‘‘United States person’’ has the meaning given that term in section 6001 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(b) PROCEDURES FOR COVERED COMMUNICATIONS.

(1) REQUIREMENT TO ADOPT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act each head of an element of the intelligence community shall promulgate procedures approved by the Attorney General for each element that ensure compliance with the requirements of paragraph (3).

(2) COORDINATION AND APPROVAL.—The procedures required by paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) prepared in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence; and

(B) approved by the Attorney General prior to issuance.

(3) PROCEDURES.—

(A) APPLICATION.—The procedures required by paragraphs (1) and (2) shall apply to any intelligence collection activity not otherwise authorized by court order (including an order or certification issued by a court established under subsection (a) or (b) of section 103 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1803)), subpoena, or similar legal process that is reasonably expected to result in the acquisition of a covered communication to or from a United States person and shall permit the acquisition, retention, and dissemination of covered communications subject to the limitation in subparagraph (B).

(B) LIMITATION ON RETENTION.—A covered communication shall not be retained in excess of 5 years, unless—

(i) the communication has been affirmatively determined, in whole or in part, to constitute foreign intelligence or counterintelligence or is reasonably believed to contain information that is reasonably believed to constitute evidence of a crime and is retained by a law enforcement agency;

(ii) the communication is reasonably believed to contain evidence that is reasonably believed to be non-United States persons;

(iii) the communication is encrypted or reasonably believed to have a secret meaning;

(iv) all parties to the communication are reasonably believed to be non-United States persons;

(v) retention is necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human life, in which case—

(1) both the nature of the threat and the information to be retained shall be reported to the congressional intelligence committees not later than 30 days after the date such retention is extended under this clause;

(2) retention is necessary for technical assurance or compliance purposes, including a court order of disclosure, in which case access to information retained for technical assurance or compliance purposes shall be reported to the congressional intelligence committees on an annual basis;

(3) retention for a period in excess of 5 years is approved by the head of the element of the intelligence community responsible for such retention; and

(4) an analysis of private sector policies for countering insider threats shall be submitted to the congressional intelligence committees a written certification describing—

(I) the reasons extended retention is necessary to protect the national security of the United States;

(II) the duration for which the head of the element is authorizing retention;

(III) the particular information to be retained; and

(IV) the measures the element of the intelligence community is taking to protect the privacy of internal personnel or persons located inside the United States.

SEC. 310. CLARIFICATION OF LIMITATION OF REVIEW TO RETAIL SECURITY CLEARANCE OR ACCESS DETERMINATIONS.

Section 3001(b)(7) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3410(b)(7)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ‘‘2014’’ and inserting ‘‘2014, and consistent with subsection (j)’’;

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking ‘‘appeal a determination to suspend or revoke a security clearance or access to classified information’’ and inserting ‘‘alleging reprisal for having made a protection measure (as defined in section 804 of the Federal Civil Rights Improvement Act of 1998) or alleging a violation of section 105 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3410(f))’’;

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking ‘‘information’’ and inserting ‘‘information following a protected disclosure’’.

SEC. 311. FEASIBILITY STUDY ON CONSOLIDATING CLASSIFIED DATABASES OF CYBER THREAT INDICATORS AND MALWARE SAMPLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of the National Security Agency, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Chair of the United States Intelligence Community, shall conduct a feasibility study on consolidating classified databases of cyber threat indicators and malware samples in the intelligence community.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The feasibility study required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An inventory of classified databases of cyber threat indicators and malware samples in the intelligence community.

(2) An assessment of actions that could be carried out to consolidate such databases to achieve the greatest possible information sharing within the intelligence community and cost savings for the Federal Government.

(3) An assessment of any impediments to such consolidation.

(4) An assessment of whether the Intelligence Community Information Technology Enterprise can support such consolidation.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Director of National Intelligence completes the feasibility study required by subsection (a), the Director shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a written report that summarizes the feasibility study, including the information required under subsection (b).

SEC. 312. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CYBERSECURITY THREAT AND CYBERCRIME CO-OPERATION WITH UKRAINE.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) cooperation between the intelligence and law enforcement agencies of the United States and Ukraine should be increased to improve cybersecurity policies between these two countries;

(2) the United States and the Government of Ukraine should pursue improved extradition procedures among the Governments of the United States, Ukraine, and other countries from which cybercriminals target United States citizens and entities;

(3) the President should—

(A) initiate a round of formal United States-Ukraine bilateral talks on cybersecurity threat and cybercrime cooperation, with additional multilateral talks that include other law enforcement partners such as Europol and Interpol; and

(B) work to obtain a commitment from the Government of Ukraine to end cybercrime directed at persons outside Ukraine and to work with the United States and other allies to deter and convict known cybercriminals;

(4) the President should establish a capacity building program with the Government of Ukraine, which could include—

(A) joint effort to improve cyber capacity building, including intelligence and law enforcement services in Ukraine;

(B) sending United States law enforcement agents to aid law enforcement agencies in Ukraine in investigating cybercrimes; and

(C) agreements to improve communications networks to enhance law enforcement cooperation, such as a hotline between law enforcement agencies in the United States and Ukraine;

(5) the President should establish and maintain an intelligence and law enforcement cooperation scorecard with metrics designed to measure the number of instances that intelligence and law enforcement agencies in the United States request assistance from intelligence and law enforcement agencies in Ukraine and the number and type of responses received to such requests.

SEC. 313. REPLACEMENT OF LOCALLY EMPLOYED STAFF SERVING AT UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) EMPLOYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that, not later than one year after the
SEC. 314. INCLUSION OF SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION FACILITIES IN UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND ADJACENT COUNTRIES.

(a) SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION FACILITY REQUIREMENT.—Each United States diplomatic facility that, after the date of the enactment of this Act, is constructed in, or undergoes a construction upgrade in, the Russian Federation, any country that shares a land border with the Russian Federation, or any country that the Secretary of the Senate of the Soviet Union shall be constructed to include a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility.

(b) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the requirement under subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that such waiver is in the national security interest of the United States and submits a written justification to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 180 days before exercising such waiver.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘‘appropriate congressional committees’’ means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to infringe on the powers of the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint ambassadors, other public ministers, and consuls.

SEC. 315. ANNUAL REPORT ON INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY EFFICIENT SPENDING TARGETS.

SEC. 322. REPORT ON INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY EFFICIENT SPENDING TARGETS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, 2016, and April 1, 2017, the Director of National Intelligence shall report to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce administrative costs for the intelligence community during the preceding year.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include for each element of the intelligence community the following:

(1) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce administrative costs for the intelligence community during the preceding year;

(2) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce labor costs related to hosting and attending conferences;

(3) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce costs related to inventory and usage, and establish controls, to prevent or mitigate the over-purchase of items through the use of government procurement cards for low-cost, low-priority items, such as paper, office supplies, and commingled items.

(4) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce the publication and printing of documents, and to transition to a paperless environment.

(5) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce costs related to human resources, such as salaries and benefits.

(6) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce costs related to technology equipment, software, or services.

(7) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce costs related to utilities, such as electricity, gas, or water.

(8) Such other matters relating to efforts to reduce intelligence community administrative costs as the Director may specify for purposes of this section.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall, consistent with the need to preserve ongoing criminal investigations, include a discussion of—

(1) the extent to which the intelligence community has reduced costs as the Director may specify for purposes of this section;

(2) the extent to which the intelligence community has reduced costs related to administrative activities, such as travel, paper use, and equipment use;

(3) the extent to which the intelligence community has reduced costs related to personnel, such as salaries and benefits;

(4) the extent to which the intelligence community has reduced costs related to technology equipment, software, or services.

(c) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the details of the guidelines.

(d) T ABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 511 of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 510 the following new item:

‘‘SEC. 511. Annual report on violations of law or executive order.’’.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter any requirement existing on the date of the enactment of this Act to submit a report under any provision of law.

SEC. 324. ANNUAL REPORT ON INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year and along with the budget materials submitted in support of the budget of the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report for such fiscal year on each intelligence activity of each intelligence component of the Department represented by the Under Secretary, that includes the following:

(1) The amount of funding requested for each such intelligence activity.

(2) The number of full-time employees funded to perform each such intelligence activity.

(3) The number of full-time contractor employees (including the equivalent full-time employment of part-time contractor employees) funded to perform or in support of each such intelligence activity.

(b) FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report that—

(1) examines the feasibility and advisability of including the budget request for all intelligence activities of each intelligence component of the Department in the budgetary materials submitted to the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, in the Homeland Security Intelligence Program; and

(2) includes a plan to enhance the coordination of department-wide intelligence activities to achieve greater efficiencies in the performance of the Department of Homeland Security intelligence functions.

(c) INTELLIGENCE COMPONENT OF THE DEPARTMENT.—In this section, the term ‘‘intelligence component of the Department’’ has the meaning given that term in section 511 of the National Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101).

SEC. 325. REPORT ON POLITICAL PRISON CAMPS IN NORTH KOREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a report describing—

(1) proposals to improve the declassification process throughout the intelligence community; and

(2) steps the intelligence community could take, or legislation that may be necessary, to enable the National Declassification Center to better accomplish the missions assigned to the Center by Executive Order No. 13526 (75 Fed. Reg. 707).

(b) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year and along with the budget materials submitted in support of the budget of the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report for such fiscal year on each intelligence activity of each intelligence component of the Department represented by the Under Secretary, that includes the following:

(1) The amount of funding requested for each such intelligence activity.

(2) The number of full-time employees funded to perform each such intelligence activity.

(3) The number of full-time contractor employees (including the equivalent full-time employment of part-time contractor employees) funded to perform or in support of each such intelligence activity.

(4) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce administrative costs for the intelligence community during the preceding year;

(5) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce labor costs related to hosting and attending conferences;

(6) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce costs related to inventory and usage, and establish controls, to prevent or mitigate the over-purchase of items through the use of government procurement cards for low-cost, low-priority items, such as paper, office supplies, and commingled items.

(7) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce costs related to technology equipment, software, or services.

(8) A description of the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce costs related to utilities, such as electricity, gas, or water.

(9) Such other matters relating to efforts to reduce intelligence community administrative costs as the Director may specify for purposes of this section.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall, consistent with the need to preserve ongoing criminal investigations, include a discussion of—

(1) the extent to which the intelligence community has reduced costs as the Director may specify for purposes of this section;

(2) the extent to which the intelligence community has reduced costs related to administrative activities, such as travel, paper use, and equipment use;

(3) the extent to which the intelligence community has reduced costs related to personnel, such as salaries and benefits;

(4) the extent to which the intelligence community has reduced costs related to technology equipment, software, or services.

(c) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the details of the guidelines.

(d) T ABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 511 of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 510 the following new item:

‘‘SEC. 511. Annual report on violations of law or executive order.’’.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter any requirement existing on the date of the enactment of this Act to submit a report under any provision of law.

SEC. 324. ANNUAL REPORT ON INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year and along with the budget materials submitted in support of the budget of the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report for such fiscal year on each intelligence activity of each intelligence component of the Department represented by the Under Secretary, that includes the following:

(1) The amount of funding requested for each such intelligence activity.

(2) The number of full-time employees funded to perform each such intelligence activity.

(3) The number of full-time contractor employees (including the equivalent full-time employment of part-time contractor employees) funded to perform or in support of each such intelligence activity.

(b) FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report that—

(1) examines the feasibility and advisability of including the budget request for all intelligence activities of each intelligence component of the Department in the budgetary materials submitted to the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, in the Homeland Security Intelligence Program; and

(2) includes a plan to enhance the coordination of department-wide intelligence activities to achieve greater efficiencies in the performance of the Department of Homeland Security intelligence functions.

(c) INTELLIGENCE COMPONENT OF THE DEPARTMENT.—In this section, the term ‘‘intelligence component of the Department’’ has the meaning given that term in section 511 of the National Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101).

SEC. 325. REPORT ON POLITICAL PRISON CAMPS IN NORTH KOREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a report describing—

(1) proposals to improve the declassification process throughout the intelligence community; and

(2) steps the intelligence community could take, or legislation that may be necessary, to enable the National Declassification Center to better accomplish the missions assigned to the Center by Executive Order No. 13526 (75 Fed. Reg. 707).
(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall—
(1) describe the actions the United States is taking to support implementation of the recommend-
ations of the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Demo-
cratic People’s Republic of Korea, including the eventual establishment of a tribunal to hold in-
dividuals responsible for abuses; and
(2) include, with respect to each political pris-
on camp in North Korea to the extent informa-
tion is available—
(A) the estimated prisoner population of each such camp;
(B) the geographical coordinates of each such camp;
(C) the reasons for confinement of the pris-
oners at each such camp;
(D) a description of the primary industries and products made in each such camp, and the end users of any goods produced in such camp;
(E) information regarding involvement of any non-North Korean entity or individual involved in the operations of each such camp, including as an end user or source of any good or products used in, or produced by, such camp;
(F) information identifying individuals and agencies responsible for conditions in each such camp at all levels of the Government of North Korea;
(G) a description of the conditions under which prisoners are confined, with respect to the adequacy of food, shelter, medical care, working conditions, and reports of ill-treatment which prisoners are confined, at each such camp; and
(H) comprehensive imagery, including satellite imagery, of each such camp.
(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in an unclassified form and may include a classified annex if necessary.

SEC. 326. ASSESSMENT OF SECURITY OF DOMES-
TIC OIL REFINERIES AND RELATED RAIL TRANSPORTATION INFRA-
STRUCTURE.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis shall conduct an intelligence assessment of the security of domestic oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure.

(b) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees—
(1) the results of the assessment required under subsection (a); and
(2) any recommendations with respect to intelligence sharing or intelligence collection to im-
prove the security of domestic oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure to pro-
tect the communities surrounding such refin-
eries or such infrastructure from potential harm that the Under Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 327. ENHANCED CONTRACTOR LEVEL AS-
SESSMENTS FOR THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Section 506B(c) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3096(c)) is amended—
(1) in paragraph (11), by striking “or con-
tracts” and inserting “or contracts or agreements”;
(2) by redesignating paragraph (12) as para-
graph (13); and
(3) by inserting after paragraph (11) the fol-
lowing:—
“(12) The best estimate of the number of intel-
ligence collectors and analysts contracted by each element of the intelligence community and a description of the functions performed by such contractors.”

SEC. 328. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFICACY OF MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING IN FEDERAL INTELLIGENCE SHARING.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Homeland Security shall conduct a comprehensive analysis, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Pro-
gram Manager of the Information Sharing Envi-
rionment, shall submit to the congressional intel-
ligence committees, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives an assessment of the understanding signed between Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial agencies to facilitate intelligence-sharing within and separate from the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Such assessment shall include—
(1) any language within such memorandum of understanding that prohibited or may be con-
strued to prohibit the sharing of information between Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial agencies; and
(2) any recommendations for memoranda of understanding to better facilitate intelligence-
sharing between Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial agencies.

SEC. 329. REPORT ON FOREIGN MAN-MADE ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE WEAPONS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congres-
sional intelligence committees, the Agen-
dy of Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, a comprehen-
itive report on the United States counter-
terrorism strategy to disrupt, dismantle, and de-
feat al-Qa’eda and its affiliated or associated.

(b) FORM.—The report required under sub-
section (a) shall be submitted in unclassified
form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 330. REPORT ON UNITED STATES COUNTER-
TERRORISM STRATEGY TO DISRUPT, DISMANTLE, AND DEFEAT AL-QA’EDA AND ITS AFFILIATED OR ASSOCIATED GROUPS.

(a) REPORT.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Direc-
tor of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a com-
prehensive report on the United States counter-
terrorism strategy to disrupt, dismantle, and de-
feat al-Qa’eda and its affiliated or associated.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
graph (1) shall include the following:
(1) A definition of—
(i) al-Qa’eda core, including a list of which known indi-
viduals constitute al-Qa’eda core;
(ii) an affiliated group of al-Qa’eda, including a list of which known groups constitute an affili-
ate group of al-Qa’eda;
(iii) an associated group of al-Qa’eda, including a list of which known groups constitute an associ-
ated group of al-Qa’eda; and
(iv) a group aligned with al-Qa’eda, including a description of what actions a group takes or state-
ments it makes that qualify it as a group aligned with al-Qa’eda.
(2) A list of any other group, including the or-
ganization that calls itself the Islamic State (also known as “ISIS” or “ISIL”), that adheres to the core mission of al-Qa’eda, or who espouses the same violent jihad ideology as al-Qa’eda.
(3) An assessment of the relationship between al-Qa’eda core and the groups referred to in sub-
paragraph (B).
(4) An assessment of the strengthening or weakening of al-Qa’eda and the groups referred to in subpara-
graph (B) from January 1, 2010, to

December 10, 2014  THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant
the present, including a description of the
metrics that are used to assess strengthening or
weakening and an assessment of the relative in-
crease or decrease in violent attacks attributed to
such groups.

(E) An assessment of whether or not an indi-
vidual can be a member of al-Qa’eda core if such
individual is not located in Afghanistan or Pakistan.

(F) An assessment of whether or not an indi-
vidual can be a member of al-Qa’eda core as well
as a member of a group referred to in subpara-
graph (B).

(G) A definition of defeat of core al-Qa’eda.

(H) An assessment of the extent or coordina-
tion, command, and control between core al-
Qaeda and the groups referred to in subpara-
graph (B), and whether such operations have
had a sustained impact on the capabilities and
effectiveness of core al-Qa’eda and such groups,

I. APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS
DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appro-
priate committees of Congress” means—
(1) the congressional intelligence committees;
(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the
Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and
(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
Committee on Armed Services of the House of
Representatives.

SEC. 331. FEASIBILITY STUDY ON RETRAINING
VETERANS IN CYBERSECURITY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall submit to Congress a feasibility study on re-
training veterans and retired members of ele-
ments of the intelligence community in cybersec-

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant
to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentle-
man from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their re-
marks and to include extraneous mate-
rial on the bill, H.R. 4681.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gen-
tleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will enter into the RECORD at the end of my remarks the Joint Explanatory Statement be prepared by the House and Senate Intelligence

Committees.

Mr. Speaker, when Mr. RUPPERS-
berger and I assumed the helm of the

committee, we committed to return to the prac-
tice of passing the annual in-
telligence authorization bill, recog-
nizing that it is one of the most crit-
ical tools that Congress has to control
the intelligence activities of the
United States Government. I am proud today that we are bringing the fifth such authorization bill to the floor since Mr. RUPTERSBERGER assumed the role of ranking member and I assumed the role of chairman four years ago.

As the intelligence budget involves highly classified programs, the bulk of the committee’s direction is found in the classified annex to the bill, which is very similar to the version passed by the House earlier this year.

At an unclassified level, I can report that the classified annex increases the President’s budget request by less than one percent and is consistent with the Bipartisan Budget Act funding caps. Key committee funding initiatives, vital to national security, are preserved in this bill. These funding initiatives are offset by reductions to unnecessary programs and increased efficiencies.

The bill’s modest net increase reflects the committee’s concern that the President’s budget does not properly fund a number of important initiatives and leaves several unacceptable shortfalls when it comes to the matters of national security. The bill also provides substantial intelligence resources to help defeat Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

Earlier this year, the House passed its version of this bill with overwhelming bipartisan support. This bill contains all of the provisions that were not previously enacted into law in the fiscal year 2014 bill, along with provisions added by the Senate. None of these provisions are considered controversial, and we have worked through and vetted to make sure that is accurate with both Republican and Democrat staff and Members.

Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves in a very interesting time in history. ISIL is attempting to build a state across the Middle East, from Lebanon to Iraq, including Syria, Jordan and Israel. The group already controls a swath of land across Iraq and Syria about the size of the State of Indiana, and it is growing. The goal of our counterterrorism strategy is to deny safe haven from which terrorists can plot attacks against the United States and/or our allies. Regrettably, we have not prevented ISIL from establishing such a safe haven, and, as a result, we face a growing threat from that region.

At an unclassified level, I can report that the classified annex increases the President’s budget request by less than one percent and is consistent with the Bipartisan Budget Act funding caps. Key committee funding initiatives, vital to national security, are preserved in this bill. These funding initiatives are offset by reductions to unnecessary programs and increased efficiencies. The modest increase reflects the Committee’s concern that the President’s request does not properly fund a number of important initiatives and leaves several unacceptable shortfalls. The bill also provides substantial intelligence resources to help defeat ISIL.

Earlier this year, the House passed its version of this bill by an overwhelming bipartisan vote. The bill contains all of those provisions added by the Senate. None of those provisions are considered controversial.

Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves in a very interesting time in history. ISIL is attempting to track nuclear and missile threats. We demand they get it right, every time.

This bill will ensure that the dedicated men and women of our intelligence community have the funding and authorities and support that they need to meet their mission and to keep us safe.

I take this moment, Mr. Speaker, at a time when certainly voices both around the country and around the world are sounding the alarm. We need very courageous men and women who show up in the intelligence business to provide the information to keep America safe. They are silent warriors. They are faithful patriots. They don’t ask for recognition. They don’t ask for time. You don’t see their names in the front pages of the paper or on TV. They really don’t seek that recognition.

But they seek the very purpose of being the first to be able to develop that one piece of information that might prevent further conflict, it might prevent a terrorist attack, it might prevent a nuclear launch, it might prevent one Nation from attacking another.

In the haze of what seems to be self-loathing these days, by targeting that against these very courageous men and women who cannot defend themselves in public, we are doing a disservice to their courage and their commitment to keep America safe. We find that it is easy, at some point, to get back and point fingers at what we believe may or may not have happened in the work of keeping America safe. It is realistically and holistically unfair that we would do that to these very brave souls who risk their lives today.

But here is the good news for Americans. These folks that work in the shadows understand that they have accepted these dangerous and quiet roles, and they will get up this morning, like they do every morning, and understand it is between them and the United States when it comes to any terrorist attack, or worse, bigger, broader conflict somewhere in the world.

So they will do their job; they will do their duty; they will do their mission. They will read the papers and fold the information to keep America up in the intelligence business to provide the information to keep America safe.

I hope they take this as certainly my good friend DUTCH RUPTERSBERGER. Over the last 4 years, these five budget initiatives could not have happened without your work and your staff’s work in making sure that we had the best product possible to make sure that the intelligence community had the resources that they need, the policies that they need, the support that they need, and, yes, every once in a while, the kick in the can that they needed.

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

Mr. Speaker, when DUTCH and I assumed the helm of the Committee, we committed to return to the practice of passing the annual intelligence authorization bill, recognizing that it is one of the most critical tools Congress has to control the intelligence activities of the U.S. Government. I am proud today that we are bringing the fifth such authorization bill to the floor since I assumed the Chairmanship four years ago.

A number of the intelligence budget involves highly classified programs, the bulk of the Committee’s direction is found in the classified annex to the bill, which is very similar to the version passed by the House earlier this year. At an unclassified level, I can report that the classified annex increases the President’s budget request by less than one percent and is consistent with the Bipartisan Budget Act funding caps. Key committee funding initiatives, vital to national security, are preserved in this bill. These funding initiatives are offset by reductions to unnecessary programs and increased efficiencies. This modest increase reflects the Committee’s concern that the President’s request does not properly fund a number of important initiatives and leaves several unacceptable shortfalls. The bill also provides substantial intelligence resources to help defeat ISIL.

Earlier this year, the House passed its version of this bill by an overwhelming bipartisan vote. The bill contains all of those provisions that were not previously enacted into law in the FY 14 bill, along with provisions added by the Senate. None of those provisions are considered controversial.
build a state across the Middle East—from Lebanon to Iraq, including Syria, Jordan, and Israel. The group already controls a swath of land across Iraq and Syria. The goal of our counterterrorism strategy is to deny safe haven from which terrorists can plot attacks against our reach and influence. Unequivocally, we have not prevented ISIL from establishing such a safe haven, and as a result we face a growing threat from the region.

At the same time, state actors like Russia and China view this time as an opportunity to expand their reach and influence. Unequivocally, we have not prevented ISIL from establishing such a safe haven, and as a result we face a growing threat from the region.

We rightly demand that our intelligence agencies provide policy makers with the best and most timely information possible on the threats we face. We ask them to track terrorists wherever they train, plan, and fundraise. We ask them to stop devastating cyber attacks that steal American jobs. We ask them to track conventional missile threats. And we demand that they tell it right—every time.

This bill will ensure that the dedicated men and women of our Intelligence Community have the funding and authorities—and support—they need to meet their mission and to keep us safe.

Before closing, I want to take a moment to thank the men and women of this country who serve in our Intelligence Community today. It has been a distinct honor to get to know so many of them, and I am proud to have played a role in contributing to their success.

I would also like to extend thanks to all of my dedicated staff on the Committee who worked hard over the years to get us back on track in passing the annual Authorization bill and in our daily oversight of the Intelligence Community.

Thank you to my current committee staff: Darren Dick, Katie Wheelbarger, Sarah Geffroy, Andy Keiser, Bryan Smith, Ashley Lowry, Susan Phalen, Tom Corcoran, Michael Ellis, Chelsey Campbell, Geof Kahn, Brooke Eisele, Randy Smith, Jim Hildebrand, Shannnon Stuart, Rachel Wilson, Lisa Major, Diane Rinaldo. Thank you, as well as to those who are no longer with the staff but played an influential role during your tenures as Chairman and as Committee Chairman.

To those who have contributed to the committee's work and the success of this bill, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks.

Finally, a big thank you to our dedicated Security and Information Technology staff who keep us up and running every day: Brandon Smith, Kristin Jepson and Kevin Klein.

The following consists of the explanatory material to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

This joint explanatory statement shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

This explanatory statement is accompanied by a classified annex that contains a classified Schedule of Authorizations. The classified Schedule of Authorizations is incorporated by reference in the Act and has the same effect with respect to the implementation of this Act.

The classified annex and classified Schedule of Authorizations are the result of negotiations between the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to reconcile differences in their respective versions of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. The congressionally directed actions described in Senate Report No. 113-233, the classified annex that accompanied that report, and the classified annex that accompanied House Report No. 113-463 should be carried out to the extent they are not amended, altered, substituted, or otherwise specifically addressed in either this Joint Explanatory Statement or in the classified annex to this Statement.

The following is a section-by-section analysis and explanation of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

Title I—Intelligence Activities

Section 101. Authorization of appropriations

Section 101 lists the United States Government departments, agencies, and other elements for which the Act authorizes appropriations for intelligence and intelligence-related activities for Fiscal Year 2015.

Section 102. Classified Schedule of Authorizations

Section 102 provides that the details of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for intelligence and intelligence-related activities and the personnel ceilings applicable to the program for Fiscal Year 2015 are contained in the classified Schedule of Authorizations and that the classified Schedule of Authorizations shall be made available to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives and to the President.

Section 103. Personnel ceiling adjustments

Section 103 is intended to provide additional flexibility to the DNI in managing the civilian personnel of the Intelligence Community (IC). Section 103 provides that the DNI may authorize employment of civilian personnel in Fiscal Year 2015 in excess of the number of authorized positions by an amount not exceeding three percent of the total limit applicable to each IC element under Section 102. The DNI may do so only if necessary to the performance of important intelligence functions.

Section 104. Intelligence Community Management Account

Section 104 authorizes appropriations for the Intelligence Community Management Account (ICMA) of the DNI and sets the authorized personnel levels for the elements within the ICMA for Fiscal Year 2015.

Title II—Central Intelligence Agency Retiree and Disability System

Section 201. Authorization of appropriations

Section 201 authorizes appropriations in the amount of $514,000,000 for Fiscal Year 2015 for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability Fund.

Title III—General Provisions

Subtitle A—General Matters

Section 301. Increase in employee compensation and benefits authorized by law

Section 301 provides that funds authorized to be appropriated by the Act for salary, pay, retirement, and other benefits for federal employees may be increased by such additional or supplemental amounts as may be necessary for increases in compensation or benefits authorized by law.

Section 302. Restriction on conduct of intelligence activities

Section 302 provides that the authorization of appropriations by the Act shall not be deemed to constitute authority for the conduct of any intelligence activity that is not otherwise authorized by the Constitution or laws of the United States.

Section 303. National intelligence strategy

Section 303 amends the National Security Act of 1947 to require the DNI and the National Intelligence Director to develop a comprehensive national intelligence strategy every four years beginning in 2017.

Section 304. Software licensing

Section 304 amends Section 109 of the National Security Act of 1947, which requires chief information officers within the IC to prepare biennial inventories and assessments concerning the use and procurement of software licenses, to require certain agencies to provide the IC with biennial assessments concerning software licenses used during the prior two fiscal years.

Section 305. Reporting of certain employment and compensation by former intelligence officers and employees

Section 305 requires the head of each element of the IC to issue regulations that require an employee occupying positions with access to particularly sensitive information to submit a written agreement that requires the regular reporting of any employment by, representation of, or provision of assistance relating to national security to the government of a foreign country, or any person whose activities are supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized by any government of a foreign country, for a two-year period after the employee ceases employment with the IC element.

Section 306. Inclusion of Predominantly Black Institutions in intelligence officer training programs

Section 306 amends the National Security Act of 1947 to include predominately black institutions in the intelligence officer training programs established under Section 1024 of the Act.

Section 307. Management and oversight of financial intelligence programs

Section 307 requires the DNI to prepare a plan for management of the elements of the IC that carry out financial intelligence activities.

Section 308. Analysis of private sector policies and procedures for countering insider threats

Section 308 directs the DNI to submit to the congressional intelligence committees an analysis of private sector policies and procedures for countering insider threats.

Section 309. Procedures for the retention of information

Section 309 requires the head of each element of the IC to adopt Attorney General-approved procedures that govern the retention of nonpublic telephone or electronic communications acquired without consent of a person who is a party to the communications, including communications in electronic storage.

Procedures required under this section shall apply to any intelligence activity that is reasonably anticipated to result in the acquisition of such telephone or electronic communications to or from a United States person not otherwise authorized by court order, subpoena, or similar legal process, regardless of the location where the collection occurs. The procedures shall prohibit the retention of such telephone or electronic communications for a period in excess of five years, unless the communications are determined to fall within the following categories, enumerated in subsection (b)(3)(B), for which retention in excess of five years is authorized, to include communications that are reasonably determined to constitute foreign intelligence or counterintelligence, communications that are reasonably
believed to constitute evidence of a crime and are retained by a law enforcement agency, and communications that are encrypted or reasonably believed to have a secret meaning.

Because it may be necessary in certain instances for IC elements to retain communications covered by this section for a period in excess of five years, unless a determination is made that the communications constitute foreign intelligence activities, or otherwise meet the retention requirements set forth in this section.

Section 319. Clarification of limitation of review to retaliatory security clearance or access determinations.

Section 310 makes a technical amendment to Section 3001(b)(2) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to clarify that the policies and procedures prescribed for the annual threat assessment (to permit a determination that it is in the national security interest of the United States.

Section 312. Sense of Congress on cybersecurity threat and cybercrime cooperation with Ukraine.

Section 312 expresses the sense of Congress concerning cybersecurity threat and cybercrime cooperation between the United States and Ukraine.

Section 313. Replacement of locally employed staffing service and United States diplomatic facilities in the Russian Federation.

Section 313 requires the Secretary of State to ensure that every supervisory position at a U.S. diplomatic facility in the Russian Federation is occupied by a citizen of the United States who has passed a background check and to provide Congress with a plan to further reduce reliance on locally employed staff.

Section 314. Inclusion of Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities in United States diplomatic facilities in the Russian Federation and adjacent countries.

Section 314 requires that each U.S. diplomatic facility that is constructed in, or undergoes a construction upgrade in, the Russian Federation, any country that shares a land border with the Russian Federation, or any country that is a former member of the Soviet Union, shall be constructed to include a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility. The Secretary of State may waive the requirement for such construction if it is determined that it is in the national security interest of the United States.

Section 321. Report on declassification process.

Section 321 requires the DNI to submit a report to Congress describing proposals to improve the declassification process and steps that may be necessary, to enable the National Declassification Center to better accomplish the missions assigned to the Center by Executive Order 13526.

Section 322. Report on intelligence community efficient spending targets.

Section 322 requires the DNI to submit a report to the congressional intelligence committees on the status and effectiveness of efforts to reduce administrative costs for the IC during the preceding year.

Section 323. Annual report on violations of law or executive order.

Section 323 requires the DNI to report annually to the congressional intelligence committees on violations of law or executive order by personnel of an element of the IC that were identified during the previous calendar year. Under the National Security Act, the President is required to keep the congressional intelligence committees fully and currently informed of the intelligence activities of the United States government. Nonetheless, this annual reporting requirement is necessary to provide oversight of the activities of the House and Senate, and oversight committees are made fully aware of violations of law or executive order, including, in particular, violations of Executive Order 13553 for activities not otherwise subject to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.


Section 324 requires the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the DHS to submit a report to the congressional intelligence committees with a report on each intelligence activity of each intelligence component of the Department that includes, among other things, the amount of funding requested, the number of full-time employees, and the number of full-time contractor employees. In addition, Section 324 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report that examines the feasibility and advisability of consolidating the planning, programming, and resource activities within the Homeland Security Intelligence Program (HSIP).

The HSIP budget was established to fund those intelligence activities that principally support missions of the DHS separately from those of the NIP. To date, however, this mechanism has only been used to supplement the budget for the office of Intelligence and Analysis. It has not been used to fund the activities of the non-IC components of the DHS that support intelligence-related activities. As a result, there is no comprehensive reporting to Congress regarding the overall resources and personnel required in support of the Department’s intelligence activities.

Section 325. Report on political prison camps in North Korea.

Section 325 requires the DNI to submit a report on political prison camps in North Korea to the congressional intelligence committees.

Section 326. Assessment of security of domestic oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure.

Section 326 requires the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis to conduct an intelligence assessment of the security of domestic oil refineries and related rail transportation infrastructure.
Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. PAS- 

tor, Mr. HAMES, and Ms. SEWELL. And I 

want to thank our staff and the dedi- 

cated men and women of the intel- 

ligence community who work every 

day and all night throughout the world 

to protect us. And Mr. Speaker, I am 

looking forward to working with the 

Chairman’s statements about those men 

and women throughout the world who are 

out there protecting us and putting 

their lives on the line.

Now, today, we look beyond this Con- 

gress. We come together to set the 

stage for the continuing oversight of 

intelligence programs, personnel, and 

dollars. By doing so, we reinforce to 

the American people, and to the world, 

that there are checks and balances. We 

reinforce that the tools we authorize 

are for the sole purpose of keeping us, 

our allies, and our partners safe.

In May, the House passed the Intel- 

ligence Authorization Act for fiscal 

years 2014 and 2015 by 365 votes to 19. 
The Senate took up each year separat- 

ely. Over the summer, this House passed the FY14 bill, which the 

President signed.

So, we now take up the FY15 bill, 

which the Senate amended and sent 

back to us. This amended bill largely 

mirrors the relevant portions of the 

House-passed combined bill.

Passing a detailed Intelligence Au- 

thorization Act ensures that our intel- 

ligence agencies spend money only on 

programs Congress is informed of, ap- 

proves, and can continuously oversee.

Oversight is extremely important. It 

helps to make sure that everything our 

intelligence agencies do follows the 

Constitution and the laws of the 

United States and maximizes the civil 

liberties and privacy of Americans. At 

the same time, the intelligence agen- 
cies need the clear authorization, di- 
rection, and guidance from Congress to 
do their vital work to protect and de- 
defend America, its allies, and its part- 

ers.

The Intelligence Authorization Act is 

split into four parts: the unclassified 

legislative text; the unclassified re- 

port; the classified annex, which ex- 

plains our intent for the classified as- 

pacts of the bill; and the classified 

schedule of authorizations.

While we have made cuts to certain 

areas and added money in others to 

produce a responsible, well thought 

out, and fiscally prudent budget, the 
schedule of authorizations Congress is informed of, ap-

proves, and can continuously oversee.

The Intelligence Authorization Act is split into four parts: the unclassified legislative text; the unclassified report; the classified annex, which explains our intent for the classified aspects of the bill; and the classified schedule of authorizations.

While we have made cuts to certain areas and added money in others to produce a responsible, well thought out, and fiscally prudent budget, the budget for fiscal year 2015 slightly exceeds the President’s request.

While over the last 4 years we have reduced the intelligence community’s budget by over a billion dollars, this year’s bill acknowledges the need to make directions after the drastic cuts of sequestration and the Budget Control Act.

Additionally, this bill acknowledges the need to step up our intelligence efforts to counter evolving threats such as ISIL. It is a dangerous world out there, and our bill accounts for that.

Let me also mention some specifics in the bill. First, it continues to em-
Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

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

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California, Mr. ADAM SCHIFF, a great member of our committee with a tremendous work ethic. He reads almost every piece of intelligence information and comes to quality and informed conclusions.

He also has formed a lot and specialized in working with legislation involving transparency and accountability and has spent a lot of time on an area that is very important to our Intelligence Committee, the space program.

Mr. Speaker, with the gentleman for yielding, and I want to join my colleagues in urging the House to support the 2015 Intelligence Authorization Act which has now returned to us from the Senate, but before I address the substance of the bill, I would like to congratulate Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER for their extraordinary efforts to get this bill passed and to the President.

As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I know how hard they and the staff have worked to make this happen, and I would especially like to congratulate Chairman ROGERS and wish him well as he prepares to leave the House at the end of the year. It has been a great pleasure working with you, and I wish you all the very best.

These are challenging days for America’s intelligence officers and analysts. As ISIS continues to threaten the Middle East; as Russia’s “little green men” continue to coordinate attacks on the Ukrainian Government; as North Korea’s young, isolated, and often dangerously erratic leader continues his behavior; and as the international community continues its efforts to secure Iran’s agreement to dismantle nuclear weapons and infrastructure, our intelligence professionals play a vital role in keeping us safe and secure.

Developing and maintaining actionable intelligence on ISIS is of particular urgency. While the intelligence community has been focusing ISIS’ growth for some time, the group’s takeover of a large swath of Syria and Iraq has made it a top intelligence priority.

If we are to be effective in partnering with regional allies to degrade and destroy ISIS, we need to be able to develop the very best intelligence and accurate ground truth. That takes time, and it takes assets—on the ground, in the air, in space—to collect information. It also takes the world class analysts of our intelligence community to turn that information into recommendations for policymakers.

We must also remain focused on Russian efforts to destabilize its neighbors, particularly Ukraine, but also the Baltic States. Our intelligence community has given us insight into Russian involvement in these efforts and into the events that led to the tragic Downing Street annex of the Malaysian airliner last summer.

The bill also prioritizes vital efforts at nonproliferation and will help give us the tools that we need to assess events on the ground in North Korea and Iran and wherever there is a threat of WMD.

These are but a few of the important matters covered in the Intelligence Authorization bill. As a member of the committee who has been proud to work closely with the chair and ranking member, I am confident it supports our intelligence professionals while providing oversight that is so critical to the proper functioning of our intelligence agencies.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to vote for this important bipartisan and bicameral bill. It is the single most effective oversight tool we have, and it ensures that our intelligence community has what it needs to keep us and our allies safe. Intelligence is often the first line of defense against a dangerous world. Without it, we are in the dark, and we are vulnerable.

Finally, once again, let me just say thank you to my friends, Mr. Chairman, and to the members of the committee, to our colleagues in the Senate, and to the men and women of the intelligence community. It has been my honor and privilege to work with you under your great leadership during the 113th Congress.

I also want to thank the Republican and Democratic staffs for working together. That is what makes it work. You are only as good as your team and your staff.

I also would like to acknowledge the Democratic staff: Staff Director Heather Molino, Amanda Rogers-Thorpe, Bob Minehart, Linda Cohen, Carly Blake, Allison Getty, Deb Haynie, and Michael Bahar.

I also thank staff members who were with us but have retired: Mike Shank, Janet Fisher, and Khizer Sayed.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank my friends on the other side of the aisle, from Dutch to Heath, and the whole entire team for putting this product together by putting our country first. It is very important.

I challenge every Member to read this material next year when it is announced that you can review the classified annex. Review the classified annex. I think they will have a better perspective at the huge number of challenges facing the United States when it comes to real threats developing around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would again say thanks to all, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the Intelligence Authorization Act. As a member of the Armed Services and Intelligence Committees, I know these Authorization bills provide the necessary accountability, direction, and resources for those who keep our nation safe.

Today’s bill reflects the continuation of the Committee’s bipartisan and bicameral work, and I want to thank Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER for their strong and consistent leadership on these critical issues.

Today I want to highlight two areas of specific interest to me.

First, this legislation strikes a careful balance between ensuring that our nation’s secrets are kept safe and providing appropriate transparency with the American people. There are lawful ways to raise concerns of wrongdoing and procedures to declassify information appropriately. In the past, Congress has strengthened these avenues, including by enhancing whistleblower protections and the role of Inspectors General.

As it has each year, this bill adds to the mission of counterintelligence to ensure that information is protected and that the tools utilized by security professionals are handled lawfully and with full consideration for the privacy and civil liberties of our intelligence professionals. This bill continues this important direction, asking the DNI to establish appropriate guidelines, in the past, Congress has strengthened these avenues, including by enhancing whistleblower protections and the role of Inspectors General.

Second, this bill continues to support the work of the men and women at the front lines of cybersecurity. It helps cyber professionals at NSA, FBI, and DHS to hone their tools and skills to protect us, while supporting initiatives to grow the next-generation cyber workforce. And it will further aid the Intelligence Community in understanding and defending certain networks from cyber threats.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of our work on this bill and of its passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend
rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 4681.

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. AMASH, 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.

Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), my dear friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, any time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4681, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2014, extends the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program through December 31, 2014. The program was established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 to provide a Federal backstop to avoid an immediate terrorism risk insurance crisis.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, the extension of TRIA is for the purpose of addressing the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute H.R. 4681, printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services; and (2) one motion to commit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of December 11, 2014, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day of the second session of the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress after December 11, 2014:

(a) The Committee on Financial Services may make additional appropriations and transfers of funds under this Act.

(b) The Committee on Financial Services shall be responsible for ensuring that the provisions of this Act are being implemented.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect immediately upon enactment.

SEC. 5. This Act shall be considered as having been reported by the Committee on Financial Services to the House of Representatives on November 12, 2014, subject to the limitations contained in section 6 of this Act.

In this way, TRIA is a vital economic piece of our Nation’s comprehensive security strategy because it allows for the American economy to recover more quickly in the event of an attack. I believe it does more than that. It puts in place building blocks for us to understand responsibility, economic security, and how we would build back based upon rule of law and understanding about what would happen at a time of chaos.

TRIA provides certainty, certainty to our marketplace, by giving policyholders and insurers the tools that they need to understand and to develop a market-based solution to the economic threat that could be posed by terrorism. It gives policyholders and insurance providers the opportunity to model risk and to diversify their exposure with an understanding of what the law would provide.

I am encouraged by the reforms championed by, yesterday, up in the Rules Committee, Chairman Jeb HENSARLING from the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, who has placed many of these new items directly into the bill as a result of hard negotiation.

These are called reforms. Mr. Speaker, and three reforms stand out to me as being particularly important.

First, section 102. It would decrease the Federal share of losses under the program from 80 to 70 percent. This means that the Federal taxpayers will be responsible for less of the initial costs incurred after a terrorist attack than under the current law.

Second, section 103. This would increase the program trigger to $200 million in $20 million increments over 5 years. This means that TRIA would not kick in, the government program would not kick in until there was $200 million in insurable losses following an act of terrorism, ensuring that the program would not only get involved if an attack had a massive impact, but we would know the rules ahead of time.

What some might not remember, though, is the remarkable amount of economic uncertainty and damage that was caused to America and in the following weeks and months after 9/11. While we mourned the loss of many loved ones, our economy was shaken to its core.

Those attacks created and caused $200 billion in losses, approximately $20 billion of which were incurred by insurance companies. A second similar attack would have left the U.S. insurance economy insolvent, which in turn, being insolvent, would have undermined our entire economic structure of free market enterprise. This is why TRIA was pressed into law, to provide a Federal backstop to avoid an immediate terrorism risk insurance crisis.

Sadly, terrorism has continued to be an ongoing threat to our Nation and, for the foreseeable future, I think that we need to remain vigilant and prepared for those consequences. So the cost of terrorism still looms large, and acts of terrorism are uninsurable risks that could sink our insurance markets without this new, updated program.

Mr. HOUSE, Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives is considering a rule for consideration of a bill to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, or a program known as TRIA. Without this bill, TRIA is set to expire on December 31, meaning that the House and the Senate must now act or the program will end at the end of this year.

Since TRIA was signed into law in 2002, it has served as an effective means of dealing with the problem of availability of terrorism insurance. TRIA has enabled the private insurance market to provide an essential type of coverage that otherwise may not exist.

However, like many other government programs, TRIA needs to be looked at and reformed in order to serve its purpose, and that is why we are here today, Mr. Speaker.

Thanks to the leadership of Chairman JEB HENSARLING and Vice Chairman RANDY NEUGEBAUER of the Financial Services Committee, S. 2244 provides for many of those necessary reforms that will protect taxpayers, promote market stability, and provide for economic security for the American people, all in one, brand-new package.

What we are doing here today is important and essential for many people, but I believe it is to maintain the stability of a marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take us back to 2001, shortly after the terrorist attacks on 9/11. None of us will ever forget where we were when we first heard and saw of the terrorist attacks that attacked our homeland in New York City, at the Pentagon, and in a field in Pennsylvania. The accompanying stories of heroism and the deeds by Americans and others were simply heroism at its finest at a time of attack.

What some might not remember, though, is the remarkable amount of economic uncertainty and damage that was caused to America and in the following weeks and months after 9/11. While we mourned the loss of many loved ones, our economy was shaken to its core.
Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman, my good friend from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the chairman of the Rules Committee for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2244 authorizes, through December 31, 2020, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act, also known as TRIA.

This much-needed reauthorization ensures that the program will continue to protect our taxpayers in the event of severe loss from an act of terror, while providing the security and stability necessary for our Nation’s businesses to grow and invest.

TRIA was a direct response by the Federal Government to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the resulting disruptions from that act of terrorism to coverage under commercial policies in the marketplace.

Since 2002, it has provided companies with at least $100 billion of insurance coverage, while serving as a backstop for insurers against the most severe terrorism-related losses.

Currently, in order to receive payment for claims, insurance companies must pay a deductible equivalent to 20 percent of the previous year’s direct earned premium for covered commercial lines.

Furthermore, the insured loss must be at least $100 million before the Federal Government will cover 85 percent of each company’s losses up to $100 billion, with the other 15 percent of losses the obligation of insurers.

In addition to extending TRIA by 6 years, S. 2244 also makes a number of important changes to the program. Gradually, as Mr. SESSIONS explained, it will increase the program’s threshold from $50 billion to $100 billion as well as slightly increase the amount the government recoups from private insurers up to 140 percent. Moreover, this legislation decreases the government’s share of losses from 85 to 80 percent.

I am pleased to share that the final measure before us today does not include a contentious provision that would have bifurcated TRIA based on the type of terrorist attack, essentially treating nuclear, biological, chemical, and radiological attacks differently than conventional attacks. The reauthorization of TRIA is broadly supported by members of the business community and by many of my colleagues in Congress on both sides of the aisle.

However, while we can agree that TRIA is both necessary and must be reauthorized, S. 2244 also includes an unrelated provision that changes the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. In particular, it exempts manufacturers of energy companies, and agricultural firms, known as end users, from having to put up collateral when they are trading derivatives.

With less than 2 legislative days left before funding for the Federal Government expires, I am troubled by the addition of this extraneous, onerous margin derivative end user margin provision, which is a disappointing setback to the progress made during the last few months of bipartisan negotiations, and it risks the entire bill’s defeat over in the other body.

These last-minute changes to Dodd-Frank were not previously agreed to, as they were included without informing Democrats after an agreement was reached on Monday night. After months of negotiations, my friends, the House Republicans, then announced an emergency Rules Committee meeting with only 2½-hours’ notice.

Almost 3,000 lives were lost and an estimated $40 billion in insured losses sustained in the absolutely horrible attacks of 9/11. TRIA helped our Nation rebuild and recover, and it continues to protect the American people today. S. 2244, an important program deserves better than the partisan sleight of hand represented by the last-minute addition.

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

Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. Speaker, I note that today we have a speaker for our friends, the Democrats, as well as the vice chairman of the Committee on Financial Services who are here, really, I believe, to give this body a real shot in the arm about how important this legislation is. I think about what a great job the process has gone through and achieved.

I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER), then I want to bring him back as he wants to talk a little bit more, but we want to make sure that we get to our colleague from New York before it takes too much time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the chairman of the Rules Committee for allowing me this time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important piece of legislation to our country. We have heard a little bit of the history that, after 9/11, the insurance industry took a pretty substantial hit. Their reserves were drained to pay out on these claims. As they were looking at writing new business, they were very concerned about what the future held because America had never experienced the kind of disaster in the past, so they were trying to figure out how to underwrite those in the future. TRIA was put into place temporarily to be a backstop for the industry for them to get back on their feet. They have gotten back on their feet, and their reserves are at all-time highs, and they have had a number of years now to model this risk.

The reason it was originally important to do that was, basically, in order to continue the construction projects of a number of members of our country, the insurance industry needed some assurance that they wouldn’t have to bear that kind of event again.
When we began to look at this process when we knew this was going to expire at the end of this year, we knew that there were kind of three options out there. One was to let the program expire as it was meant to be a temporary program. There were some Members who wanted to do that, and some Members did not. Others wanted to just extend the program the way it was. Under the Bush administration, though, we began a process to begin to reform this and to begin to transition more money out of the risk away from the taxpayers and back to the insurance companies. Unfortunately, when it was last reauthorized, none of those reforms were built into it. Even the President of the United States says that TRIA needs to be reformed, and he has offered up, for example, to change the trigger levels.

One of the things we have done with this bill is we didn’t really change the overall structure of TRIA. We could have made a whole new terrorism insurance program. We didn’t think that was good for the market. The market had already begun to adapt to the current framework, so we felt, if we worked within the existing framework, changing some of the triggers and some of the knobs on this particular program—that that would begin to allow the industry to take on more of the risk and for the taxpayers to take less of the risk. I think we have accomplished both with this bill. As has been pointed out, I think a lot of people, quite honestly, don’t know a lot about TRIA. One of the things is that the insurance industry takes the first losses under this program. So, if there were a loss today, as the gentleman mentioned, 20 percent of the previous year’s premiums, which, if industrywide, would be about $40 billion today, would go directly to the insurance companies. Should those losses exceed that—should we have another catastrophe, then what we need to do is that the taxpayers and the insurance industry would begin to share those expenses with a provision now. We have strengthened that in this bill. I think one of the more important parts of it is that the taxpayers would get their money back and would get some return on their money. I think we are headed in a good direction.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. LATRAN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I would respond to the point that some extraneous things were put in this bill. When it came over from the Senate, it came over with an extraneous item in it as well, and that was to change the structure of future Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

They also sent over a program which, quite honestly, I agree with, which is something that is in this bill, of allowing your local insurance agent—if he is licensed in or she is licensed in the State one resides in, to do business in other States. None of the policy that is in this bill is new policy. This is policy that this body has voted on in the past. With that, I think we have got a good bill.

I see my good friend from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) over there, and I am anxious to hear her thoughts on that because this is an issue that she has been very interested in.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased at this time to yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), who is the ranking member of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentleman, my good friend, for yielding and for all of his hard work on this issue and on many others.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule because I believe the approach we are taking jeopardizes the passage in the Senate of a good, bipartisan compromise to extend the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act or TRIA.

TRIA is incredibly important to New York—and to the entire country—and it is critically important that we pass a long-term extension of this bill. After 9/11, all construction in New York City stopped. You could not even build a hot dog stand. Thousands of people lost their jobs, and business ground to a halt because we could not get terrorism insurance. The only insurance available was from Lloyd’s of London, and it was difficult to get and incredibly expensive.

If we do not reauthorize TRIA, no business will be able to get terrorism insurance in this country, and all construction will stop, costing thousands of jobs in our country. I must say, of all of the government programs that helped New York rebuild, I would say this program was the most important, and it did not cost taxpayers one dime. I want to emphasize that I strongly support the TRIA compromise in this bill that was reached between Chair HENSARLING and Vice Chair NEUGEBAUER, along with Senator SCHUMER and Ranking Member WATERS.

However, the deal reached did not include the end user margin bill that is also included in this TRIA bill, which Senator SCHUMER and many other Senators are strongly objecting to.

The reason this was not part of the agreement is that adding unrelated bills that amend Dodd-Frank makes it much more difficult to pass this bill in the Senate. Where there are any changes to Dodd-Frank, many Senators take exception. It is very difficult to pass them. This, unfortunately, jeopardizes the chance of passing this important reauthorization of TRIA in the Senate, and it is extremely important to the overall economy of this country to pass this bill.

Separately, I want to note for the record that I support the end user margin bill, which would simply clarify that end users of derivatives, such as airlines and manufacturers, are not subject to Dodd-Frank’s margin capital requirements.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Florida’s time has expired.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I voted for this bill. I voted for this bill in the committee, which, as noted, passed this body with 400 votes, and also on the floor. However, I strongly oppose this rule because it puts TRIA’s passage in the Senate in jeopardy, and this is truly unfortunate.

Before the Rules Committee, Ranking Member WATERS and I suggested that we divide this out, have TRIA and the other bill—the Dodd-Frank, the regulatory bill—separate so that there would not be a process. Unfortunately, that did not happen, and I am extremely concerned that this puts in jeopardy the passage of a bill that is critically important to the economy of this country.

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

Exactly what the gentlewoman speaks about was part of the long discussion that we had in the Rules Committee yesterday. The gentleman from Dallas, Texas, Chair HENSARLING, very clearly went through—piece by piece, the things which the Senate had added which were extraneous to TRIA and that were in their bill that they passed. Likewise, the chairman outlined what he was for. He described a bill that got 411 votes in this body.

One thing was a very pleasant surprise, and I thought it was very wisely done by the Secretary of the Treasury. I am not sure I would like to read what Secretary Jacob Lew said in a letter that was addressed on December 7, just this week, to the Honorable CHARLES E. SCHUMER. CHUCK SCHUMER is the leader of this TRIA bill in the Senate.

He said:

Dear Senator Schumer, I want to thank you for your leadership on extending the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act and its program. As you know well, TRIA is critical to our economic and national security. Terrorism insurance is necessary for a broad range of economic activities in areas across the country and would be prohibitively expensive or unavailable in the absence of the program.

There is clear bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House for an extension that includes a long-term extension while making reforms to further reduce taxpayer exposure. Time is running short to head off an unnecessary, unprecedented, and disruptive lapse of the program, which is scheduled to expire in just a few weeks.

Given the economic necessity and national security implications of this legislation, TRIA’s reauthorization should not be delayed due to disagreements over entirely unrelated financial regulatory issues. I appreciate the hard work you and your bipartisan colleagues are doing to reauthorize a long-term extension of the TRIA.
Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert this in the RECORD.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,

Hon. Charles E. Schumer,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Dear Senator Schumer: I write to thank you for your leadership on the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA) and its Program. As you know well, TRIA is critical to our economic and national security. Ter-
rorism is a threat that necessitate for a broad range of economic activities in areas across the country, and would be prohibitively ex-
pensive or unavailable in the absence of the Program.

There is clear bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House to enact a long-
term extension while making reforms to fur-
ter reduce taxpayer exposure. We will not take
this issue into the next Congress, when the tim-
ing short to head off an unnecessary, un-
precedented, and disruptive lapse of the Pro-
gram, which is scheduled to expire in a few weeks.

Given the economic necessity and national security implications of this legislation, TRIA should not be de-
layed due to disagreements over entirely un-
related financial regulatory issues. I appre-
ciate the hard work you and your bipartisan colleagues are doing to reauthorize a long-
term extension of the TRIA.

Sincerely,

Jacob J. Lew.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, this is from the Secretary of the Treasury, who is asking Mr. Schumer, please, let's work to get this done because it makes sense.

I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Lubbock, Texas (Mr. NEUGE-
BAUER), the vice chairman of the com-
mittee, who will further delve into this issue about how important this meas-
ure is.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the dis-
inguished chairman of the Rules Com-
mittee.

Mr. Speaker, I think the point that we want to continue making here is that when we use the existing frame-
work, the objective here was to give certainty to the industry—both the in-
surance industry and to the people that the insurance industry is insuring—so that over the next 6 years, they will know what the policy is. But at the same time, we are beginning to transi-
tion some of these reforms that hope-
fully will be a trend for future reau-
 thorizations, should they be necessary. And let me emphasize that: should they be necessary.

One of the things that we do know is that there is a better job of being able to model what the poten-
tial risks are. There is some mitigation going on to make sure that new struc-
tures, new facilities take into account preventing the potential for certain types of attacks. So we want to en-
courage that kind of behavior. But it doesn’t encourage that kind of behav-
ior if there isn’t some economic incen-
tive. There is no economic incentive if the taxpayers keep having to pick up the tab on a number of these pro-
grams.

I am very pleased with the reforms that are built into this. I think we bring the market certainty in that we didn’t materially change the program and that we are doing a long-term re-
authorization.

I think the interesting thing is—and I think we can make the point—there is really not anything controversial in this bill. Nobody wants some people who don’t like the fact that there have been some things included in it. But, quite honestly, we are taking up a Sen-
ate bill that was sent over to us with ex-
traordinary policy built into it. It is policy by proxy, because some of us agree with, particularly the NARAB. And why that NARAB provision, NARAB II, is important, as I said ear-
lier, is because your local insurance agent now can do business in adjoining States without having to go take a li-
cense test in each individual State. It doesn’t preempt the States’ ability to regulate the insurance activity in that State but actually streamlines it and basically is a small business bill.

The other issue that has been talked about is this Business Risk Mitigation and Stabilization Act. That is an im-
portant piece of legislation because a lot of our small businesses are out there. They are trying to raise capital. They are trying to create jobs. And there are certain risks that they just don’t want to take or they feel like it is in the best interest of their business to be able to help someone risk-share that with. And many of the products that are available here today, the risk factor of doing business with that company is already priced into that transaction.

But we have an overinterpretation here now, where not only are those businesses paying a risk premium but they are also having to put up addi-
tional collateral. So this begins to keep the working collateral for the company so that they can invest in new equipment and in things that can help create new jobs in this country. I think it is a fact that 411 people, including the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), voted for this piece of legis-
lation. So this is not something that we are trying to sneak in on anybody. This is something that was voted on, in this House, by 411 votes.

And Mr. Dodd and Mr. Frank, the pri-
mary authors of the Dodd-Frank bill, both said that this was never an inten-
tion. So Dodd-Frank and have spoken in favor of the kind of reform to that in the future.

So this is a good piece of legislation, and I am a little concerned that my colleagues think that it is in jeopardy. Well, the only reason I would be in jeopardy is if our colleagues over on the other side of the building decide, for some reason, that they don’t want to reauthorize TRIA. That is certainly a decision that they would be making on their own. But, again, nothing in this bill has been considered by this body in the past.

So, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my col-
leagues to support this rule. We need to move this forward. Time is running short, and the marketplace needs that certainty. I am confident that we will pass this bill in the House today, and we are going to encourage our folks over in the Senate to ratify that. We hope the President of the United States will sign it, and this will be an important piece of legislation to the American industry in the future.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time, although I certainly don’t in-
tend to use that much time.

Mr. Speaker, since there has been discus-
sion regarding the changes that are ex-
traneous to the base bill—more specifi-
cally, the changes with reference to Dodd-Frank—and other changes that the Senate included in the measure that has now come to the House: my understanding is, and I stand to be cor-
rected, that the changes that were made in the Senate were not measures having to do with Dodd-Frank. It appeared that the discussions are likely to come into play in that my friends on the other side included the Dodd-Frank language after the nego-
tiations had been put forward.

The fact of the matter is, it does appear that several Members of the other body have indicated that they are op-
posed to it. I don’t believe that means that they are opposed to TRIA, but I do believe it means that they are opposed to changes in Dodd-Frank.

TRIA has been a very successful program that has created jobs, fostered certainty in the marketplace, and pro-
tected U.S. economic security, all at no cost to the taxpayer. Reauthorization, in my judgment, is essential to current and future commercial development in communities all across this country and to our Nation’s long-term eco-
nomc prosperity.

I don’t believe my Republican col-
leagues really want to play chicken with this vital national and economic security program in order to strong-
arm the process on an unrelated finan-
cial services provision.

You know, Mr. Speaker and friends, when the 113th Congress began, it began with the distinguished Speaker of the House enunciating, among other things, that we would have an open and transparent process.

This is the 83rd closed rule that my friends on the other side have brought to the body. It rivals in the his-
tory of this country, and I have been in the majority and in the minority as a member of the Rules Committee and have seen Members of my party advo-
cate and pass closed rules.

When I came to the body in 1992, I had very little understanding about the process, and I recall very vividly when I went home for the first time—the Democrats were in the majority—and all of the talk on the radio shows that I would appear on was, Your party is in the majority and in the minority as a member of the Rules Committee and have seen Members of my party advo-
cate and pass closed rules.

But I do wish to point out, Mr. Speaker, that several Members of the other body have indicated that they are op-
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posed to it. I don’t believe that means that they are opposed to TRIA, but I do believe it means that they are opposed to changes in Dodd-Frank.
the relevant committees or Members who did not have their amendments made in order before the Rules Committee are precluded under closed rules from having an opportunity to put forward their ideas which might benefit the legislation or, if they feel like the legislation is jeopardizing the country, might very well do that as well.

But I will close by saying that I never thought that we would have 83 closed rules.

I am privileged to be able to serve in the 114th Congress, and my great hope is that we get past this particular method of cutting off other Members in this body from having full participation in the world’s greatest deliberative body.

I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I thought the distinguished gentleman from Florida not only for the effort that we have had today but also at the Rules Committee yesterday, where the committee heard really, greatly great points, perhaps on both sides, but great points about how important this legislation is to the country but to the stability of the marketplace and the ability to keep and grow jobs.

I also heard the gentleman very clearly talk about his displeasure of having a number of closed rules. And I would like to do the gentleman reminding me, as chairman of the committee, and would respond back that almost every single week we were in session, we put into play more amendments for Democrats than Harry Reid did in 6 years for any Republican in the United States Senate. And I have tried to make sure that what I do is based upon some bit of fairness.

But the facts of the case are, the last time this TRIA bill was on the floor, then Chairman Barney Frank asked for and received a closed rule, so he did the same thing in 2007. Republicans have also, under these processes, done the same thing, except in 2005 and 2007, they were done on suspension, meaning that we had about 10 minutes to talk about the effort.

Today what we have tried to do is to have a full debate in the Rules Committee. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), among others, was al-

Chairman NEUGEBAUER, Chairman HENSARLING, the just-in-time arrival of a bill, the Rules Committee, a long debate, a long discussion—this is not only for the people who came up to the Rules Committee yesterday were right.

This is a great piece of legislation. This package will provide a long-term extension to TRIA. It is going to make reforms to protect taxpayers. It is going to make sure the industry understands what it is. It is a bipartisan fix. It is going to include a bill with 41 votes out of this body. I think it is a darn good deal, and I am delighted to do that.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.” Vote “yes” on this rule and “yes” on the underlying legislation.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, the preliminary estimate of the amendment in the nature of a substitute, which was available at the time Rules Committee Report 113-654 was prepared, estimated that the legislation would reduce the deficit by $457 million over 10 years. The final table provided by CBO estimates that the legislation would reduce the deficit by $456 million.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

December 10, 2014

H9667

CONE becoming the vote taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

Mr. KILDEE, Ms. CHU, and Mr. SCHNEIDER changed their vote from "yea" to "nay." Messrs. TIBERI and THOMPSON of California changed their vote from "nay" to "yea.

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 554 I was detained at a Press Con-

ferene. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 554, I was detained at a Press Con-

ference, and therefore, I would have voted "no."

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1000) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a comprehensive budget for restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, 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 gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) 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 416, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 555]
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:
Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 555, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I missed the following vote: S. 1000—Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall No. 555 on passage of the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014 under suspension of the rules, I would have voted "yes."

**MOIEMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). The Chair would ask all present to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence.

The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in remembrance of our brave men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our country in Georgia, Afghanistan, and their families, and of all who serve in our Armed Forces and their families.

**THE JOURNAL**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute vote will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered printed.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeeas 261, nays 155, answered “present” 1, not voting 17, as follows:

(Roll No. 556)

**YEAS—261**

Aderholt  Burton  Chipchase  Crenshaw  Cook  Curbelo  Curbelo  Curbelo  Curbelo  Curbelo  Curbelo

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Transportation Security Administration has not consistently implemented Department of Homeland Security policies and Government best practices for acquisition and procurement.

(2) The Transportation Security Administration has only recently developed a multyear technology investment plan, and has underutilized innovation opportunities within the private sector, including from small businesses.

(3) The Transportation Security Administration has faced challenges in meeting key performance requirements for several major acquisitions and procurements, resulting in reduced security effectiveness and wasted expenditures.

SEC. 3. TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION ACQUISITION REFORM.

(a) In general.—Title XVI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2312) is amended to read as follows:

"TITLE XVI—TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION ACQUISITION REFORM"

Subtitle A—General Provisions

"SEC. 1601. DEFINITIONS.

In this part—

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term 'Administration' means the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

(3) PLAN.—The term 'Plan' means the strategic 5-year technology investment plan developed by the Administrator under section 1611.

(4) SECURITY-RELATED TECHNOLOGY.—The term 'security-related technology' means any technology that assists the Administration in the prevention of, or defense against, threats to United States transportation systems, including threats to people, property, and information.

Subtitle B—Transportation Security Administration Acquisition Improvements

"SEC. 1611. 5-YEAR TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLAN.

(a) In general.—The Administrator shall—

(1) develop, under the authority of the Administrator, a 5-year technology investment plan that may include a classified annex to the plan, and a publically available technology investment plan that is in an unclassified format in the public domain.

(2) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The Plan shall include—

(A) an analysis of transportation security risks and capability gaps that would be best addressed by security-related technology, including consideration of the most recent quadrilateral homeland security review under paragraph (1) of section 1602 of this Act;

(B) a set of security-related technology acquisition needs that—

(1) is prioritized based on risk and associated capability gaps identified under paragraph (1) and (2); and

(2) includes planned technology programs and projects to meet security-related technology objectives, goals, timelines, and measures;

(3) an analysis of current and forecast trends in domestic and international passenger travel;

(4) an identification of currently deployed security-related technologies that are at or near the end of their lifecycle;

(5) an identification of test, evaluation, modeling, and simulation capabilities, including target methodologies, rationales, and timelines necessary to support the acquisition of the security-related technologies expected to meet the needs under paragraph (2);

(6) an identification of opportunities for public-private partnerships, small and disadvantaged company participation, interagency collaboration, university centers of excellence, and national laboratory technology transfer;

(7) an identification of the Administration's acquisition workforce needs for the management of planned security-related technology acquisitions, including consideration of leveraging acquisition expertise of other Federal agencies;

(8) an identification of the security resources, including information security resources, that will be required to protect security-related technology programs, data, and physical and cyber threats, diversion, sabotage, or attack;

(9) an identification of initiatives to streamline the Administration's acquisition processes to include improved accuracy and clarity to small, medium, and large businesses, including the timeline for testing and evaluation;

(10) an assessment of the impact to commercial aviation passenger travel;

(11) a strategy for consulting airport management, air carrier representatives, and Federal security directors on an integrated approach to equipment acquisition, which will lead to the removal of equipment at airports, and how the strategy for consulting with such officials of the relevant airports will address potential negative impacts on commercial passengers or airport operations; and

(12) in consultation with the National Institutes of Standards and Technology, an identification of security requirements for security-related technology programs, including industry standards, in existence or if implemented, that could promote interoperability passenger, baggage, and cargo screening systems.

(c) LEVERAGE THE PRIVATE SECTOR.—To the extent possible, and in a manner that is consistent with fair and equitable practices, the Plan shall—

(1) incorporate private sector input, including from the aviation industry stakeholder advisory committee established by the Administrator, through requests for information, industry days, and other innovative means consistent with the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and

(2) in consultation with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, identify technology investments or in development that, with or without modifications, are expected to be suitable to meeting mission needs.

(d) DISCLOSURE.—The Administrator shall include with the Plan a list of nonGovernment personnel that contributed to the writing of the Plan.

(g) UPDATE AND REPORT.—Beginning 2 years after the date the Plan is submitted to Congress under subsection (a), and biennially thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress—

(1) an update of the Plan; and

(2) a report on the extent to which each security-related technology acquisition acquired by the Administration since the last issuance or update of the Plan is consistent with the planned technology programs and projects identified under paragraph (2) of section 1602 of this Act.

"SEC. 1612. ACQUISITION JUSTIFICATION AND REPORTS.

(a) ACQUISITION JUSTIFICATION.—Before the Administrator implements any security-related technology acquisition, the Administrator, in accordance with the Department's policies and directives, shall determine whether the acquisition is justified by conducting an analysis that includes—

(1) an identification of the scenarios and level of risk to transportation security from the scenario that would be addressed by the security-related technology acquisition;

(2) an assessment of how the proposed acquisition aligns to the Plan; and

(3) an analysis of alternative security solutions, including policy or procedure solutions, to determine if the proposed security-related technology acquisition is the most effective and cost-efficient solution based on cost-benefit considerations;

(4) an assessment of the potential privacy and civil liberties implications of the proposed acquisition that includes the extent practicable, consultation with organizations that advocate for the protection of privacy and civil liberties;

(5) a determination that the proposed acquisition is consistent with fair information practice principles issued by the Privacy Officer of the Department; and

(6) an estimate of the benefits to commercial aviation passengers.

(b) REPORTS AND CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 30-day period preceding the award by the Administrator of a contract for any security-related technology acquisition exceeding $30,000,000, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives—

(A) the results of the comprehensive acquisition justification under subsection (a); and

(B) a certification by the Administrator that the benefits to transportation security justify the contract cost.

(2) EXTENSION DUE TO IMMINENT TERRORIST THREAT.—If there is a known or suspected imminent threat to transportation security, the Administrator—

(A) may reduce the 30-day period under paragraph (1) to 5 days to rapidly respond to the threat; and

(B) shall immediately notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives—

"SEC. 1613. ACQUISITION BASELINE ESTABLISHMENT AND REPORTS.

(a) BASELINE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the Administration implements any security-related technology acquisition, the appropriate acquisition official of the Department shall establish and document a set of baseline requirements.

(2) CONTENTS.—The baseline requirements under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) include the estimated costs (including lifecycle costs), schedule, and performance milestones for the planned duration of the acquisition;

(B) identify the acquisition risks and a plan for mitigating those risks; and

(C) assess the personnel necessary to manage the acquisition program, manage the ongoing program, and support training and other operations as necessary.
(3) Feasibility.—In establishing the performance milestones under paragraph (2)(A), the appropriate acquisition official of the Department, to the extent possible and in consultation with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall ensure that achieving those milestones is technologically feasible.

(4) Test and Evaluation Plan.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, shall develop a test and evaluation plan that describes—

(A) the activities that are expected to be required to assess acquired technologies against the performance milestones established under paragraph (2)(A);

(B) the necessary and cost-effective combination of laboratory testing, field testing, modeling, simulation, and supporting analysis to ensure that such technologies meet the Administrator’s mission needs;

(C) an efficient planning schedule to ensure that test and evaluation activities are completed without undue delay; and

(D) if commercial aviation passengers are expected to interact with the security-related technology, methods that could be used to measure passenger acceptance of and familiarization with the technology.

(5) Verification and Validation.—The appropriate acquisition official of the Department—

(A) subject to subparagraph (B), shall utilize independent reviewers to verify and validate the performance milestones and cost estimates developed under paragraph (2) for a security-related technology that pursuant to section 1611(d)(2) has been identified as a high priority need in the most recent Plan; and

(B) shall ensure that the use of independent reviewers does not unduly delay the schedule of any acquisition.

(6) Streamlining Access for Interested Vendors.—The Administrator shall establish a streamlined process for interested vendors of security-related technology to request and receive appropriate access to the baseline requirements and test and evaluation plans that are necessary for the vendor to participate in the acquisitions process for that technology.

(7) Review of Baseline Requirements and Deviation; Report to Congress.—(1) The Administrator—

(A) in general.—The appropriate acquisition official of the Department shall review and assess each implemented technology for whether the technology is technologically feasible and if the acquisition is meeting the performance milestones established under subsection (a).

(B) Test and Evaluation Assessment.—The review shall include an assessment of whether—

(i) the planned testing and evaluation activities have been completed; and

(ii) the results of that testing and evaluation demonstrate that the performance milestones are technologically feasible.

(2) Report.—Not later than 30 days after making a finding described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that includes—

(A) the results of any assessment that finds that—

(i) the actual or planned costs exceed the baseline costs by more than 10 percent;

(ii) the actual or planned schedule for delivery has been delayed by more than 180 days; or

(iii) there is a failure to meet any performance milestones that directly impacts security effectiveness;

(B) the cause for such excessive costs, delay, or failure; and

(C) actions or corrective action.

SEC. 1614. INVENTORY UTILIZATION. — (a) In General.—Before the procurement of additional quantities of equipment to fulfill a mission need, the Administrator, to the extent practicable, shall utilize any existing units in the Administration’s inventory to meet that need.

(b) Tracking of Inventory.—

(1) In General.—The Administrator shall establish a process for tracking—

(A) the location of security-related equipment in the inventory under subsection (a);

(B) the utilization status of security-related technology in the inventory under subsection (a); and

(C) the quantity of security-related equipment in the inventory under subsection (a).

(2) Internal Administrator shall implement internal controls to ensure up-to-date accurate data on security-related technology owned, deployed, and in use.

(c) Logistics Management.—(1) In General.—The Administrator shall establish logistics principles for managing inventory in an efficient and effective manner.

(2) Limitation on Just-in-Time Logistics.—The Administrator may not use just-in-time logistics if doing so—

(A) would inhibit necessary planning for large-scale delivery of equipment to airports or other facilities; or

(B) would unduly diminish surge capacity for response to a terrorist threat.

SEC. 1615. SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING GOALS. — Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that includes—

(1) the Administrator’s performance record with respect to meeting its published small-business contracting goals during the preceding fiscal year;

(2) if the goals described in paragraph (1) were not met or the Administrator’s performance was below the published small-business contracting goals of the Department—

(i) a list of challenges, including deviations from the Administrator’s subcontracting plans, and factors that contributed to the level of performance during the preceding fiscal year; and

(ii) any actions, with benchmarks, for addressing each of the challenges identified in subparagraph (i).

(3) if the goals described in paragraph (1) were met or the Administrator’s performance during the preceding fiscal year met or exceeded the published small-business contracting goals of the Department—

(i) a list of challenges, including deviations from the Administrator’s subcontracting plans, and factors that contributed to the level of performance during the preceding fiscal year; and

(ii) any actions, with benchmarks, for addressing each of the challenges identified in subparagraph (i).

SEC. 1616. CONSISTENCY WITH THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES AND DIRECTIVES. — The Administrator shall execute the responsibilities set forth in this subtitle in a manner consistent with and not duplicative of the Federal Acquisition Regulation and the Department’s policies and directives.

(b) Conforming Amendment.—The table of contents in section 1602 of Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by adding the following:

"Subtitle V—TRANSPORTATION SECURITY"

"Section 1—General Provisions"

"Section 1601. Definitions."

"Section 1602. Authorization of appropriations."

"Section 1603. Reports."

"Section 1604. Implementation of previous recommendations."

"Section 1605. Prior amendments not affecting."

"Section 1606. Provisions not affected."

"Section 1607. No additional authorization of appropriation."

"Section 1608. Government Accountability Office review of TSA's test and evaluation process."

"Section 5. Report on feasibility of inventory tracking."


"Section 7. No additional authorization of appropriation."

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.
Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include such material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719, the Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act, a bill that I introduced in July of last year, which passed the House unanimously 1 year ago.

This commonsense, bipartisan legislation is the culmination of 2 years of collaborative efforts by my colleagues in the Senate and 4 years of strong oversight by the Transportation Security Subcommittee.

H.R. 2719 will save significant tax dollars by forcing TSA to make thoughtful, informed decisions about what it needs to run our Nation's airports. We simply cannot afford to see TSA repeat the mistakes of the past, which have resulted in technologies such as "puddle machines" and body scanners being pulled out of service as unnecessary and others sitting idle in warehouses, never to see the light of day.

H.R. 2719 requires TSA to develop and share with industry and the public a detailed 5-year technology investment plan. The bill gives Congress early warning about any cost overruns, delays, or technical failures encountered by TSA.

It ensures that TSA is implementing acquisition best practices as identified by the Government Accountability Office and other experts. It also mandates a better process for managing security equipment in TSA's inventory. Finally, the Senate strengthened the bill by, among other things, requiring more consultation with experts in the public and private sectors during the acquisition process.

I would like to thank the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, Mr. McCaul, for his assistance in moving this through the Committee and the House, as well as the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. Thompson, for his work alongside myself and our chairman. I really appreciate the work and cooperation of Mr. Thompson and the ranking member for our subcommittee, Mr. Richmond. Again, their work made this a better bill.

I would also like to thank Senator Ayotte for introducing a companion bill in the Senate and leading the effort to see it through the Senate Commerce Committee and the full Senate. I would also like to thank Senators Rockerfeller, Thune, and Tester and their staffs for their strong support and their important efforts to move this bill.

Finally, I would like to thank the 18 industry groups that have endorsed this bill, including the Security Manufacturers Coalition, Airlines for America, Airport Council International-North America, the American Association of Airport Executives, the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, the Security Industry Association, the U.S. Travel Association, and many others who provided feedback and worked with us throughout this process.

I will insert into the RECORD a letter from these groups and others.

HON. HARRY REED.

November 12, 2014.

Hon. Harry Reed, Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, DC.

Dear Leaders Reed and McConnell: Together we skillfully represent the strength of the aviation, aerospace, and travel industry, which combined contribute billions of dollars to the U.S. economy every year and maintain high-tech jobs in the United States. We write to express our strong support for S. 1893, the Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act, introduced by Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) and S. 1804, the Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act introduced by Senator Jon Tester (D-MT). Companion House bills (H.R. 1201 and H.R. 1204) of these two bills passed the House of Representatives with overwhelming bipartisan support on December 3, 2013, and were reported unanimously by the House Commerce, Science, and Transportation on July 24, 2014.

Both bills were developed with significant input from our industries and represent important progress toward streamlining the Transportation Security Administration's procurement process and improving decisionmaking, by including industry stakeholders on issues affecting aviation’s security. These no-cost, common-sense bills will benefit the industry by requiring TSA to conduct meaningful private sector engagement and coordination, strategic planning, and transparent procurement that will save taxpayer dollars and strengthen security in the long term.

As associations concerned with improving aviation safety and security, we ask that you bring S.1804/H.R. 1201 and S. 1893/H.R. 2719 to the Senate floor for the Senate’s prompt consideration and passage in order to send these critical bills to the President for his signature.

Sincerely,


Mr. HUDSON. This no-cost, bipartisan legislation will go a long way toward improving transparency and accountability for TSA. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and 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 strong support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719, the Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act.

This year, both as chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I have been troubled by the way TSA goes about technology acquisition. Time and again, taxpayer dollars have been wasted on technologies that either do not work or cannot be upgraded to meet the agency’s need.

I have also been troubled by TSA’s apparent inability to effectively manage its inventory of security-related technology and meet its goals for contracting with small and disadvantaged businesses.

The bill before us today addresses these concerns through greater transparency and accountability. In this age of budget constraints, TSA cannot purchase technologies on a whim and outside of robust acquisition controls. Under H.R. 2719, of which I was proud to be an original cosponsor, TSA will be required to develop and publish a multiyear technology investment plan that reflects the agency’s security-related technology purchases.

This plan will give both the agency and Congress a clear understanding of how taxpayer dollars will be allocated in future years.

The bill also requires TSA to develop a plan for managing its inventory of security-related technologies. Last year, the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General found that TSA had more than 17,000 items in its inventory, at an estimated cost of $185 million. The IG concluded that TSA may be able to put approximately $800,000 per year to better use by managing its inventory more effectively.

For fiscal year 2012, TSA’s goal for prime contracting with small businesses was set at 23 percent; yet the agency barely reached 16 percent. While TSA improved its performance in 2013, it still failed to meet its goal for prime contracting with small businesses.

To address TSA’s chronic problems meeting its small business contracting goal, the bill requires TSA to consult with other Federal agencies that get small business contracting done and do it right. Under H.R. 2719, TSA will be required to develop an action plan for improving its performance and report to Congress on its progress in implementing the plan.
develop and produce the security-related technologies it puts into the field. Doing so comes at the peril of small and minority-owned businesses that are essential to innovation. This dynamic also results in additional costs to taxpayers due to a lack of competition in the marketplace.

H.R. 2719 received the unanimous support of the Committee on Homeland Security and this full House later last year. The Senate amendment to this bill was considered today, and making minor and beneficial modifications.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have one speaker before I close. I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, to close. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman in his new role as a Member on the Committee on Homeland Security.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. THOMPSON for his leadership as ranking member and formerly chair, and Mr. HUDSON. Let me also acknowledge Mr. RICHMOND, who is the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Transportation Security.

It is clear that this committee, Homeland Security overall, has worked together for the betterment of the national security of this Nation, and these legislative initiatives in particular. I remember distinctly the hearings, the collaboration with a number of groups, and so I rise today to speak on the transportation security bill regarding best practices to improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes.

The Transportation Security Administration, now under Homeland Security, is one of our vital organs that relates to the security of America. We only need look at special holidays throughout the year and realize how vital the aviation system is and how important it is to work together with the Transportation Security Administration, covering TSAOs and certainly a large component of research and technology dealing with the security of our airports.

This initiative is an important one. It is almost unspeakable to have this size of inventory, some $185 million in assessment, languishing in warehouses under the name of the Transportation Security Administration.

Over the years as a ranking member and chairwoman on Transportation Security and now Border Security, likewise I have joined my colleagues in fighting for all businesses because there lies technology.

So this initiative to open the doors for the idea of a multiyear technology investment plan and underutilized innovation opportunities that can be provided in this area of security I believe is very important, and then of course to insist that 16 percent not be the number that we rely upon in terms of investment and opportunity for minorities and others.

I support this initiative, and I must at this moment add my support for the legislation dealing with insisting on an aviation security advisory committee. I want to congratulate Mr. Thompson on that and highlight that the issue of aviation security matters needs collaboration.

Let me finish by saying, as we experienced over the last year, a decision to add or take away what item you could bring through security—we found out that collaboration on this is crucial.

So this is an important initiative, and I thank both the managers on the floor, and I support both of these initiatives and congratulate them for moving the security of America further.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close once the gentleman yields.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to thank Subcommittee Chairman HUDSON and Ranking Member RICHMOND for working in collaboration to develop this important legislation.

I would also like to acknowledge the bipartisan staff work that went in to getting us to this point. Specifically, I want to acknowledge Brian Turbyfill on my staff and Amanda Parikh on the majority staff for their work on this legislation over the past 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719 so that this bill can be enacted and TSA’s acquisition process is on a path to improvement.

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

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the former chairman for his kind remarks and for the collaborative nature in which we have worked throughout this Congress. I appreciate his leadership and advice. I believe we have done good work, and I have done it because we have listened to each other and we have worked well together. I appreciate you and your staff, as well as that of CEDRIC RICHMOND, the ranking member on this committee.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge that this would not be possible had they not worked so closely with us. I would also like to thank the chairman for mentioning our staffs. Our staffs have worked very hard, they have worked in a bipartisan manner, and I attach myself to his compliments for our staff there and thank him for that kindness.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the accomplishments we have made on this subcommittee. In particular I am proud of this piece of legislation, H.R. 2719. It was developed with input from stakeholders in an exhaustive process with subject matter experts across government and industry to address different deficiencies we had identified throughout the TSA’s acquisition process.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on Senator AYOTTE’s amendment to H.R. 2719, and let’s send this bill to the President for his signature.

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

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2719, the “Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act.”

H.R. 2719 addresses longstanding concerns that TSA and other Members of this Committee have raised about the Transportation Security Administration’s stewardship of taxpayer funds when pursuing, acquiring, and deploying security-related technologies.

Importantly, the bill also seeks to address the Treasury’s record of contracting with small businesses.

Last year, the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, of which I am the Ranking Member, held a hearing with industry stakeholders where we heard from representatives of small and large businesses on how to improve TSA’s acquisition practices and to engage with small businesses more effectively.

There are ample small, minority-owned and disadvantaged businesses that are ready, willing and able to provide services and technologies to TSA that would enhance our security and likely reduce contracting costs.

If TSA cannot identify such businesses, I will be happy to refer them to some.

The bill takes a significant step toward holding TSA accountable for its goals for contracting with small and disadvantaged businesses by requiring the agency to develop an action plan to accomplish its goals and report to Congress on how it plans to get there.

I thank the Subcommittee Chairman, the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. HUDSON, for his willingness to include small businesses in the discussion as we developed the legislation before the House today.

I also congratulate Chairman HUDSON on his work on this legislation.

The Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I was proud to work with the Chairman to lay the groundwork for this legislation through multiple hearings with both industry and TSA.

The bill tackles head on the lack of transparency and accountability that has plagued TSA’s acquisition practices since the Agency’s inception.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719 is sound, bipartisan legislation that deserves the support of this House.

I would like to express my gratitude to Chairman HUDSON for the bipartisan manner in which he operated the Subcommittee on Transportation Security this Congress.

I look forward to continuing to work with the gentleman in his new role as a Member on the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

With that Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the bill.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 2719, the “Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act,” which was developed, introduced, and championed by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security.
the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. HUDSON. The Senate amendment to H.R. 2719, offered by Senator AYOTTE, would strengthen the underlying bill and ensure that TSA is consulting stakeholders throughout the technology acquisition process. I thank the Senator, for working with our Committee to move this common sense bill across the finish line.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I have seen first-hand the need for TSA to develop a comprehensive investment plan for acquiring new technologies and to use its limited resources in a more efficient and effective manner. H.R. 2719 sets clear mandates for TSA to develop and maintain a five-year acquisition strategy that will help industry make informed investment decisions and lead to more effective technologies in our nation’s airports to meet the evolving terrorist threats we face. The requirements of this bill will also ensure that Congress receives early warning and insight into potentially wasteful spending practices, which will strengthen the Committee’s oversight and enable TSA to be a better steward of taxpayer dollars.

I would like to thank Chairman HUDSON for his dedicated effort to reform TSA, as well as the Ranking Member of the Full Committee and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee for their support of this important legislation, which will hold TSA accountable and increase transparency for the millions of dollars the agency spends every year on technology. I would also like to express appreciation to the many stakeholder associations that have provided their input and given their support to this bill to be a better steward of taxpayer dollars.

I urge my colleagues to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719 and send this bill to the President for his signature.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2719. The motion is taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on that I urge my colleagues to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. AVIATION SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) In general.—Subchapter II of chapter 449 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

(§44946. Aviation Security Advisory Committee)

(“a) Establishment.—The Assistant Secretary shall establish within the Transportation Security Administration an aviation security advisory committee.

(b) Duties.—

(1) In general.—The Assistant Secretary shall consult the Advisory Committee, as appropriate, on aviation security matters, including, without limitation, matters related to the development, refinement, and implementation of policies, programs, rulemaking, and security directives pertaining to aviation security, while adhering to sensitive security guidelines.

(2) Recommendations.—

(A) In general.—The Advisory Committee shall develop, at the request of the Assistant Secretary, recommendations for improvements to aviation security.

(B) Recommendations of Subcommittees.—Recommendations agreed upon by the subcommittees of the Advisory Committee under this section shall be approved by the Advisory Committee before transmission to the Assistant Secretary.

(3) Periodic Reports.—The Advisory Committee shall periodically submit to the Assistant Secretary—

(A) reports on matters identified by the Assistant Secretary; and

(B) reports on other matters identified by a majority of the members of the Advisory Committee.

(4) Annual Report.—The Advisory Committee shall submit to the Assistant Secretary an annual report providing information on the activities, findings, and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, including its subcommittees, for the preceding year. Not later than 6 months after the date that the Secretary receives the annual report, the Secretary shall publish a public version describing the Advisory Committee’s activities and such related matters as would be informative to the public consistent with the policy of section 552(b) of title 5.

(5) Feedback.—Not later than 90 days after receiving recommendations transmitted by the Advisory Committee under paragraph (4), the Assistant Secretary shall respond in writing to the Advisory Committee and upon the Assistant Secretary’s written response, the Assistant Secretary shall require the Advisory Committee to meet at such time and place as the Assistant Secretary shall determine.

(6) Congressional Notification.—Not later than 30 days after providing written feedback to the Advisory Committee under paragraph (5), the Assistant Secretary shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on such feedback, and provide a briefing upon request.

(7) Report to Congress.—Prior to briefing the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives under paragraph (6), the Assistant Secretary shall submit to such committees a report containing information relating to the recommendations transmitted by the Advisory Committee in accordance with paragraph (4).

(c) Membership.—

(1) Appointment.—

(A) In general.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act of 2014, the Assistant Secretary shall appoint the members of the Advisory Committee.

(B) Composition.—The membership of the Advisory Committee shall consist of individuals representing not more than 34 member organizations. Each organization shall be represented by 1 individual (or the individual’s designee). The membership of the Advisory Committee shall be representative of relevant industries, including, without limitation, the travel industry, businesses (including minority-owned small businesses), businesses that conduct passenger screening at airports, aeronautical repair stations, passenger advocacy groups, the aviation security technology industry (including screening technology and biometrics), victims of terrorist acts against aviation, and law enforcement and security experts.

(2) Term of Office.—

(A) Terms.—The term of each member of the Advisory Committee shall be 2 years. A member of the Advisory Committee may be reappointed. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee may review the participation of a member of the Advisory Committee and remove such member for cause at any time.

(B) Public Meetings.—At least 1 of the meetings described in subparagraph (A) shall be open to the public.

(3) Chairperson.—A stakeholder representative on the Advisory Committee who is elected by the appointed membership of the Advisory Committee shall chair the Advisory Committee.

(d) Subcommittees.—

(1) Membership.—The Advisory Committee shall create subcommittees to address aviation security issues, including:

(A) Air Cargo Security Information.—The implementation of the air cargo security programs established by the Transportation Security Administration to screen air cargo on passenger aircraft and all-cargo aircraft in accordance with established cargo screening mandates.

(B) General Aviation.—General aviation for general aviation aircraft, and helicopter operations at general aviation and commercial service airports.

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"(C) PERIMETER AND ACCESS CONTROL.—Recommendations on airport perimeter security, exit lane security and technology at commercial service airports, and access control issues.

(D) TECHNOLOGY.—Security technology standards and requirements, including their harmonization internationally, technology to screen passengers, passenger baggage, carry-on baggage, and cargo, and biometric technology.

(2) RISK-BASED SECURITY.—All subcommittees established by the Advisory Committee chairperson in coordination with the Assistant Secretary shall consider risk-based security approaches in the performance of their functions that weigh the optimum balance of costs and benefits in transportation security, including for passenger screening, baggage screening, airport cargo security policies, and general aviation security.

(3) MEETINGS AND REPORTING.—Each subcommittee shall meet at least quarterly and submit to the Advisory Committee for inclusion in the annual report required under subsection (a)(4) information, including recommendations, regarding issues within the subcommittee.

(4) SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS.—Each subcommittee shall be co-chaired by a Government official and an industry official.

(5) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Committee and its subcommittees.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: (1) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term ‘Advisory Committee’ means the aviation security advisory committee established under subsection (a).

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term ‘Assistant Secretary’ means the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration).

(3) PERIMETER SECURITY.—(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘perimeter security’ means perimeter security around airport facilities, including security for airport access, and public access to the board, to secure, and prevent unauthorized access to an airport, including its airfield and terminal. (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘perimeter security’ area surrounding an airport, access gates, and access controls.

(4) SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS.—Each subcommittee established under subsection (a) shall be co-chaired by a Government official and an industry official.

(g) SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS.—Each subcommittee under this section shall include subject matter experts with relevant expertise who are appointed by the respective subcommittee chairpersons.

(h) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Committee and its subcommittees.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: (1) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term ‘Advisory Committee’ means the aviation security advisory committee established under subsection (a).

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term ‘Assistant Secretary’ means the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration).

(3) PERIMETER SECURITY.—(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘perimeter security’ means perimeter security around airport facilities, including security for airport access, and public access to the board, to secure, and prevent unauthorized access to an airport, including its airfield and terminal. (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘perimeter security’ area surrounding an airport, access gates, and access controls.

(2) C LERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for this section is amended by adding at the end the following new text: "(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: (1) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term ‘Advisory Committee’ means the aviation security advisory committee established under subsection (a).

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term ‘Assistant Secretary’ means the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration).

(3) PERIMETER SECURITY.—(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘perimeter security’ means perimeter security around airport facilities, including security for airport access, and public access to the board, to secure, and prevent unauthorized access to an airport, including its airfield and terminal. (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘perimeter security’ area surrounding an airport, access gates, and access controls.

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(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term ‘Assistant Secretary’ means the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration).

(3) PERIMETER SECURITY.—(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘perimeter security’ means perimeter security around airport facilities, including security for airport access, and public access to the board, to secure, and prevent unauthorized access to an airport, including its airfield and terminal. (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘perimeter security’ area surrounding an airport, access gates, and access controls.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. HUDSON. 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 North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204, the Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act. This bill was introduced by my colleague from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security.

I would like to thank the ranking member for developing this legislation, which would ensure stable, open lines of communication between TSA and a multitude of aviation security stakeholders.

I also thank the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCaul) for his support and work on this bill in seeing it through committee and the House.

Additionally, our colleagues in the Senate, particularly Senators ROCKEFELLER, TESTER, THUNE, and AYOTTE, played an integral role in bringing this bill to the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1204, which passed unanimously out of our committee, and passed the House 1 year ago, is an important piece of legislation that requires exactly the sort of stakeholder outreach that Congress expects from the TSA.

TSA should constantly solicit feedback from the aviation community before making new security policies, especially when these policies could translate into big headaches for the traveling public or the aviation industry.

Last year, we saw firsthand what can happen when TSA tries to make policy decisions in a vacuum. TSA announced it was going to allow small knives and sports equipment to be carried onto airplanes before consulting key stakeholders. The result was a very public disagreement and, eventually, a complete reversal of the decision. Had the process been handled differently, the outcome may have been very different.

The Aviation Security Advisory Committee, or ASAC, already provides important input to TSA on policy decisions, and includes U.S. air carriers, all car air carriers, airline operators, flight attendants, law enforcement and many other groups. This bill codifies the existing ASAC into law and gives additional groups a seat at the table.

It also requires TSA to provide feedback on the ASAC recommendations, which it doesn’t consistently do today, and makes it possible for the ASAC to discuss sensitive security information, as appropriate.

Eighteen diverse industry associations, unions, and labor organizations, the travel industry, general aviation, and technology manufacturers support this bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204, the Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act of 2014, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I would like to thank Chairman McCaul and HUDSON and Ranking Member RICHMOND for their support of the measure before us today.

I would like to thank Senator TESTER for working with me to introduce companion legislation.

Finally, I commend Chairman ROCKEFELLER for taking an interest in this legislation and moving it through the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate amendment before us today has gone through regular order and is the product of thoughtful deliberation and bipartisan agreement.

Indeed, the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204 improves upon the bill passed by the House in December of last year by enhancing transparency while preserving the ability of the Aviation Security Advisory Committee to effectively and efficiently conduct its important work.

By concurring in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204, and sending the bill to the President for his signature, the House will be ensuring that stakeholders, including labor organizations, airports, and small businesses at airports, and airlines, have a permanent seat at the table when TSA is developing policies and procedures that directly impact their work and businesses.

When Congress established TSA in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the agency was granted broad latitude to develop, implement, and modify aviation security policies and procedures.

As a result, in many instances, TSA is not required to, and does not go through, the Federal rulemaking process to establish new policies or modify those already on the books.

I have introduced H.R. 1204 to ensure that input from the key stakeholders is sought, received, and considered by TSA. To that end, my bill not only makes the Aviation Security Advisory Committee permanent but puts new requirements on TSA to work with this body and give its recommendations thoughtful and timely consideration.

It also requires the establishment of subcommittees within the larger Aviation Security Advisory Committee to focus on air cargo security, general aviation security, perimeter security, and security technology.

Whatever your views on TSA, I believe we can all agree that aviation security policymaking should reflect meaningful consultation and coordination with key stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard, H.R. 1204 has broad bipartisan support within Congress and is supported by a wide array of stakeholders. The Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent, and the House initially passed the bill last December with over 400 Members voting in favor.

I urge my colleagues to display the same level of support for the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204 so that this bipartisan legislation can be sent to the President for his signature.
Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bipartisan bill that I believe will make a real difference for the future of aviation security. I want to thank all those on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the Hill who played a key role in moving this bill. I would also like to thank the staff, not just for their work on this bill, but also the other transportation security bills we sent to the President this Congress: Brian Turfyliff, Cedric Haynes, Jake Vreeburg, Kyle Klein, Nicole Halavik, Matt Haskins, Gerry Sleebe and Amanda Parikh.

I thank all of you for your service to our country and for your hard work. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" and to send this bill to the President for his signature.

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

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204. Soliciting input from impacted stakeholders is critical to developing effective policies.

H.R. 1204, introduced by Ranking Member Thompson, codifies that sentiment by making permanent the Aviation Security Advisory Committee.

The Aviation Security Advisory Committee is a valuable asset to our nation’s aviation security because it helps ensure that the policies that TSA develops are responsive to the security challenges and can be effectively integrated.

As the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I have seen firsthand just how critical it is for TSA to solicit and heed stakeholder recommendations.

I congratulate Ranking Member Thompson for his stewardship of this legislation and look forward to the House concurring in the Senate amendment to this bill.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate for their work on this bill, including Senators Tester, Rockefeller, Thune, and Ayotte.

I urge my colleagues to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204 and send this bill to the President for his signature.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be post-poned.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 775, I call up the bill (S. 2244) to extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 775, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in House Report 113–654 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

Sec. 101. Extension of Terrorism Insurance Program.

Sec. 102. Federal share.

Sec. 103. Program trigger.

Sec. 104. Recoupment of Federal share of compensation under the program.

Sec. 105. Certification of acts of terrorism; consultation with Secretary of Homeland Security.

Sec. 106. Technical amendments.

Sec. 107. Improving the certification process.

Sec. 108. GAO study.

Sec. 109. Membership of Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Sec. 110. Advisory Committee on Risk-Sharing Mechanisms.

Sec. 111. Reporting of terrorism insurance data.

Sec. 112. Annual study of small insurer market share competitiveness.

TITLE II—NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS REFORM

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Reestablishment of the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers.

TITLE III—BUSINESS RISK MITIGATION AND PRICE STABILIZATION

Sec. 301. Short title.

Sec. 302. Margin requirements.

Sec. 303. Implementation.

SUBTITLES

A. General Provisions

B. Program Administration

C. Program Amendments

D. Reauthorization Dates

E. Implementation

F. Statutory Cutoff Date

G. Authorization Date

H. Reauthorization Date
(i) $37,500,000,000, as such amount is revised pursuant to this paragraph; and 
(ii) the aggregate amount, for all insurers, of insured losses during such calendar year.

(B) REVISION OF INSURANCE MARKETPLACE AGGREGATE RETENTION AMOUNT.—

(1) PHASE-IN.—Beginning in the calendar year that follows the date of enactment of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014, the amount set forth under subparagraph (A)(i) shall increase by $2,000,000,000 per calendar year until equal to $37,500,000,000.

(ii) FURTHER REVISION.—Beginning in the calendar year that follows the calendar year in which the amount set forth under subparagraph (A)(i) is equal to $37,500,000,000, the amount under subparagraph (A)(i) shall be revised to be the amount equal to the annual average of the sum of insurer deductibles for all insurers participating in the Program for the prior 3 calendar years, as such sum is determined by the Secretary under subparagraph (C).

(C) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014, the Secretary shall—

(i) issue final rules for determining the amount of the sum described under subparagraph (B)(i); and

(ii) providing a timeline for public notification of such determination.;

and

(2) in paragraph (7)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “for each of the periods referred to in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (6)”;

and

(ii) in clause (i), by striking “for such period”;

(B) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) by striking paragraph (6)”;

and

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking “the calendar year”; and

(ii) the term “calendar year”.

and

(3) in section 105—

(A) in subsection (b)(2)—

(i) by striking “the Transition Period and ending on the last day of Program Year 5 and each Program Year thereafter” and inserting “each calendar year”;

and

(ii) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “Program Year or Program Year” and inserting “calendar year”;

and

(B) in subsection (c), by striking “Program Year” and inserting “calendar year”;

and

(C) in subsection (e)—

(i) by redesignating paragraph (1)(A), as previously amended by section 102, as paragraph (1)(B); and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (A) as subparagraph (B).
SEC. 109. MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD OF GOV.
ERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.
(a) In General.—The first undesignated paragraph of section 10 of the Federal Re-
serve Act (12 U.S.C. 241) is amended by in-
serting after the second sentence the fol-
lowing: "The President shall appoint at least 1 mem-
ber with demonstrated primary experience working in or supervising community banks having less than $10,000,000,000 in total as-
tals.".
(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment
made by this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act and apply to appointments made on and after that efect-
date, excluding any nomination pending in the Senate on that date.

SEC. 110. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RISK-SHARING
MECHANISMS.
(a) FINDING; RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—
(1) U PFRONT PREMIUMS.—With respect to
upfront premiums described in subsection (a)(1), (B) charge premiums or otherwise collect
and manage such upfront premiums;
(2) C APITAL RESERVE FUND .—With respect
to the capital reserve fund described in sub-
section (a), and who are representative of the
private market reinsurance and
(C) the feasibility of segregating funds at-
tributable to terrorism risk from funds at-
tributable to other insurance lines;
(D) how a capital reserve fund would be
determined if the information to be collected is
obtainable from, and may be obtained in a
timely manner by, individually or collec-
tively, such entities. If the Secretary deter-
bles or impeding insurers from pro-
(4) ADVANCE COORDINATION.—Before col-
collect any data or information under para-
graph (1) from an insurer, or affiliate of an
insurer, the Secretary shall have cooperated with
the appropriate State insurance regulatory
authorities and any relevant government
agency or publicly available sources to de-
termine if the information to be collected is
available from, and may be obtained in a
(G) such other matters as the Secretary
considers appropriate.
"(2) REPORTS.—Not later than June 30,
2016, and every other June 30 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Com-
mittee on Financial Services of the House of
Representatives and the Committee on
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the
Senate that includes—
"(A) an analysis of the overall effective-
ness of the Program;
"(B) an evaluation of any changes or trends in the data collected under paragraph (1);
"(C) an evaluation of whether any aspects of the Program have encouraged or encour-
aging or impeding insurers from providing
commercial property casualty insurance cov-
erage or coverage for acts of terrorism
"(D) pricing of such coverage;
"(E) the effect of collecting such upfront
premiums on insurers that participate in the Program;
"(F) the effect of collecting such upfront
premiums on the private market for ter-
rorism reinsurance and
"(G) the size of any Federal Government
subsidy insurers may receive through their partici-
ipation in the Program, taking into ac-
count the Program’s current post-event recoup-
ment structure.
(2) CAPITAL RESERVE FUND.—With respect to
the capital reserve fund described in sub-
section (a), the Secretary of the
Treasury shall establish and appoint an advi-
sory committee to be known as the "Advi-
sory Committee on Risk-Sharing Ma-
echanisms" (referred to in this subsection as the "Advisory Committee").
(1) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall
provide advice, recommendations, and en-
couragement with respect to the creation and
development of the nongovernmental risk-sharing mechanisms described under sub-
section (a).
(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Committee shall be composed of 9 members who are di-
rectors, officers, or other employees of insur-
ers, reinsurers, or capital market partici-
pants that are participating or that desire to
participate in the nongovernmental risk-
sharing mechanisms described under sub-
section (a), and who are representative of the
affected sectors of the insurance industry, including commercial property insurance, commer-
cial casualty insurance, reinsurance, and
alternative risk transfer industries.
(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of
this section shall take effect on January 1,
2015.

SEC. 111. REPORTING OF TERRORISM INSUR-
ANCE DATA.
Section 10(b) (15 U.S.C. 6701 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
section:
(b) REPORTING OF TERRORISM INSURANCE
DATA.
(1) AUTHORITY.—During the calendar year
beginning on January 1, 2016, and in each cal-
endar year thereafter, the Secretary shall re-
quire insurers participating in the Program to
submit to the Secretary such information
regarding insurance coverage for terrorism losses of such insurers as the Secretary con-
cludes are appropriate to analyze the effective-
ness of the Program, which shall include in-
formation regarding—
(A) lines of insurance with exposure to
such losses;
(B) premiums earned on such coverage;
(C) geographical location of exposures;
(D) pricing of such coverage;
(E) expiring dates of such coverage; and
(F) the amount of private reinsurance for
acts of terrorism purchased; and
(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
Act, or the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 4901 et seq.), shall affect the
ability of the Federal Government to effect such
insurance recoveries, waives any right of the
Secretary under this subsection may be
affected by the Federal Government’s legal
right or remedies against any insurer, or
(3) REPORTS.—Not later than June 30, 2016,
and every other June 30 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Com-
mittee on Financial Services of the House of
Representatives and the Committee on
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the
Senate that includes—
"(A) an analysis of the overall effective-
ess of the Program;
"(B) an evaluation of any changes or trends in the data collected under paragraph (1);
"(C) an evaluation of whether any aspects of the Program have encouraged or encour-
aging or impeding insurers from providing
commercial property casualty insurance cov-
erage or coverage for acts of terrorism
premises on insurers both large and small;
(E) how the collection of such upfront
premiums on insurers both large and small;
(F) the effect of collecting such upfront
premiums on the private market for ter-
rorism reinsurance; and
(G) the size of any Federal Government
subsidy insurers may receive through their partici-
ipation in the Program, taking into ac-
count the Program’s current post-event recoup-
ment structure.
(2) CAPITAL RESERVE FUND.—With respect to
the capital reserve fund described in sub-
section (a), the Secretary of the
Treasury shall establish and appoint an advi-
sory committee to be known as the "Advi-
sory Committee on Risk-Sharing Ma-
echanisms" (referred to in this subsection as the "Advisory Committee").
(1) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall
provide advice, recommendations, and en-
couragement with respect to the creation and
development of the nongovernmental risk-sharing mechanisms described under sub-
section (a).
(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Committee shall be composed of 9 members who are di-
rectors, officers, or other employees of insur-
ers, reinsurers, or capital market partici-
pants that are participating or that desire to
participate in the nongovernmental risk-
sharing mechanisms described under sub-
section (a), and who are representative of the
affected sectors of the insurance industry, including commercial property insurance, commer-
cial casualty insurance, reinsurance, and
alternative risk transfer industries.
(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of
this section shall take effect on January 1,
2015.
(i) shall comply with applicable Federal law; and
(ii) shall not constitute a waiver of, or otherwise affect, any privilege under Federal or State law, including any privilege referred to in subparagraph (A) and the rules of any Federal or State court to which the data or information is otherwise subject.

(2) The Program is intended to identify any competitive challenges small insurers face in the terrorism risk insurance marketplace, including any exceptions thereunder, shall apply to any data or information submitted under this subsection to the Secretary by an insurer or affiliate of an insurer.

SEC. 3.12. ANNUAL STUDY OF SMALL INSURER MARKET COMPETITIVENESS.

Section 101(2) of this Act (11 U.S.C. 6751 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

(3) the Program’s mandatory availability requirement under section 103(c) on small insurers; and

(D) the effect of increasing the trigger amounts for the Program under section 103(e)(1)(B) on small insurers; and

(E) the availability and cost of private reinsurance for small insurers; and

(F) the extent to which workers compensation laws have on small insurers and workers compensation carriers in the terrorism risk insurance marketplace.

(2) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress setting forth the findings and conclusions of each study required under paragraph (1).

II. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED AGENTS AND BROKERS REFORM

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Association shall, upon request by an insurance producer licensed in a State, submit fingerprints or other identification information obtained from the insurance producer, and a request for a criminal history record check of the insurance producer, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(2) CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK REQUESTED BY HOME STATE.—An insurance producer who is licensed in a State and who has undergone a criminal history record check during the 2-year period preceding the date of submission of an application to become a member of the Association unless the insurance producer has undergone a criminal history record check that complies with regulations prescribed by the Attorney General of the United States under subparagraph (E).

(i) be used for purposes of determining compliance with membership criteria established by the Association;

(ii) be disclosed to State insurance regulators, or Federal or State law enforcement agencies, in conformance with applicable law;

(iii) be disclosed, upon request, to the insurance producer to whom the criminal history record information relates.

(H) RELIANCE ON INFORMATION.—Neither the Association nor any of its Board members, officers, or employees shall be liable for any action for using information provided under subparagraph (E) in good faith and in reasonable reliance on its accuracy.

(I) FEES.—The Attorney General may charge a reasonable fee for conducting the search and providing the information under subparagraph (E), and the fees charged pursuant to this paragraph shall be deposited into a separate fund to be used by the Attorney General to defray the expenses of the Association in connection with the performance of a criminal history record check or otherwise safeguarding the confidentiality and security of the information.

(J) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as

(1) requiring a State insurance regulator to perform criminal history record checks under this section; or

(2) limiting any other authority that allows access to criminal history records.

(K) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General shall prescribe regulations to carry out this paragraph, which shall include

(i) appropriate protections for ensuring the confidentiality of information provided under subparagraph (E); and

(ii) minimizing any inconvenience that may be created by the provision of a reasonable opportunity for an insurance producer to contest the accuracy of information regarding
the insurance producer provided under subparagraph (E).

(2) In general.—The Association may, under reasonably applied standards, deny membership to an insurance producer on the basis of criminal history record information provided under subparagraph (E), or once provided has been subject to disciplinary action, as described in paragraph (2).

(II) Rights of Applicants Denied Membership.—The Association shall notify any insurance producer who is denied membership by a State on the basis of criminal history record information provided under subparagraph (E) of the right of the insurance producer to—

(I) obtain a copy of all criminal history record information provided to the Association under subparagraph (E) with respect to the insurance producer; and

(II) challenge the denial of membership based on the accuracy and completeness of the information.

(M) Definition.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘criminal history record check’ means a national background check of criminal history records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(b) Authority to Establish Membership Criteria.—The Association may establish membership criteria that bear a reasonable relationship to the purposes for which the Association was established.

(1) Classes of Membership.—The Association may establish separate classes of membership, with separate criteria, if the Association reasonably determines that performance of different duties requires different levels of education, training, experience, qualifications.

(2) Business Entities.—The Association shall establish a class of membership and membership criteria for business entities. A business entity that applies for membership shall be required to designate an individual Association member responsible for the compliance of the business entity with Association standards and the insurance laws, regulations, provisions, and actions of any State in which the business entity seeks to do business on the basis of Association membership.

(A) Separate Categories for Insurance Producers Permitted.—The Association may establish separate categories of membership for insurance producers and for other persons or entities within each class, based on the types of licensing categories that exist in the home State.

(B) Separate Treatment for Depository Institutions Prohibited.—No special categories of membership, and no distinct membership requirements, shall be established for members that are depository institutions or for employees, agents, or affiliates of depository institutions.

(3) Membership Criteria.—

(I) In General.—The Association may establish criteria for membership which shall not establish criteria that unreasonably limit the ability of a small business insurance producer to become a member of the Association, including imposing discriminatory membership fees.

(II) Qualifications.—In establishing criteria under paragraph (I), the Association shall consider the potential applicability of any State licensing Model Act in effect as of the date of enactment of the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2014, and shall consider the highest levels of insurance producer qualifications established under the licensing laws of the States.

(III) Association Standards.—

(A) In General.—The Association may require a State to provide assistance in investigating and evaluating the eligibility of a prospective member for membership in the Association.

(B) Authorization of Information Sharing.—A submission under subsection (a)(4)(C)(i) from an insurance producer licensed in a State shall include a statement signed by the person whom the assistance is required to investigate or to receive information from.

(C) Rule of Construction.—Subparagraph (A) shall not be construed as requiring or authorizing any State to adopt new or additional requirements concerning the licensing or evaluation of insurance producers.

(4) Denial of Membership.—The Association may, based on reasonably consistently applied standards, deny membership to any State-licensed insurance producer for failure to meet the membership criteria established by the Association.

(5) Effect of Membership.—

(I) Authority of Association Members.—Membership in the Association shall—

(A) authorize the producer to sell, solicit, or negotiate insurance in any State for which the member pays the licensing fee set by the State for any line or lines of insurance specified in the home State license of the insurance producer, and exercise all such incidental powers as shall be necessary to carry out such activities, including claim settlement and collection; and

(B) be equivalent to a nonresident insurance producer license for purposes of authorizing the member to engage in the activities described in subparagraph (A) in any State where the member pays the licensing fee; and

(C) be the equivalent of a nonresident insurance producer license for the purpose of subjecting an insurance producer to all laws, regulations, provisions, or other actions of any State pursuant to paragraph (4).

(2) State Continuing Education Requirements.—A member may not be required to satisfy continuing education requirements imposed under the laws, regulations, provisions, or actions of any State other than the home State of the member.

(3) Reciprocity.—The Association shall not require a member to satisfy continuing education requirements that are equivalent to any continuing education requirements of the home State of the member that have been satisfied by the member during the applicable licensing period.

(4) Limitation on the Association.—The Association shall not have the power to direct or indirectly require any continuing education courses for insurance producers.

(5) Probation, Suspension and Revocation.—

(I) Disciplinary Action.—The Association may take disciplinary action against a member of the Association on probation or revocation of the membership of the insurance producer in the Association, or assess monetary fines or penalties, as the Association determines to be appropriate, if the Association determines that the member failed to meet the applicable membership criteria or other standards established by the Association;

(II) Insurance Producer shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to a final adjudicatory proceeding under the jurisdiction of a State insurance regulator;

(III) an insurance license held by the insurance producer has been suspended or revoked by a State insurance regulator; or

(IV) the insurance producer has been convicted of a crime that would have resulted in the suspension or revocation of the membership of the member under section (a)(4)(L)(1) at the time of application, and the Association has received a copy of the final disposition from a court of competent jurisdiction.

(2) Violations of Association Standards.—The Association shall have the power to...
to investigate alleged violations of Association standards.

“(3) REPORTING.—The Association shall immediately notify the States (including State insurance regulators) and the NAIC when the membership of an insurance producer has been placed on probation or has been suspended, revoked, or otherwise terminated, or when an association has assessed monetary fines or penalties.

“(i) CONSUMER COMPLAINTS.—(1) Consumer complaints—(A) refer any complaint against a member of the Association from a consumer relating to alleged misconduct or violations of State insurance laws to the State insurance regulator where the consumer resides and, when appropriate, to any additional State insurance regulator, as determined by standards adopted by the Association; and

“(B) make any related records and information available to each State insurance regulator to whom the complaint is forwarded.

“(2) TELEPHONE AND OTHER ACCESS.—The Association shall maintain a toll-free number for purposes of this subsection and, as practicable, other alternative means of communication with consumers, such as an Internet webpage.

“(3) PROHIBITION OF INVESTIGATION.—State insurance regulators shall provide the Association with information regarding the final disposition of a complaint referred pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), but nothing shall be construed to compel a State to release confidential investigation reports or other information protected by State law to the Association.

“(j) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Association may—

“(1) share documents, materials, or other information, including confidential and privileged documents, with a State, Federal, or international governmental entity or with the NAIC or other appropriate entity referred to in paragraphs (k) and (l), provided that the recipient has the authority and agrees to maintain the confidentiality or privileged status of the document, material, or other information;

“(2) limit the sharing of information as required under this subtitle with the NAIC or any other non-governmental entity, in circumstances determined by the Association, that determines that the sharing of such information is unnecessary to further the purposes of this subtitle;

“(3) establish a central clearinghouse, or utilize the NAIC or another appropriate entity, as determined by the Association, as a central clearinghouse, for use by the Association and the States (including State insurance regulators), through which members of the Association may disclose their intent to operate in 1 or more States and pay the licensing fees to the appropriate States; and

“(4) establish a database, or utilize the NAIC or another appropriate entity, as determined by the Association, as a database, for use by the Association and the States (including State insurance regulators) for the collection of regulatory information concerning the activities of insurance producers.

“(k) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The provisions of this section shall take effect on the later of—

“(1) the expiration of the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2014; and

“(2) the date of incorporation of the Association.

“SEC. 324. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a board of the Association, which shall have authority to govern and supervise all activities of the Association.

“(b) POWERS.—The Board shall have such of the powers and authority of the Association as may be specified in the bylaws of the Association.

“(c) COMPENSATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall consist of 13 members who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, in accordance with the procedures established under Senate Resolution 116 of the 112th Congress, of whom—

“(A) 8 shall be State insurance commissioners appointed in the manner provided in paragraph (2), 1 of whom shall be designated by the President to serve as the chairperson of the Board; and

“(B) 3 shall have demonstrated expertise and experience with insurance licensing and insurance producer licensing; and

“(C) 2 shall have demonstrated expertise and experience with life or health insurance producer licensing.

“(2) STATE INSURANCE REGULATOR REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(A) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Before making any appointments pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), the President shall request a list of recommendations from the States through the NAIC. The NAIC shall not be the final arbiter in determining the recommendations.

“(B) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Not more than 4 Board members appointed under paragraph (1)(A) shall belong to the same political party.

“(C) FORMER STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If, after offering each currently serving State insurance commissioner an appointment to the Board, fewer than 8 State insurance commissioners have accepted appointment to the Board, the President may appoint the remaining State insurance commissioner Board members, as required under paragraph (1)(A), of the appropriate political party as required under subparagraph (B), from among individuals who are former State insurance commissioners.

“(2) LIMITATION.—A former State insurance commissioner appointed as described in paragraph (1) may not be employed by or have any present direct or indirect financial interest in any insurer, insurance producer, or other entity in the insurance industry, other than direct or indirect ownership of, or beneficial interest in, an insurance policy or annuity contract written or sold by an insurer.

“(D) SERVICE THROUGH TERM.—If a Board member appointed under paragraph (1)(A) ceases to be a State insurance commissioner during the term of the Board member, the Board member shall cease to be a Board member.

“(3) PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES.—In making any appointment pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1), the President may seek recommendations for candidates from groups representing the category of individuals described, which shall not be binding on the President.

“(e) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The President shall be requested to submit a list of recommendations not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2014.

“(f) MEETINGS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet—

“(A) at the call of the chairperson; or

“(B) as requested in writing by the chairperson; or

“(C) as otherwise provided by the bylaws of the Association.

“(g) QUORUM REQUIRED.—A majority of all Board members shall constitute a quorum.

“(h) VOTING.—Decisions of the Board shall require the approval of at least a majority of Board members present at a meeting, a quorum being present.

“(i) INITIAL MEETING.—The Board shall hold its first meeting no later than 60 days after the date on which all initial Board members have been appointed.

“(j) VOTING RIGHTS.—Board members may be appointed to successive terms.

“(k) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—The appoint-
“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), no Board member may receive any compensation from the Association or any other person or entity on account of Board membership.

“(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES AND PER DIEM.—Board members may be reimbursed only by the Association for travel expenses, including per diem, for travel by them in the performance of business in their official capacity outside of their regular places of business in performance of services for the Association.

“SEC. 325. BYLAWS, STANDARDS, AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.

“(a) ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS AND STANDARDS.—

“(1) PROCEDURES.—The Association shall adopt procedures for the adoption of bylaws and standards that are similar to procedures under subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, while away from home or regular places of business in performance of services for the Association.

“(2) COPY REQUIRED TO BE FILED.—The Board shall submit to the President, through the Department of the Treasury, and the States (including State insurance regulators), and shall publish on the website of the Association, all proposed bylaws and standards of the Association, accompanied by a concise general statement of the basis and purpose of such proposal.

“(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Any proposed bylaw or standard of the Association, and any proposed amendment to the bylaws or standards of the Association, shall take effect, after notice and opportunity for public comment, on such date as the Association may designate, unless suspended under section 329(c).

“(4) DISCIPLINARY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to subject the Board or the Association to the requirements of subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Administrative Procedure Act’).

“(b) DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE ASSOCIATION.

“(1) SPECIFICATION OF CHARGES.—In any proceeding to determine whether membership shall be denied, suspended, revoked, or not renewed, or to determine whether a member of the Association should be placed on probation to cover the costs of its operations; and keep a record.

“(2) SUPPORTING STATEMENT.—A determination to take disciplinary action shall be supported by a statement setting forth—

“(A) any act or practice in which the member has been engaged; 

“(B) the specific provision of this subtitle or standard of the Association that any such act or practice is deemed to violate; and

“(C) the sanction imposed and the reason for the sanction.

“(3) INELIGIBILITY OF PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES.—Board members appointed pursuant to section 25(b)(5) may not—

“(A) participate in any disciplinary action or be counted toward establishing a quorum during any such action; and

“(B) have access to confidential information concerning any disciplinary action.

“SEC. 326. POWERS.

“In addition to all the powers conferred upon the Association by the District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation Act, the Association shall have the power to—

“(1) establish and collect such membership fees as the Association finds necessary to impose to cover the costs of its operations; 

“(2) adopt, amend, and repeal bylaws, procedures, or rules governing the conduct of Association business and performance of its duties; 

“(3) establish procedures for providing notice and opportunity for comment pursuant to section 325(a); 

“(4) enter into and perform such agreements as necessary to carry out the duties of the Association; 

“(5) hire employees, professionals, or specialists, and elect or appoint officers, and to fix their compensation, define their duties and powers, and give them appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of this subtitle, and determine their qualification; 

“(6) establish personnel policies of the Association and programs relating to, among other things, conflicts of interest, rates of compensation, where applicable, and qualifications of personnel; 

“(7) borrow money; and

“(8) secure funding for such amounts as the Association determines to be necessary and appropriate to organize and begin operations of the Association or to create loans to be repaid by the Association with interest at market rate.

“SEC. 327. REPORT BY THE ASSOCIATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the close of each fiscal year, the Association shall submit to the President, through the Department of the Treasury, and the States (including State insurance regulators), and shall publish on the website of the Association, a written report regarding the conduct of its business, and the exercise of the powers and duties granted by this subtitle, during such fiscal year.

“(b) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.—Each report submitted under this paragraph with respect to any fiscal year shall include audited financial statements setting forth the financial position of the Association at the end of such fiscal year and the results of its operations (including the source and application of its funds) for such fiscal year.


“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Association shall not be deemed to be an insurer or insurance producer within the meaning of any State law, rule, regulation, or order regulating insurers or insurance producers, or other entities engaged in the business of insurance, including provisions imposing preauthorization, regulating insurer solvency or financial condition, establishing guaranty funds and levying assessments, or requiring claims settlement practices.

“(b) LIABILITY OF BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS, AND EMPLOYEES.—No board member, officer, or employee of the Association shall be personally liable to any person for any act or practice taken in any matter within the scope of their responsibilities in connection with the Association.

“SEC. 329. PRESIDENTIAL OVERSIGHT.

“(a) REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBER.—If the President determines that the Association is acting in a manner contrary to the interests of the public or the purposes of this subtitle or has failed to pursue the purposes of this subtitle, the President may remove the existing Board for the remainder of the term to which the Board members were appointed and appoint new Board members pursuant to section 261 and with the advice and consent of the Senate, in accordance with the procedures established under Senate Resolution 116 of the 113th Congress. The President shall notify the Association of the Board members to fill the vacancies on the Board for the remainder of the terms.

“(b) REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBER.—The President may remove a Board member only for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office.

“(c) SUSPENSION OF BYLAWS AND STANDARDS AND PROHIBITION OF ACTIONS.—Following notice to the Board, the President, or a person designated by the President for such purpose, may suspend the effectiveness of any bylaw or standard, or prohibit any action of the Association, that the President or the designee determines is contrary to the purposes of this subtitle.

“SEC. 330. RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAW.

“(a) PREEMPTION OF STATE LAWS.—State laws, regulations, provisions, or other actions promoting to regulate insurance producers shall be preempted to the extent provided in subsection (b).

“(b) PROHIBITED ACTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No State shall—

“(A) impede the activities of, take any action against, or apply any provision of law or regulation arbitrarily or discriminatorily to, any insurance producer because that insurance producer or any affiliate plans to become, has applied to become, or is a member of the Association;

“(B) impose any requirement upon a member of the Association that it pay fees different from those required to be paid to that State were it not a member of the Association;

“(C) impose any continuing education requirements on any nonresident insurance producer that is a member of the Association;

“(D) impose any action against a member of the Association that it pay fees different from those required to be paid to that State were it not a member of the Association;

“(E) impose any requirement upon a member of the Association that it become licensed, registered, or otherwise qualified to do business or remain in good standing in the State, including any requirement that the insur- ance producer register as a foreign company with the secretary of state or equivalent State official;

“(F) require that a member of the Associa- tion be limited to a single certificate of authority of an insurance producer to do business in a State; or

“(G) impose any licensing, registration, or appointment requirements upon a member of the Association, or require a member of the Association to be authorized to operate as an insurance producer, in order to sell, solicit, or negotiate insurance for commercial prop- erty and casualty risks to an insured with risks located in more than one State, if the member is licensed or otherwise authorized to do business in the State, and if the Association maintains its principal place of business and the contract of insurance insures risks located in that State;

“(H) LIMITATION OF STATE DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit a State from investigat- ing and taking appropriate disciplinary action against a member of the Association that it be licensed, registered, or otherwise qualified to do business in a State, in accordance with State law and that is not inconsistent with the purposes of this section; or a member of the Association as a result of a complaint or for any alleged activity, regardless of whether the activity occurred before or after the enactment of this section, and that is not inconsistent with the purposes of this section, and that is not inconsistent with the purposes of this section, and that is not inconsistent with the purposes of this section, and that is not inconsistent with the purposes of this section, and that is not inconsistent with the purposes of this section.
SEC. 331. COORDINATION WITH FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

The Association shall coordinate with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority in order to ease any administrative burdens that fall on members of the Association that are subject to regulation by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, consistent with the requirements of this subtitle and the Federal securities laws.

SEC. 332. RIGHT OF ACTION.

(a) Right of Action.—Any person aggrieved by an action or omission of the Association may, after reasonably exhausting available avenues for resolution within the Association, commence a civil action in an appropriate United States district court, and obtain all appropriate relief.

(b) Association Interpretations.—In any action under subsection (a), the court shall give appropriate weight to the interpretation of the Association of its bylaws and standards and this subtitle.

SEC. 333. FEDERAL FUNDING PROHIBITED.

The Association may not receive, accept, or borrow any amounts from the Federal Government to pay for, or reimburse, the Association for, the costs of establishing or operating the Association.

SEC. 334. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this subtitle, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) Business entity.—The term ‘business entity’ means a corporation, association, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or other legal entity.

(2) Depository Institution.—The term ‘depository institution’ has the meaning as in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).

(3) Home State.—The term ‘home State’ means the State in which the insurance producer maintains its principal place of residence and is licensed to act as an insurance producer.

(4) Insurance.—The term ‘insurance’ means any product, other than title insurance or bail bonds, defined or regulated as insurance by the applicable State law.

(5) Insurance Producer.—The term ‘insurance producer’ means any insurance agent or broker, excess or surplus lines broker or agent, insurance consultant, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, or other entity that acts as a business and is licensed to act as an insurance producer.

(6) Insurer.—The term ‘insurer’ has the meaning as in section 31(3) of title 31, United States Code.

(7) Principal Place of Business.—The term ‘principal place of business’ means the State in which an insurance producer maintains the headquarters of the insurance producer and, in the case of a business entity, where high-level officers of the entity direct, control, and coordinate the business activities of the entity.

(8) Principal Place of Residence.—The term ‘principal place of residence’ means the State in which an insurance producer resides for the greatest number of days during a calendar year.

(9) State.—The term ‘State’ includes any State, the District of Columbia, any territory of the United States, and Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

(10) State Law.—

(A) in General.—The term ‘State law’ includes any product, other than title insurance or bail bonds, defined or regulated as insurance by the applicable State law.

(B) Federal Funding Prohibited.—The requirements of paragraphs (2)(A)(ii) and (2)(B)(ii) shall not apply to a swap in which a counterparty qualifies for an exception under section 2(b)(7)(A), or an exemption issued under section 4(c)(1) from the requirements of section 2(b)(1)(A) for cooperative entities as defined in such exemption, or satisfies the criteria in section 2(b)(1)(D).

(C) Securities Exchange Act Amendment.—Section 15(f)(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o–10(e)), as added by section 764(a) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(1) Applicability with Respect to Counterparties.—The requirements of paragraphs (2)(A)(ii) and (2)(B)(ii), including the initial and variation margin requirements imposed by rules adopted pursuant to paragraphs (2)(A)(ii) and (2)(B)(ii), shall not apply to a swap in which a counterparty qualifies for an exception under section 2(b)(7)(A), or an exemption issued under section 4(c)(1) from the requirements of section 2(b)(1)(A) for cooperative entities as defined in such exemption, or satisfies the criteria in section 2(b)(1)(D).

(D) Securities Exchange Act Amendment.—Section 15(f)(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o–10(e)), as added by section 764(a) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(1) Applicability with Respect to Counterparties.—The requirements of paragraphs (2)(A)(ii) and (2)(B)(ii) shall not apply to a security-based swap in which a counterparty qualifies for an exception under section 3(c)(5)(I) or satisfies the criteria in section 3(c)(5)(A).

SEC. 303. IMPLEMENTATION.

The amendments made by this title to the Commodity Exchange Act shall be implemented—

(1) without regard to—

(A) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code; and

(B) the notice and comment provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) through the promulgation of an interim final rule, and public comment will be sought before a final rule is issued; and

(3) such that paragraph (1) shall apply solely to changes to rules and regulations, or proposed rules and regulations, that are limited to and directly a consequence of such amendments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING), and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. HENSARLING. 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 in the Record on S. 2244, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

We have an incredible opportunity before us in the House today, and that is to move significant bipartisan legislation that can accelerate a number of purposes and that will bring greater stability and certainty to the construction markets, to our insurance companies in dealing with the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act. We can also bring greater certainty and stability to our small factories, to our ranchers—those who are still suffering in this economy. We can bring them certainty and stability by taking care of an unintended consequence of the Dodd-Frank Act, something called the ‘end user exception’ in the derivative title, which may just be, as interpreted, one of the most damaging regulations that many in this body, perhaps, have not heard of.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this is legislation that has been worked on in a bipartisan manner, sometimes a little contentiously, but we have ended up in a place where, I believe, both Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate should be able to come together.

I think it is important to remember, Mr. Speaker, that, particularly as we go into the holiday season—as we go into Christmas—how many working men and women are still lying awake at night, wondering how they are going to be able to fund Christmas for their children at this time. Although we have seen some modest improvements in this economy, there are still over 9 million of our fellow countrymen who are unemployed, or a still number of underemployed—those who wish to have full-time work but who cannot find it—it is almost twice the number, at 18 million. We have 46 million of our fellow countrymen still on food stamps and 45 million at the poverty level.

One of the most important things we can do here, Mr. Speaker, is to be able to make a positive contribution for financial stability on our household
We have an opportunity to do something very positive. Now, all of a sudden, some across the aisle have said: We can’t do this. We believe this is unrelated to TRIA.

Why did the United States Senate, Mr. Speaker, put in a provision that makes a radical change in the requirements to serve on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve? What did that have to do with TRIA? The Senate put that in. NARAB, the National Association of Registered Agents & Brokers, put that in. Two-thirds of this bill is about NARAB. The Senate put it in.

Mr. Speaker, I am not debating the underlying policy issues, but it is, at best, a little bit disconcerting, if not disingenuous, to say, my Lord, the House shouldn’t put in an unrelated provision when the Senate just did it twice.

Then we heard the Senate will not open up Dodd-Frank. What is the Collins amendment? The Collins amendment was sent over by the Senate, not as part of this legislation. They opened up Dodd-Frank. Then again, to quote the ranking member, this is a “clarification.”

We have an opportunity to pass a bipartisan bill not only to bring some stability and certainty to our insurance markets and to our builders, but to farmers and ranchers and small businesses and hurting families at this holiday season. Without any further delay, we should enact S. 2244, as amended.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today to shine a light on what has happened in the development of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. I rise today to talk about the fact that the chairman of our committee, of the Financial Services Committee, Mr. HENSARLING, did not want, at one point, to reauthorize terrorism risk insurance at all, so he strung out the possibility of negotiations for months.

He had decided that he was not going to reauthorize terrorism insurance, and he will tell you that he offered to negotiate with me. The only thing that I ever remember about a conversation that we had was that my chairman said: I will only negotiate this once—starting out in bad faith.

This went on, and at some point in time, somebody convinced him that to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program was an honorable thing to do, that it was an American thing to do, that it was an important thing to do. This program had been passed and signed on by the President of the United States after 9/11.

I was informed later on that my chairman came back to the table with any number of things that had nothing to do with terrorism risk insurance but had more to do with Dodd-Frank because, unfortunately, my chairman and too many Members on the opposite side of the aisle are intent on dismantling Dodd-Frank in any and every way that they possibly can.

And finally, in those negotiations—the way it has been explained to me—they agreed that they would allow him to add just one aspect of the Dodd-Frank bill that had passed this House, to talk about how agriculture and some other industries could lock in some prices so that they could look forward to what a price would be on those commodities, et cetera, that they would have to purchase.

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for the chairman to indicate in every way that he possibly can and take advantage of any opportunity that presents itself to get a little something in about Dodd-Frank.

What I worry about is not so much what has passed into TRIA; I worry about what is going into the omnibus bill. I worry about the fact that, in addition to this, there is an attempt—if it has not already been done—to place into the omnibus bill a repeal of part of Dodd-Frank that would prevent the biggest banks in America from taking advantage of our consumers by using their hard-earned money to do risky derivatives trading, which should be pushed out into their subsidiaries and not have the FDIC in any way protect them in doing this.

So what I say is this. We should know and we should understand exactly how the process works. We should know and understand what is being done and why it is being done. If, in fact, there is so much debate and concern about TRIA reauthorization, we should have a clean bill with nothing else in it. If we want to debate Dodd-Frank—what we don’t like about it, what we like about it—let’s do it straight up. Let’s not slip it in at the 11th hour at a time when our backs are up against the wall, at a time when we are closing down this session. And that is what I am opposed to.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 20 seconds to thank the ranking member for her fascinating, elongated narrative that proves just how reasonable House Republicans were in this negotiation.

I have to correct her yet again, though, and say that I have never said publicly or privately that we should allow the Federal backstop of terrorism to lapse. She is entitled to her own opinions. She is not entitled to her hard-earned money to do risky derivatives trading, which should be pushed out into their subsidiaries and not have the FDIC in any way protect them in doing this.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 10 seconds.

And previously she has said that she has been in favor of this provision. She has been in favor of the end user exemption and has said the bill would clarify the intent of the Wall Street Reform and Recovery Act, and urge the committee to adopt the bill.

So she was for it before she was against it. But whether it be Biggert-Waters, whether it be Export-Import, whether it be end user, she has changed her mind frequently.

I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY), the chief deputy majority whip.

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I first want to commend Chairman HEN- SARLING for bringing this bipartisan agreement and construct to the House floor. It extends a very important Federal backstop against the risk of terror on the American people, small businesses, and substantial businesses as well. As I have said in the past, it is very important that we reauthorize the TRIA program, and the chairman incorporated diverse opinions, including those of the important partner. I also want to commend our colleagues from New York, Congressman GRIMM and Congressman KING, for the important work that they did to bring this about today.

As amended, the bill will ensure that terrorism risk protection is available for the next 6 years, while lessening the taxpayer burden.

Since September 11, the TRIA program has provided an important Federal backstop for businesses that must insure against the devastation of a future attack. Congressman HENSARLING has worked with our friends across the aisle to both for the taxpayer changes to this program while ensuring that both businesses and taxpayers are not exposed to the risk of future terrorism attacks.

In addition, as amended, this bill will make some very important technical changes to the Dodd-Frank Act by protecting manufacturers, ranchers, and small businesses that need to hedge against business risk.

While this legislation will become law—and I expect a substantial number of my Democratic colleagues to cross the aisle and vote with almost all of the House Republicans and the Demo- crat Senate to pass this, and a Demo- crat President to sign this—I urge my other colleagues on the other side of the aisle to come on over. It is a good compromise, a necessary reform, and it is going to be a fantastic strong vote that we are going to have in the House of Representatives to do the right thing, to protect the American people, and small businesses, while at the same time protecting against the devastation of a future attack.

I thank the chairman and I also thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. NEUGEBAUER), for their work on this very important program. It has been a long process, but it shows that the Financial Services Committee can get the deal done.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to correct the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) who is inviting us to come on over.

We have been inviting them for the past 6 years, while lessening the taxpayer burden.

Fortunately, this compromise bill only raises the trigger for the government backstop from $100 million to $200 million. This modest increase will ensure that small- and medium-sized insurers are not forced out of the mar- ket, while also protecting taxpayers. I fully and completely support this compromise.

Importantly, however, the compromise does not include the so-called ‘bifurcation’ proposal, which would have treated nuclear, biological, chemical, and radiological attacks differently from the so-called “conventional” terrorism attacks. This made no sense whatsoever, and this compromise sensibly drops the proposal entirely.

Finally, I am pleased that this bill reauthorizes TRIA for a full 6 years. This will provide much-needed certainty to businesses across our country and they expand and create jobs.

This compromise will ensure that terrorism insurance remains widely affordable and available. This has always been the underlying purpose of TRIA.
and I believe that this bill accomplishes that goal. I would like to commend the gentlemen from Texas, Chairman HENSARLING and Chairman NEUGEBAUER, for recognizing that a long-term reauthorization of TRIA is incredibly important for our economy. I thank my good friend from New York, PETER KING. He has been a tireless advocate for TRIA, and without his hard work on this bill, we wouldn’t be voting on this compromise today. And I thank the gentleman from California, Ranking Member WATERS, for working with me on this bill.

I would like to particularly thank my colleague from New York, Senator SCHUMER, for his excellent work in negotiating this compromise. I urge my colleagues to support this bill because it is the right thing to do for America.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from New York, the co-chair of the Financial Services Committee. She is also a member of the Capital Markets Subcommittee, for her support.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER), the chairman of the Financial Services House Subcommittee, the champion and author of the House TRIA bill, and the author of the amendment here. I thank him for his work.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of discussion about this bill, and people were talking about reforms. And you know what? I think what the American people need to understand is why these reforms are important to them. The reason they are important to them is, quite honestly, right now, the taxpayers in this country are underwriting the risk for terrorism attacks in this country for the property owners.

What this bill does is it begins to bring certainty for the industry, for the insurers, and also certainty for the people who are building the new buildings and apartment houses and shopping centers and other types of public facilities. It gives them the certainty of what the policy is going to be over the next few years. But I think the important part is that the taxpayers are an additional cushion that is being put between the taxpayers and the people—those who are building.

One of the things that has been mentioned, we raised the trigger from $100 million to $200 million. That is an important part of that. I think the other issue that we have tried to do with this in order to create this certainty was, we didn’t change the overall structure of the TRIA program. We have tried to keep it within the confines of how it has been operating over the last few years, that way, creating the least amount of certainty that we could.

I think what isn’t mentioned a lot of times is the fact that we did leave in place a deductible, and basically the industry has to take the first loss up to about 20 percent of their annualized premium for the previous year. Today, on an industry-wide basis, that is about $40 billion. So if you have got a $200 million trigger, you have got a $40 billion cushion between the taxpayers and a potential loss. The other thing that we did in this bill is we said when we get to the point where after the deductible the taxpayers start sharing that loss, then the taxpayers’ portion moves from 85 percent to 80 percent. So that is another cushion.

I think one of the things that we want to let the folks know also is that an additional protection that was built into this bill was the amount of money that the taxpayers could recover if, in fact, they had to put additional money into the TRIA program. So now we have increased that amount substantially.

I am feeling good that we are moving in the right direction, but ultimately, what we need to do is get the taxpayers out of the insurance business. When you look across the board where the taxpayers are underwriting insurance-type losses, whether it be flood insurance or mortgage insurance, quite honestly, the government doesn’t do well at pricing those.

There are some good things in this bill besides the TRIA reform in that we have that NARAB II. What is that? Well, that is a good small business bill. A lot of people have independent insurance agents in their districts or in their communities or in their States that may want to work in business in other States.

To do that today, they have to go pass another license, take another license in that other State. Under NARAB II, they would be able to take their existing license if they meet the requirements in other States and follow those laws.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 90 seconds.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, the third piece of this legislation that is important is that we are going to help farmers, ranchers, and small businesses to cover the risk that they need without taking a lot of their operating capital, putting that operating capital into a plant, into equipment so they can hire and create more jobs in America. These are all issues that have had bipartisan support in the past.

Mr. Speaker, I now urge my colleagues: let’s do something good for the American people, and let’s pass S. 2244, as amended.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT).

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you very much, Madam Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure, as those who are watching this on C-SPAN across the Nation, we can comfortably say that what we have in motion on the floor of the House of Representatives is something that Alexander Hamilton leaned over and said to Thomas Jefferson—here is an old-fashioned, good old compromise.”

Compromise, a word that has been out of our lexicon for so long that the American people are looking for us to get back in. We know that we have on this floor. It is a compromise. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member because of her tenacity and her leadership because in his vision on the other side, the distinguished Chairman HENSARLING, who is a very good friend, in his own way sought for a $500 million trigger.

We on our side felt that we wanted to hold to the $100 trigger which is when the actual Federal assistance would go into effect, and that was further. I commend the ranking member and I certainly commend Mr. HENSARLING for agreeing and recognizing that we would come to the 200 level.

I also want to thank Mr. HENSARLING for being in this bill that is such an important measure, and many people may not realize this, but we have worked on NARAB for 10 years in the Financial Services Committee. It has been a major part of my whole legislative history in this body every year working on it.

I want to thank you, Chairman HENSARLING, for listening to us, talking, and agreeing to make this a part of this bill that we have before us. Thank you very much for doing that.

The other part, I want to thank both, and I certainly want to thank our ranking member for her wisdom in compromising on the end user. Now, we all know of the differences with Dodd-Pick. I tried to have a clear view on this, and it was very important that we make this technical change, so that we don’t let our ranchers, our farmers, and our manufacturers—none of which had anything to do with the Wall Street debacle and none of which are financial institutions—that we will exempt them from the cumbersome and the overbearing need to put margins out when they are doing swaps and derivatives.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is an excellent bill. It is as it should be a bill that is one that we urge to move forward.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds just to say I heard so many kind words from my friend from Georgia that maybe I need to go back and reexamine the bill; but, indeed, compromise is not a vice, as long as you are advancing your principles, and both sides can advance their principles in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KOSOR). “My friend and I have valued member of the Financial Services Committee, a tireless advocate—and occasionally tiring advocate—for TRIA reauthorization.
Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his mostly kind words.

Very seriously Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman. At the outset, let me thank Chairman HENSARLING; Chairman NEGEBAUER; Ranking Member WATERS, Mr. Chair from New York; and also Senator SCHUMER.

As the gentleman from Georgia said, this has been a long and winding road, but we have arrived at a compromise which I believe is worthy of the support of all Members of this body, certainly those of us who strongly support TRIA.

I have been a supporter of TRIA going back now 12, 13 years because after 9/11, we realized it was absolutely essential that TRIA be enacted for not just New York to be rebuilt, but also so that construction be allowed to go forward anywhere around the country where there could be a risk of a terrorist attack which is why Major League Baseball, the NFL, NASCAR, and virtually every large university in the country supports TRIA.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a compromise, and it is a compromise where all of us can be proud for vot- ing this bill. It is a solid piece of legisla- tion, and all of us can be proud for vot- ing this bill because it is so essential.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of the Democratic side of the aisle on this. As I said, Democrats were fully supportive of the reauthorization of the terrorism risk insurance program from day one. We have never everwavered. None of us have ever tried in any way to reduce the program, to change the trigger, et cetera, but we did compromise as we said.

Now, let me speak to the end user part of this. Yes, I worked with Mr. DAVID SCOTT and others because I have always said that on Dodd-Frank, that we have a responsibility to implement what is in law, but I always said I would support technical changes and I would support ways that we work together to straighten out things that were not clear in Dodd-Frank. I have never said that I would not be at the table to deal with these kinds of tech- nical changes, and I was.

When I got up today, I didn’t speak about being against the bill. I spoke about what has happened that led us to this point, why we are at the eleventh hour, and the way that the negotia- tions went.

Again, TRIA is important, and it should be reauthorized. I wish it had been a clean bill. It is not, and I hope that we are not going to have to have attempts to undermine Dodd-Frank in an `Im bill that comes along where my chairman sees an opportunity to try and slide something in at the eleventh hour.

I hope that when we talk about negoti- ations and trying to get together to compromise, to work on things that are in the best interests of this country, that nobody will play games with us, no one will lead us to the point where our backs are up against the wall at the eleventh hour. But we will openly debate these issues, we will listen to the pros and cons on these issues and that we hopefully will come to- gether in the best interests of all of the citizens.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. I yield myself 10 seconds for, Mr. Speaker, those who may be listening could be confused, as are those in the Chamber. I am very curious whether the ranking member is opposed or supporting this bill as amended. I yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, as I said to you when I first got up, I said to you I wanted to shine light on the bill.

Mr. HENSARLING. Does the gentle- woman oppose or support?

Ms. WATERS. And I have done that. Mr. HENSARLING. It is obvious the gentlelady refuses to answer the ques- tion.

Ms. WATERS. Before I finish my re- marks on this bill, I will tell you what my position is.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the distin- guished gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), the chairman of the Agri- culture Committee and a distinguished member of the House Financial Serv- ices Committee as well.

Mr. LUCAS. Thank you, Mr. Chair- man.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2244, a bill to extend the expiration date of the Terrorism Risk Insur- ance Act. Specifically, I support H.R. 634, the Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act that is included as a part of this larger effort.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 634 provides crit- ical regulatory relief to end users, the market participants, businesses, and job creators that use derivatives to manage the risks they face in their daily operations. For example, farmers who need to hedge against the volatility of crop prices and manufacturers who need to hedge against rising input costs of fuel use derivatives as a part of their business plans.

During the consideration of the Dodd-Frank Act, Congress clearly in- tended to exempt end users from some of the most costly new regulations, such as margin requirements. Margin requirements needlessly divert working capital away from job-creating pro- duction and investment; however, the CFTC has narrowly interpreted the law which has negatively impacted end users over the breadth of their business. The gentleman from New York.

Mr. Speaker, including the Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabiliza- tion Act in today’s bill permanently
fixes this issue for end users. It ensures that those businesses which have been exempted from clearing requirements of their trades are also exempted from margining their trades, just as Congress always intended.

The language in H.R. 634 has passed through the Committee on Agriculture by a voice vote and then through the House four other times. As a stand-alone bill, it passed with the support of 411 Members. Other times, as part of a larger package, it continued to receive overwhelming Republican support. The House of Representatives has spoken clearly on this issue: end users should not be required to post margin on their transactions.

I thank the chairman for including the Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilizations Act in today’s bill. It is time to give our farms and our businesses the relief they need from this costly and damaging rule. I urge a vote for TRIA.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ).

(At this point, Ms. VELAZQUEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Today I call on my colleagues to pass reauthorization of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, a public-private partnership that is vital to continued economic development across the country.

Following the tragic events of 9/11, terrorism became uninsurable. Many insurers left the market, and rates skyrocketed. As a result, thousands of small businesses were impacted, causing job losses and hindering the recovery effort. To address the growing market gap, Congress passed the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, creating a Federal backstop and enticing insurers back.

I say can without a doubt, our efforts were successful. I have witnessed first-hand how this program has helped New York City recover and prosper over the past 12 years. TRIA has provided thousands of small businesses with the certainty needed to manage long-term costs, grow reliably, and create new jobs. In fact, the program has tripled the number of small businesses that have terrorism protection since 2002.

Today, over 60 percent of firms now have coverage.

TRIA also ensures rates remain affordable. Under the program, terrorism coverage averages just 3 to 5 percent of a small business’ annual insurance premium.

Is today’s bill perfect? No, but it will restore certainty to the marketplace and prevent a rate spike that could force two-thirds of small businesses to stop carrying coverage.

Mr. Speaker, the Government Accountability Office has stated that terrorism remains an uninsurable risk. In light of such findings, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program continues to be a vital component of our economic growth and national security. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to yield a small amount of time to any Democrat on the floor who will use this vote “no” on S. 2244, as amended, because I have not heard one say that yet.

Mr. Speaker, I have no takers. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER), who is the incoming chairman of our Housing and Insurance Subcommittee.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman HENSARLING and Chairman NEUGEBAUER for their tireless and constant efforts on this issue, and I tell my colleagues that while TRIA is an important program, it is also in need of reform. This bill that we are considering today does just that in a responsible way, and I urge support of it.

Let there be no mistake: this bill renews the TRIA program. It takes important steps to protect taxpayer dollars and ensure that industry has more skin in the game. Also, I remind my colleagues that without TRIA, it is entirely possible that taxpayers would be on the hook for the entire bill in the wake of a terrorist attack.

This legislation includes a strong recoupment mechanism and a higher threshold for Federal assistance, building a program that has a strong authorization with greater protections for taxpayers.

The legislation we are considering today, however, does more than reauthorize TRIA. It also contains important language to ensure derivative end users, including farmers, ranchers, utilities, airlines, and small businesses, can lock in prices, remove volatility from the marketplace, and keep consumer prices stable.

Without this fix, those farmers, ranchers, Missouri, and small businesses, will have to post margin against trades they enter into for the sole purpose of managing their commercial risk.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage and support of this bill.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the ranking member for her hard work and focus and dedication for getting this done. And I thank Mr. MEEKS for stating that any time you have things added to a bill so it is not a clean bill, it makes it difficult. But I thank her and the chairman for working together to make this happen because this is a major bill, significantly important.

As we learn, think, from the impact of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, this was substantial. When you look at the losses, it was about $25.5 billion, or $12.9 billion in 2013 dollars. It was the largest insurance loss in global history at that time. And prior to 9/11, insurance companies generally covered all of the costs of terrorist attacks. After 9/11, terrorism risk insurance quickly became either unavailable or very, very expensive and unaffordable. Furthermore, premiums for workers’ compensation insurance increased significantly, and real estate and commercial ventures were stalled because of an inability to attain the requisite insurance coverage.

Now, 9/11 happened in New York, and so, yes, you see New York and New York City Members here supporting the bill. But this is not a bill just for New York. This is about all of America because they did not attack for New York; they attacked New York because it was part of America. We don’t know, and we pray that we don’t have another attack ever on our homeland, but it could be somewhere else. It doesn’t have to be New York. This is when we should rally around as Americans, as patriots, to ensure that we continue our economy flowing and moving. That is why, even though there are things that certain things that people don’t like, we are trying to figure out how we get this right because it is too important to America to allow TRIA to expire.

Furthermore, we reauthorize TRIA, it costs taxpayers virtually nothing, yet it continues to provide tangible benefits to our overall economy. TRIA allows for terrorism insurance market stability, affordability, and availability so that those in business, et cetera, can know, predict, and be confident that we will continue to move on. TRIA is a critical part of the U.S. economy’s security infrastructure and would ensure a swift recovery in the event of a significant terrorist attack.

Now, in New York, I am proud we have the Freedom Towers up because it also sends a message, is a symbol to those who don’t like us that you can’t knock us down, that we will get back up on our feet, stronger and better than ever, and that is what makes this country the great country that we are going to rally around and work with one another.

So this TRIA bill is significantly important, and I ask my colleagues to vote “yes” on TRIA.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), the incoming chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, first I want to commend the chairman of the Financial Services Committee for his tenacity and hard work to make sure the American taxpayer is protected, on the hook just a little bit less for the next terrorist attack that could happen in our country, and the private sector is on a little bit more for the next terrorist attack.

I am encouraged by this bipartisan bill because it ensures that my constituents in central, northern, and western Wisconsin can purchase affordable terrorism risk insurance. This 6-year reauthorization is a backbone for all Americans. This is not just a bill for New York, as my friends have mentioned, or Chicago or L.A., but it helps...
small town America. If you have a small mall in your community or for Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin, they can purchase terrorism risk insurance. The reauthorizing of this program is incredibly important.

I want to thank one other important and what the potential exposure is for terrorism losses. Those are all good things. The other thing that is good is it will build capacity in the private marketplace. When we increase the trigger, we build capacity in the private marketplace. But the most important thing is the certainty this bill creates. A multiyear reauthorization ensures that businesses across Ohio and across the entire country have access to terrorism insurance for multiple years. It creates certainty. It is good for jobs, and it is good for commercial development and construction. I think this bill is a very important reform and a great move forward.

I again want to applaud the chairman for all of his work, and I applaud the bipartisan support this bill is getting today. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill.

Mr. NYEUNGBAUER, Mr. Chairman, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 7 1/2 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS), a valued member of our committee.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman for yielding me this time. I appreciate his work on this very important bill, as well as the work of the subcommittee chairman, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, for this 6-year reauthorization of the terrorism risk insurance bill. This bill protects taxpayers by reforming the program to reduce potential taxpayer costs associated with the terrorism risk reinsurance program. It builds capacity in the private insurance market, and it ensures access to terrorism insurance for communities like mine in Columbus, Ohio, and southern Ohio, as well as all around America.

The bill provides meaningful reforms by reducing the government’s share of losses over time, by increasing the triggering amount over time, and ensuring that the Federal recoupment is increased over time. It also provides important transparency on data collection that will in the future let us know how much money insurance companies are earning from terrorism coverage and what the potential exposure is for terrorism losses. Those are all good things. The other thing that is good is it will build capacity in the private marketplace. When we increase the trigger, we build capacity in the private marketplace. But the most important thing is the certainty this bill creates. A multiyear reauthorization ensures that businesses across Ohio and across the entire country have access to terrorism insurance for multiple years. It creates certainty. It is good for jobs, and it is good for commercial development and construction. I think this bill is a very important reform and a great move forward.

I again want to applaud the chairman for all of his work on it, and I applaud the bipartisan support this bill is getting today. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITENGER), a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. PITENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization, known as TRIP.

I would like to commend Chairman HENSARLING and Congressman NEUGEBAUER.

TRIA does not curtail terrorism, but this legislation does protect taxpayers, promotes stable markets, and enhances economic certainty in the face of terrorism. Another important provision included in this legislation is the bipartisan legislation known as the Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stabilization Act, which the House has passed by 411-12. This is a basic but very important clarification to the highly regulatory Dodd-Frank Act. This reform would protect insured businesses such as manufacturers, ranchers, and small companies, are not subject to the burdensome margin and capital surcharge requirements imposed by the Dodd-Frank Act.

Even the creators of Dodd-Frank have argued in favor of exempting these end users from margin requirements. Without this essential clarification, small Main Street businesses will have to post additional margins against trades that they enter into for the sole purpose of managing commercial risk. These transactions do not pose a systemic risk to our financial systems, and they did not cause the 2008 financial crisis. A failure to address this issue will cause serious harm to the Main Street economy.

Instead of investing and expanding their business to create jobs, small business owners are being forced to direct resources to comply with more burdensome and unnecessary regulations coming out of Washington. This is not a controversial issue. This is a bipartisan provision that 181 Democrats in Congress have already voted for in support. We must not play politics with something as important as TRIA, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM), who for months has played a leading role in bringing both the TRIA title and the end user exemption title to S. 2244.

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation. But before I begin, I would like to say a very special thank you to Chairman Jeb HENSARLING for his outstanding leadership on this bill, as well as Chairman NEUGEBAUER and Ranking Member WATERS.

I am proud to have worked so long and so hard in what I would say was truly a bipartisan manner, so let me also thank and acknowledge my senior Senator from New York, Chuck Schumer, for his tireless efforts and for making TRIA reauthorization one of his top priorities.

I also want to thank my good friend and colleague from New York, Peter King, for being such a champion on this issue.

As someone who witnessed the tragedy of 9/11 firsthand, and as a Member
whose district saw the greatest loss of life during the September 11 attacks, I know all too well the destruction and the suffering that is caused by terrorism. However, as a proud New Yorker, I have also seen the tremendous recovery, a recovery that has taken place since that fateful day. But in order to ensure that such a recovery would be possible in the face of, God forbid, a future attack on our country, as well as to ensure the further economic development across the United States, we must ensure that businesses have flushed out the fact that this terrorism risk in going to happen. I know that many of the members of the opposite side of the aisle—some of whom I know, it was the Democrat Senate who I believe is putting this in the bill, so perhaps she could negotiate that with Senator SCHUMER.

Ms. WATERS. The gentleman knows that he was involved in the negotiation for placing that in the omnibus bill. I have raised a question with you, even though you are saying you had nothing to do with—

Mr. HENSARLING. Will the gentlewoman yield on that one point?

Ms. WATERS. Reclaiming my time, I simply asked the gentleman if he would join me in helping, whether he was part of the negotiations or not, as the chair of the Financial Services Committee, where this is one of the biggest issues that we have been confronted with. I know that you care enough about the consumers that you would not want them to have to bail out another AIG, another big bank. I know that you don't want that. I am simply saying that I am going to support the reauthorization of terrorism risk insurance. Will the gentleman support helping to get rid of that risky derivative trading opportunity that has been hatched into the omnibus bill by your side of the aisle?

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time. I am glad that the ranking member has had yet another change of heart from her opposition to S. 2244, as amended, that she articulated last evening. It is fascinating to me that as she characterizes other Members of Congress as grumpy, as quite so grumpy about a bill that they have previously supported and quite so grumpy about a bill that they have previously supported and now ultimately choose to support. Regrettably, frequently when the ranking member comes to the floor, we enter into a fact-free zone. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

I have not been involved in any of the negotiations on the omnibus. If I were involved, we would have far more Dodd-Frank relief in there, since it is a bill that was aimed at Wall Street, hits Main Street, and working men and women across our country are collateral damage. Our economy has slowed down, families can't find work, they have no financial security because of what Dodd-Frank is doing—the sheer weight, volume, complexity load of the regulatory burden. As unlettered, unaccountable bureaucrats try to run this economy, they have run it into the ground.
Be that as it may, I look forward to working with the ranking member so that we can get more Dodd-Frank relief to Americans and get this country back to work.

Finally, I once again wish to thank and offer my gratitude to the gentleman representing Chairman NEUGEBAUER, whose leadership in bringing this bill to the floor was indispensable. He has been a rock throughout these proceedings. Every Member who supports the end user exemption, who supports the TRIA compromise, owes an incredible debt of gratitude to Chairman NEUGEBAUER of Lubbock, Texas. I am proud to serve with him on the House Financial Services Committee.

I urge an “aye” vote for all Members of Congress on S. 2244, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see the inclusion of H.R. 634, the Business Risk Mitigation and Price Stability Act, as Title III of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, as included in H.R. 4413, the Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act, provides an important protection to end-users from costly margining requirements that will divert need capital away from job creation.

I support the provision that I would like to request that the pertinent portions of the Committee on Agriculture report to accompany H.R. 4413 be included in the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TITILE 3—ENDED USER RELIEF

SUBTITLE A—ENDED USER EXEMPTION FROM MARGIN REQUIREMENTS

Section 311—Ended user margin requirements

Section 311 amends Section 4(e) of the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA) as added by Section 731 of the Dodd-Frank Act to provide an explicit exemption from margin requirements for swap transactions involving end-users that qualify for the clearing exception under 2(h)(7)(A).

"End-users" are thousands of companies across the United States who utilize derivatives to hedge risks associated with their day-to-day operations, such as fluctuations in the prices of raw materials. Because these businesses do not pose systemic risk, Congress intended that the Dodd-Frank Act provide for certain exemptions for end-users to ensure they were not unduly burdened by new margin and capital requirements associated with their derivatives trades that would hamper their ability to expand and create jobs.

Indeed, Title VII of the Dodd-Frank Act includes an exemption for non-financial end-users from centrally clearing their derivatives, exemption permits end-users to continue trading directly with a counterparty, (also known as trading "bilateral," or over-the-counter (OTC)) which means that their trades will only be settled between two parties and they are not executed and cleared using an exchange or clearinghouse. Generally, it is common for non-financial end-users, such as manufacturers, to avoid posting cash margin for their OTC derivative trades. End-users generally will not post margin because they are able to negotiate their terms with their counterparties due to the strength of their own balance sheet or by posting non-cash collateral, such as physical property. End-users typically seek to protect their cash and liquidity for reinvestment in their businesses. In recognition of this common practice, the Dodd-Frank Act included an exemption from margin requirements for end-users for OTC trades.

Section 731 of the Dodd-Frank Act (and Section 731 as added by the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act) requires margin requirements for swaps entered into by cooperative entities if any swap participants that are banks, the prudential banking regulators (such as the Federal Reserve or Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) are required to impose margin requirements. For swap dealers and major swap participants that are not banks, the CFTC is required to set the margin requirements. Both the CFTC and the banking regulators have issued their own rule proposals establishing margin requirements pursuant to Section 731.

Following the enactment of the Dodd-Frank Act in July of 2010, uncertainty arose regarding whether this provision permitted the regulators to impose margin requirements on end-users, which could then result in either a direct or indirect margin requirement on end-users. Consequently, Senators Blanche Lincoln and Chris Dodd in their letter to then-Chairmen Barney Frank and Collins Peterson on June 30, 2010, to set forth and clarify Congress' intent.

The legislation does not authorize the regulators to impose margin on end-users, those exempt entities that use swaps to hedge or mitigate commercial risk. If regulators raise the costs of end-user transactions, they may create more risk. It is imperative that the regulators do not unnecessarily divert working capital from our economy into margin accounts, in line with the goal of hedging by end-users or impair economic growth.

In addition, statements in the legislative history of section 731 (and Section 764) suggest that Congress did not intend in enacting this section, to impose margin requirements on non-financial end-users engaged in hedging activities, even in cases where they entered into swaps with swap dealers.

In the CFTC's proposed rule on margin, it does not require margin for un-cleared swaps when non-bank swap dealers transact with non-financial end-users. However, the prudential banking regulators proposed rules would require margin be posted by non-financial end-users when they trade with swap dealers that are banks. Many of end-users' transactions occur with swap dealers that are banks. The prudential banking regulators' proposed rule is most relevant, and therefore of most concern, to end-users.

By the prudential banking regulators' own terms, their proposal to require margin stems directly from what they view to be a legal obligation under Title VII. The plain language of Section 731 provides that the prudential regulators will no longer have a perceived legal obligation, and the congressional intent they acknowledge in their proposed rule will be implemented.

The Committee, on September 30, 2013, the International Organization of Securities Commission (IOSCO) and the Bank of International Settlements published their joint final report on margin requirements for uncleared derivatives. Representatives from a number of U.S. regulators, including the CFTC and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve participated in the development of those margin requirements, which are intended to set baseline international standards for margin requirements. It is the intent of the Committee that any margin requirements promulgated under the authority provided in Section 4e of the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA) be generally consistent with the international margin standards established by IOSCO.

On March 14, 2013, at a hearing entitled "Section 731 of the Dodd-Frank Act: The Following testimony was provided to the Congress with respect to provisions included in Section 311.

In approving the Dodd-Frank Act, Congress made clear that end-users were not to be subject to margin requirements. Nonetheless, regulations proposed by the Prudential Banking Regulators could require end-users to post margin. This stems directly from what they view to be a legal obligation under Title VII. While the regulations proposed by the CFTC are preferable, they do not provide end-users with the certainty that legislation offers. According to a study on Derivatives End-Users survey, a 3% initial margin requirement could reduce capital spending by as much as $3.1 to $6.7 billion among S&P 500 companies alone to 130,000 jobs. To shed some light on Honeywell's potential exposure to margin requirements, we had approximately $2 billion of contracts outstanding. This is the type of exposure that would be defined as a swap under Dodd-Frank. Applying 3% initial margin and 10% variation margin implies a potential margin requirement of $210 per $2 billion contract. In a margin account cannot be productively deployed in our businesses and therefore detracts from Honeywell's financial performance.

Honeywell's financial performance.

Mr. James E. Colby, Assistant Treasurer, Honeywell International Inc., on May 21, 2013, at a hearing entitled "The Future of the CFTC: Market Perspectives." Mr. Stephen O'Connor, Chairman, ISDA, provided the following testimony with respect to provisions included in Section 311:

Perhaps most importantly, we do not believe that initial margin will contribute to the shared goal of reducing systemic risk and increasing systemic resilience. When regulators mandated initial margin when they were employed, the additional step of imposing initial margin imposes an extremely high cost on both market participants and on systemic resiliency, with very little to countervailing benefit. The Lehman and AIG situations highlight the importance of variation margin. AIG did not follow sound variation margin practices, which resulted in dangerous levels of credit risk building up, ultimately leading to its bailout. Lehman, on the other hand, posted daily variation margin, and failures caused by overexposure to cash and liquidity markets, the variation margin prevented outsized losses in the OTC derivatives markets. While industry and regulators agree on a robust variation margin regime including all appropriate products and counterparties, the further step of moving to mandatory IM [initial margin] does not stand up to any rigorous cost-benefit analysis.

Based on the extensive background that accompanies the statutory change provided explicitly in Section 311, the Committee in approving Section 311 margin requirements cannot be imposed on uncleared swaps entered into by cooperative entities if they similarly qualify for the CFTC's cooperative end-user exception over-the-counter swaps. Cooperative entities did not cause the financial crisis and should not be required to
Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi changed his vote from ‘nay’ to ‘yea.’ So 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.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unﬁnished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4861) to authorize appropriations for intelligence and related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, 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 gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 325, nays 7, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 558]
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) during the vote, There are 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. SERRANO changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. ELLISON changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote H. R. 4681, I mistakenly recorded my vote as “yes” when I should have voted “no.”

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACQUISITION REFORM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, 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 gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 425, nays 0, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 559] 425

NAYS—100

Bass

Ashah

Bass

Farr

Bridenstine

Adams

Aderholt

Amash

Bennett

Perkins

Prince

Brat

Brewer

Black

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Barrett

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Beatty

Becerra

Drake

Price

Bray

Baker

Blackburn

Barrett

Bart

Bediah

Becerra

Royce

Ruiz

Ryan

Ruppersgerger

Rush

Ryan (OH)

Sánchez, Linda

Sánchez, Loreta

Sabanes

Scales

Schiff

Schneider

Schock

Schwartz

Schweikert

Scott (VA)

Scott (GA)

Sessions

Sheehan

Sherman

Shimkus

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Wasserman Schultz

Watson

Webster (FL)

Westmoreland

Whitfield

Williams

Wilson (FL)

Wilson (NC)

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Young (AK)

Young (IN)

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Price

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Royce

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Ryan

Ruppersgerger

Rush

Ryan (OH)

Sánchez, Linda

Sánchez, Loreta

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Ryan (OH)

Sánchez, Linda

Sánchez, Loreta

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Wasserman Schultz

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Young (AK)

Young (IN)
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AVIATION SECURITY STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1204) to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, 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 gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment and concur in the Senate amendment. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 5, not voting 13, as follows: (Roll No. 560)

YEAS—416

Bera (CA) Fincher Latta (CA)
Bilirakis Fitzpatrick Lowery (GA)
Biloxi (MS) Fleschner Lovett (CA)
Bishop (GA) Fohnlow Lucas (GA)
Bishop (UT) Fortenberry Long (GA)
Black Fortescue Lofgren (CA)
Blackburn Fox Lowenthal (CA)
Blankenship Fox Longworth (OH)
Bomani Fox Lopez (NM)
Bonasty Frankel (FL) Lowey (NY)
Brad (PA) Frankel (NY) Lucy (NY)
Brad (TX) Freytag Lucas (CA)
Bray (GA) Fudge Leukelekener (NM)
Brat Gabbard Leuckekeleyer (NM)
Bridenstine Garbarino Lehman (OH)
Brooks (AL) Garcia Lemieux (CA)
Brooks (IN) Gardner Lerman (CT)
Brown (GA) Garza Lessner (CA)
Brown (FL) Geraci Lowry, CM (CO)
Brownley (CA) Gibb Lowry, J.D. (CO)
Buchanan Gibson Louisville (KY)
Burgess Gohmert Mann (ND)
Bush Boston Goodlatte Manchin (WV)
Byrne Gowdy Mansfield (PA)
Calvert Grady Markey (MA)
Camp Greaves (GA) McAdams (OR)
Capito Graves (MO) McCaul (TX)
Cardenas Green, AL McCauliffe (NH)
Carney (IN) Green, Gene McCollum (WA)
Carter Griffith (VA) McCollum (WA)
Cartwright Grijalva McConnell (KY)
Cassidy Grimm McEntire (WY)
Castle Gutierrez McKeon (CA)
Chabot Hahn McMorris (WA)
Chaffetz Harrington McMorris Rodgers (NM)
Chu Harrison Maher (KY)
Clack (MA) Hartler McNearney (VA)
Clarke (NY) Hastings (FL) Maloney (NY)
Cleaver Hastings (GA) Mantua (OH)
Clyburn Hastings (WV) Malek (CT)
Coble Huffman Melancon (LA)
Cofman Huizenga (MI) Mendelson (CA)
Collins Hudson Himes (CA)
Cole Oregon Huffman (OH)
Collins (GA) Johnson (GA) Hines (GA)
Collins (NV) Johnson (OH) Hines (MD)
Conaway Johnson (PA) Himes (MD)
Connolly Johnson (RI) Himes (MD)
Cook Jordan Himes (VA)
Cooper Jordan's Great Northern (Oklahoma)
Cooks Keating Himes (WV)
Cronyn Keating's Charity (Oklahoma)
Culver Kelly (IL) Hines' Charity (Oklahoma)
Culmsee Kelly (Oklahoma) Hines' Charity (Oklahoma)
Cullen Lewis King (CA)
Cummings Lee King (GA)
Currie Johnson (GA) King (KS)
Cutter Johnson (OH) King (KS)
Daines Johnson (OR) Kinder (OK)
Davis (CA) Johnson, R. B. King (MS)
Davis, Danny Johnson, V. P. King (MS)
Davis, Rodney Johnson, W. J. King (MS)
DeFazio Jones Johnson's Great Northern (Oklahoma)
DeGette Jones Johns (VA)
Delaney Jordan Johnson's Charity (Oklahoma)
DelBene Keating Jenkins (WV)
Denham Kellie Jenks (WV)
DeSantis Kelly Jiang (NY)
DeSario Kelly's Charity (Oklahoma)
Deutch Kelly's Charity (Oklahoma)
Diaz-Balart Kind King (KY)
Dingell King (NC) King (TX)
Dugger King (TN) King (TX)
Duffy King (TX) King (TX)
Duncan (SC) Kinzinger (IL) King (TX)
Duncan (TN) Kinzinger's Charity (Oklahoma)
Edwards Kuster Kinzinger's Charity (Oklahoma)
Elims Kuster LaMalfa (CA)
Engel Lamborn LaMalfa (CA)
Endor Lankford Lancaster (PA)
Eshoo LaMalfa, David (CA)
Esty Lavigne Lancaster (PA)
Evans Lawton Lankford (CA)
Eveling Lawson Lankford (CA)
Bachmann Lawrence Lark (NC)
Bachus Larisch (CA) Latham (CA)
Barber Latham Latham (CA)
Barrett Lathrop Latham (CA)
Barr Lawlor Latham (CA)
Barrasso Larsen Leach (CT)
Barth Larsen (CT) Lechel (CT)
Bates Lassiter Lechel (CT)
Bateman Lassiter Lechel (CT)
Bazemore Lassiter Lechel (CT)
Baumgartner Lassiter Lechel (CT)
Bednar Lassiter Lechel (CT)
Bennett Lassiter Lechel (CT)
Bentivolio Lassiter Lechel (CT)

NAY—5

Amaro Labrador Yoho
Amash Laffer Yoder
Annault LaHood Young (AK)
Anderson Lanham Yoder
Anderson Lang Yoder
Anthony Lane Yoder
Bartlett Landgraf Young (AK)
Barrett Landgraf Young (AK)
Barrett Lawrence Young (AK)
Bartlett Lawrence Young (AK)
Bass Lawrence Young (AK)
Beatty Lawrence Young (AK)
Bean Lawrence Young (AK)
Bekich Lawrence Young (AK)
Bentivolio Lawrence Young (AK)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to attending the funeral of the Honorable Charles Hutton “Bull” Ridgion, Jr., Fort Walton Beach City Council, I missed the following rollcall votes: Nos. 554 through 560 on December 10, 2014. If present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 554—H. Res. 775, On Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of S. 2244, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014, and for other purposes, “aye”; rollcall vote No. 555—S. 1000, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014, “aye”; rollcall vote No. 556—On Approving the Journal, “nay”; rollcall vote No. 557—On Passage of H.R. 4681—To extend the termination date of the Terrorism Insurance Program established under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, and for other purposes, “aye”; rollcall vote No. 558—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment to H. R. 2017—To
require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, and for other purposes, "aye;" rollcall vote No. 560—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendments R. 1204—To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, and for other purposes, "aye."

NEWBORN SCREENING SAVES LIVES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1281) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 12. INFORMED CONSENT FOR NEWBORN SCREENING RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Research on newborn dried blood spots shall be considered research carried out on human subjects meeting the definition of section 46.102(f)(2) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, for purposes of Federally funded research conducted pursuant to the Public Health Service Act until such time as updates to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (the Common Rule) are promulgated pursuant to subsection (c). For purposes of this subsection, sections 46.116(c) and 46.116(d) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, shall not apply.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall apply only to newborn dried blood spots used for purposes of Federally funded research conducted pursuant to the Public Health Service Act until such time as updates to the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (the Common Rule) are promulgated pursuant to subsection (c).

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall promulgate proposed regulations related to the updating of the Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (the Common Rule), particularly with respect to informed consent. Not later than 2 years after such date of enactment, the Secretary shall promulgate final regulations based on such proposed regulations.

Mrs. ELLMERS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the Senate amendment be dispensed with.

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

There was no objection.

The motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL INFORMATION SECURITY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2014

MR. MEOADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 2521) to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to provide for reform to Federal information security, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

"S. 2521

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014."

SEC. 2. FISMA REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking subchapters II and III and inserting the following:

"SUBCHAPTER II—INFORMATION SECURITY

§ 3551. Purposes

The purposes of this subchapter are to—

(1) provide a comprehensive framework for ensuring the effectiveness of information security controls over information resources that support Federal operations and assets;

(2) recognize the highly networked nature of the current Federal computing environment and provide effective governmentwide management and oversight of the related information security risks, including coordination of information security efforts throughout the civilian, national security, and law enforcement communities;

(3) provide for development and maintenance of minimum standards required to protect Federal information and information systems;

(4) provide a mechanism for improved oversight of Federal agency information security programs, including through automated security tools to continuously diagnose and improve security;

(5) acknowledge that commercially developed information security products offer advanced, dynamic, robust, and effective information security solutions for the protection of critical information infrastructures important to the national defense and economic security of the nation that are designed, built, and operated by the private sector;

(6) recognize that the selection of specific technical hardware and software information security solutions should be left to individual agencies from among commercially developed products.

§ 3552. Definitions

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subsections (b) and (c) of section 3502, all terms defined in this subchapter shall be defined in accordance with the definitions of Federal information and information systems from a known or reasonably suspected information security threat, vulnerability, or risk.

(b) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—As used in this subchapter:

(1) The term 'binding operational directive' means a compulsory direction to an agency that—

(A) is for purposes of safeguarding Federal information and information systems from a known or reasonably suspected information security threat, vulnerability, or risk;

(B) shall be in accordance with policies, principles, standards, and guidelines issued by the Director; and

(C) may be revised or replaced by the Director if the director acting on behalf of the Director is not in accordance with policies and principles developed by the Director.

(2) The term 'incident' means an occurrence that—

(A) actually or imminently jeopardizes, without lawful authority, the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of information or an information system; or

(B) constitutes a violation or imminent threat of violation of law, security policies, security procedures, or acceptable use policies.

(3) The term 'information security' means protecting information and information systems from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction in order to provide—

(A) integrity, which means preventing improper information modification or destruction, and includes ensuring information nonrepudiation and authenticity;

(B) confidentiality, which means preserving authorized restrictions on access to and use of information;

(C) availability, which means ensuring timely and reliable access to and use of information.

(4) The term 'information technology' has the meaning given that term in section 11101 of title 40.

(5) The term 'intelligence community' has the meaning given that term in section 3014 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

(6)(A) The term 'national security system' means any information system (including any telecommunications system) used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an agency, or other organization on behalf of an agency—

(i) in the function, operation, or use of which—

(I) involves intelligence activities;

(II) involves cryptologic activities related to national security;

(III) involves command and control of military forces;

(IV) involves equipment that is an integral part of a weapon or weapons system; or

(V) subject to subparagraph (B), is critical to the direct fulfillment of military or intelligence missions; or

(B) Subparagraph (3)(V) does not include a system that is to be used for routine administrative or business functions (including payroll, finance, logistics, and personnel management applications).

(7) The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

§ 3553. AUTHORITY AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR AND THE SECRETARY

(a) DIRECTOR.—The Director shall oversee agency information security policies and practices, including—

(1) developing and overseeing the implementation of policies, principles, standards, and guidelines on information security, including through ensuring timely agency adoption of and compliance with standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

(2) requiring agencies, consistent with the standards promulgated under such section 11331 and the requirements of this subchapter, to identify and provide information security protections commensurate with the risk and magnitude of the harm resulting from the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of—

(A) information collected or maintained by or on behalf of an agency; or

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(b) Information systems used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of an agency; and

(3) ensuring that the Secretary carries out the authorities and functions under subsection (b); and

(4) coordinating the development of standards and guidelines under section 20 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3) with agencies and offices operating or exercising control of national security systems (including the National Security Agency) to assure, to the maximum extent feasible, that such standards and guidelines are complementary with standards and guidelines developed for national security systems.

(5) overseeing agency compliance with the requirements of this subchapter, including through any authorized action under section 11331 of title 40, to enforce accountability for compliance with such requirements; and

(6) coordinating information security policies and procedures with related information resource management policies and procedures.

(1) assisting the Director in carrying out the authorities and functions under paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (5), and (6) of subsection (a);

(2) developing and overseeing the implementation of operational directives to agencies to implement the policies, principles, standards, and guidelines developed by the Director under subsection (a)(1) and the required operational directives which may be revised or repealed by the Director if the operational directives issued on behalf of the Director are not in accordance with policies, principles, standards, and guidelines developed by the Director, including—

(A) requirements for reporting security incidents to the Federal information security incident center established under section 3556;

(B) requirements for the contents of the annual reports required to be submitted under sections 3553 and 3555;

(C) requirements for the mitigation of exigent risks to information systems; and

(D) other operational requirements as the Director may determine necessary to carry out this subsection.

(3) monitoring agency implementation of information security policies and practices;

(4) convening meetings with senior agency officials to help ensure effective implementation of information security policies and practices;

(5) coordinating Government-wide efforts on information security policies and practices, including consultation with the Chief Information Officers Council established under section 3633 and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(6) providing operational and technical assistance to agencies in implementing policies, principles, standards, and guidelines on information security, including implementation of standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40, and by—

(A) operating the Federal information security incident center established under section 3556;

(B) upon request by an agency, deploying technology to assist the agency to continuously diagnose and mitigate against cyber threats and vulnerabilities, with or without reimbursement;

(C) compiling and analyzing data on agency information security; and

(D) developing and conducting targeted operational evaluations, including threat and vulnerability assessments, on the information systems; and

(7) the Secretary or the Director, in consultation with the Director, may determine necessary to carry out this subsection.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than March 1 of each year, the Director, in consultation with the Secretary, shall submit to Congress a report on the exercise of information security policies and practices during the preceding year, including—

(1) a summary of the incidents described in the annual report submitted under section 3556(c)(1), including a summary of the information required under section 3556(c)(1)(A)(ii);

(2) description of the threshold for reporting major information security incidents;

(3) a summary of the results of evaluations required to be performed under section 3555;

(4) an assessment of agency compliance with standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40; and

(5) an assessment of agency compliance with data breach notification policies and procedures issued by the Director.

(d) NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS.—Except for the authorities and functions described in subsection (a)(5) and subsection (c), the authorities and functions of the Director and the Secretary under this subsection shall not apply to national security systems.

(e) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—(1) The authorities of the Director described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) shall be delegated to the Secretary of Defense in the case of systems described in paragraph (2) and to the Director of National Intelligence in the case of systems described in paragraph (3).

(2) The systems described in this paragraph are systems that are operated by the Department of Defense, a contractor of the Department of Defense, or any other entity on behalf of the Department of Defense that processes any information the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of which would have a debilitating impact on the mission of the Department of Defense.

(3) The systems described in this paragraph are systems that are operated by an element of the intelligence community, a contractor of an element of the intelligence community, or another entity on behalf of an element of the intelligence community that processes any information the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of which would have a debilitating impact on the mission of an element of the intelligence community.

(f) CONSIDERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the requirements under subsection (b), the Secretary shall consider any applicable standards or guidelines developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and issued by the Secretary of Commerce under section 11331 of title 40.

(2) DIRECTIVES.—The Secretary shall—

(A) consult with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology regarding any binding operational directive that implements standards and guidelines developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

(B) ensure that binding operational directives issued under subsection (b)(2) do not conflict with the standards and guidelines issued under section 11331 of title 40.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as authorizing the Secretary to direct the Secretary of Commerce in the development and promulgation of standards and guidelines under section 11331 of title 40.

(f) CONSIDERATION.—To ensure fiscal and policy consistency, the Secretary shall exercise the authority under this section subject to direction by the President, in consultation with the Director.

3554. Federal agency responsibilities

(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency shall—

(1) be responsible for—

(A) providing information security protections commensurate with the risk and magnitude of the harm resulting from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of—

(i) information collected or maintained by or on behalf of the agency; and

(ii) information systems used or operated by an agency or by a contractor of an agency or other organization on behalf of an agency;

(B) complying with the requirements of this subchapter and related policies, procedures, and standards, including—

(i) information security standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40; and

(ii) operational directives issued by the Secretary under section 3553(b); and

(ii) information systems standards and guidelines for national security systems issued in accordance with law and as directed by the President; and

(iii) implementing that information security management process is integrated with agency strategic, operational, and budgetary planning processes; and

(iv) information systems and information and systems in accordance with law and as directed by the President, in consultation with the Director.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—(1) The head of an agency shall—

(A) provide for the implementation of laws and regulations relating to information security, including—

(i) information security standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40, for information security policies and information systems in accordance with standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

(ii) information security policies and information systems in accordance with standards promulgated under section 11331 of title 40 and information security classifications and related requirements; and

(vi) implementing policies and procedures to cost-effectively reduce risks to an acceptable level; and

(vii) periodically testing and evaluating information security controls and techniques to ensure that they are effectively implemented;

(c) Delegate to the agency Chief Information Officer established under section 3506 or comparable official in an agency not covered by such section) the authority to ensure compliance with the requirements imposed on the agency under this subchapter, including—

(A) designating a senior agency information security officer who shall—

(A) carry out the Chief Information Officer’s responsibilities under this section;

(ii) possess professional qualifications, including training and experience, required to administer the functions described under this section;

(iii) have information security duties as that official’s primary duty; and

(iv) head an office and resources to assist in ensuring agency compliance with this section;
“(B) developing and maintaining an agency-wide information security program as required by subsection (b);

“(C) developing and maintaining information security policies, procedures, and control techniques to address all applicable requirements, including those issued under section 3553 of this title and section 11331 of title 40;

“(D) training and overseeing personnel with significant responsibilities for information security with respect to such responsibilities and the program; and

“(E) assisting senior agency officials concerning their responsibilities under paragraph (2);

“(4) require that the agency has trained personnel sufficient to assist the agency in complying with the requirements of this subchapter and related policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines;

“(5) ensure that the agency Chief Information Officer, in coordination with other senior agency officials, reports annually to the agency head on the effectiveness of the agency information security program, including progress of remedial actions;

“(6) ensure that senior agency officials, including agency security officers of central agencies or equivalent officials, carry out responsibilities under this subchapter as directed by the official delegated authority under paragraph (3); and

“(7) ensure that all personnel are held accountable for complying with the agency-wide information security program implemented under subsection (b).

“(b) AGENCY PROGRAM.—Each agency shall develop, document, and implement an agency-wide information security program to provide adequate security for the information and information systems that support the operations and assets of the agency, including those provided or managed by another contractor, or other source, that includes—

“(1) periodic assessments of the risk and magnitude of the harm that could result from the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of information and information systems that support the operations and assets of the agency, including using automated tools consistent with standards and guidelines promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

“(2) policies and procedures that—

“(A) are based on the risk assessments required by paragraph (1);

“(B) cost-effectively reduce information security risks to an acceptable level; and

“(C) ensure that information security is addressed throughout the life cycle of each agency information system; and

“(D) ensure compliance with—

“(i) the requirements of this subchapter;

“(ii) policies and procedures as may be prescribed by the Director, and information security policies, procedures, and guidelines promulgated under section 11331 of title 40;

“(iii) minimally acceptable system configuration requirements, as determined by the agency;

“(iv) any other applicable requirements, including standards and guidelines for national security systems issued in accordance with law and as directed by the President or the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, or in the absence of such standards and guidelines, as appropriate;

“(5) subordinate plans for providing adequate information security for networks, facilities, and systems or groups of information systems or related sets of incidents, including summaries of—

“(i) the threats and threat actors, vulnerabilities, and impacts relating to the incident;

“(ii) the risk assessments conducted under section 3554(a)(2)(A) of the affected information systems before the date on which the incident occurred;

“(III) the status of compliance of the affected information systems with applicable security requirements at the time of the incident; and

“(IV) the detection, response, and remediation actions;

“(6) the total number of information security incidents, including a description of incidents resulting in significant compromise of information security, system impact levels, types of incident, and locations of affected systems;

“(7) a description of each major information security incident that involved a breach of information security, as defined by the Director, including—

“(i) the number of individuals whose information was affected by the major information security incident, and

“(ii) a description of the information that was breached or exposed; and

“(8) any other information as the Director or the Secretary, in consultation with the Director, may require.

“(b) UNCLASSIFIED REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each report submitted under paragraph (a) shall be unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

“(2) OTHER PLANS AND REPORTS.—Each agency shall address the adequacy and effectiveness of information security policies, procedures, and practices in management plans and reports.

“(3) PERFORMANCE PLAN.—(1) In addition to the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b), each agency, in consultation with the Director, shall include as part of the performance plan required under section 1115 of title 31 a description of—

“(A) the time periods; and

“(B) the resources, including budget, staffing, and training, that are necessary to implement the program required under subsection (b).

“(2) The description under paragraph (1) shall be based on the risk assessments required under subsection (b)(1).

“(e) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—Each agency shall provide the public with timely notice and opportunities for comment on proposed information security policies and procedures to the extent to which such policies and procedures affect communication with the public.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Each year each agency shall have performed an independent evaluation of the information security program and practices of that agency to determine the effectiveness of such program and practices.

“(2) Each evaluation under this section shall include—

“(A) a description of the effectiveness of information security policies, procedures, and practices of a representative subset of the agency’s information systems;

“(B) an assessment of the effectiveness of the information security policies, procedures, and practices of that agency; and

“(C) separate presentations, as appropriate, regarding information security relating to national security systems.

“(b) INDEPENDENT AUDITOR.—Subject to subsection (c), for each agency with an Inspector General appointed under the Inspector General Act of 1978, the annual evaluation required

"
in such system commensurate with the risk
shall be performed—

(1) only by an entity designated by the
agency head; and

(2) in such a manner as to ensure appro-
riate protection for information associated
with any information security vulnerability
in such system commensurate with the risk
and in accordance with applicable laws.

(d) EXISTING EVALUATIONS.—The eval-
uation required by this section may be based
in whole or in part on an audit, evaluation, or
report relating to programs or practices of
the applicable agency.

(e) AGENCY REPORTING.—(1) Each year,
the Director shall submit to the Congress
the report to Congress required under sec-
tion 3556(b); and

(2) The Director shall submit to the Director
the results of the evaluation required under
this section.

(f) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Agen-
cies and evaluators shall take appropriate
steps to ensure the protection of information
which, if disclosed, may adversely affect inform-

ation security. Such protection shall be consis-
tent with the risk and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

(g) OMNI REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—(1) The
Director shall summarize the results of the
valuations conducted under this section in
the report to Congress required under sec-
tion 3556(c).

(2) The Director’s report to Congress under
this subsection shall summarize informa-
tion regarding information security relat-
ing to national security systems in such a man-
ner and provide appropriate protection for
information associated with any information
security vulnerability in such system commensurate with the risk and in accord-
ance with applicable laws.

(3) Evaluations and any other descrip-
tion of information systems under the au-

curacy and control of the Director of Na-
tional Intelligence or of National Foreign In-

elligence Programs systems under the au-

curacy and control of the Secretary of De-

fense shall be made available to Congress
only through the appropriate oversight com-
mittees of Congress, in accordance with ap-

licable laws.

(h) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The Com-
ptroller General shall periodically evaluate
and report to Congress on—

(1) the adequacy and effectiveness of agency information security policies and
practices; and

(2) implementation of the requirements of
this subchapter.

(i) ASSISTANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—
The Comptroller General may provide tech-
nical assistance to an Inspector General or
the head of an agency, as applicable, to as-
sist the Inspector General or head of an
agency in carrying out the duties under this
section, including by testing information se-

curacy controls and procedures.

(j) MAJOR INCIDENT.—The Director, in consulta-
tion with the Secretary, the Chief Informa-
tion Officers Council established under sec-

tion 3503, the Council of the Inspectors Gen-
eral on Integrity and Efficiency, and other
interested parties as appropriate, shall en-

sure the development of guidance for evalu-
ating the extent of an information security
program and practices.

§ 3556. Federal information security incident
center

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall en-

suring the development of guidance for evalu-
ating the extent of an information security
program and practices.

(2) provide timely technical assistance to
operators of agency information systems re-
garding security incidents, including guid-
ance on detecting and handling information
security incidents;

(3) compile and analyze information about
incidents that threaten information security;

(4) inform operators of agency informa-
tion systems about current and potential in-
formation security threats, and vulnerabilities;

(5) provide, as appropriate, intelligence
and other information about cyber threats,
vulnerabilities, and incidents to agencies to
assist in risk assessments conducted under
section 3556(b); and

(6) consult with the National Institute of
Standards and Technology, agencies or of-
cices operating or exercising control of na-
tional security systems (including the Na-
tional Security Agency), and such other
agencies or offices as the President directs in
law and as directed by the President regarding
information security incidents and related
matters.

(b) NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS.—Each agen-
cy operating or exercising control of a na-
tional security system shall share infor-
mation about information security inci-
dents, threats, and vulnerabilities with the
Federal information security incident center
to the extent consistent with standards and
guidelines for national security systems,
issuance in accordance with law and as
directed by the President.

§ 3557. National security systems

The head of each agency operating or ex-
cercising control of a national security sys-
tem shall be responsible for ensuring that
the agency—

(1) provides information security protec-
tions commensurate with the risk and mag-
hitude of the harm resulting from the unau-
thorized access, use, disclosure, disruption,
modification, or acquisition of the informa-
tion contained in such system;

(2) implements information security poli-
cies and practices as required by standards
and guidelines for national security systems,
issued in accordance with law and as
directed by the President; and

(3) complies with the requirements of this
subchapter.

§ 3558. Effect on existing law

Nothing in this subchapter, section 11331
of title 40, or section 20 of the National
Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C.
278g–2) amending section 31 of title 44, the
Authority of the President, the Office of Man-
agement and Budget or the Director thereof,
the National Institute of Standards and
Technology, or the Federal Information Secu-
rity Act (44 U.S.C. 3551 et seq.), the disclo-
sion of the Federal government’s informa-
tion systems about current and poten-
tial information security threats;

perfected individuals; and

the development of guidance for evalu-

(1) only an entity designated by the

(2) in such a manner as to ensure appro-
riate protection for information associated
with any information security vulnerability
in such system commensurate with the risk
and in accordance with applicable laws.

(3) Evaluations and any other descrip-
tion of information systems under the au-

curacy and control of the Director of Na-
tional Intelligence or of National Foreign In-

elligence Programs systems under the au-

curacy and control of the Secretary of De-

fense shall be made available to Congress
only through the appropriate oversight com-
mittees of Congress, in accordance with ap-

licable laws.

(h) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The Com-
ptroller General shall periodically evaluate
and report to Congress on—

(1) the adequacy and effectiveness of agency information security policies and
practices; and

(2) implementation of the requirements of
this subchapter.

(i) ASSISTANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—
The Comptroller General may provide tech-
nical assistance to an Inspector General or
the head of an agency, as applicable, to as-
sist the Inspector General or head of an
agency in carrying out the duties under this
section, including by testing information se-

curacy controls and procedures.

(j) MAJOR INCIDENT.—The Director, in consulta-
tion with the Secretary, the Chief Informa-
tion Officers Council established under sec-
(ii) include the assessment described in clause (1) in the report required under section 3553(c) of title 44, United States Code.

(B) SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—During the 1-year period beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall include an assessment of the status of agency implementation of data breach notification policies and guidelines in the requirements under section 3553(b)(2)(B) of title 44, United States Code.

(4) EXCEPTION.—Any element of the intelligence community (as such term is defined under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403(4))) that is required to provide notice under paragraph (1)(A) shall provide such notice to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(5) DIRECTING THE CLERK.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to alter any authority of a Federal agency or department.

6. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(a) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by inserting the following:

"""CHAP. 2—DEFINITIONS""

"""(A) in section 3523(b)(2), by striking """"section 3542(b)(2)"""" and inserting """"section 3552(b)(2)"""";

(b) in section 3523(c)(3), by striking """"section 3542(b)(3)"""" and inserting """"section 3552(b)(3)"""";

(c) in section 3215, by striking """"section 3542(b)(3)"""" and inserting """"section 3552(b)(5)"""

(b) DIRECTING THE CLERK.—The Clerk shall print this Act in the Federal Register.

7. CONFORMING CHANGES.—

(a) MADE PERMANENT.—(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Section 170(b)(1)(E) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking clause (vi).

(b) CORPORATIONS.—Section 170(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking clause (i). (c) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking section 278g–4.

8. CONFORMING CHANGES.—

(a) MADE PERMANENT.—(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Section 170(b)(1)(E) of such Code is amended by striking clause (vi).

(b) CORPORATIONS.—Section 170(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking clause (iii).

(c) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking section 278g–4.

9. CONFORMING CHANGES.—

(a) MADE PERMANENT.—(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Section 170(b)(1)(E) of such Code is amended by striking clause (vi).

(b) CORPORATIONS.—Section 170(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking clause (i).

(c) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking section 278g–4.

10. CONFORMING CHANGES.—

(a) MADE PERMANENT.—(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Section 170(b)(1)(E) of such Code is amended by striking clause (vi).

(b) CORPORATIONS.—Section 170(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking clause (i).

(c) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking section 278g–4.

11. CONFORMING CHANGES.—

(a) MADE PERMANENT.—(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Section 170(b)(1)(E) of such Code is amended by striking clause (vi).

(b) CORPORATIONS.—Section 170(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking clause (i).

(c) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking section 278g–4.

12. CONFORMING CHANGES.—

(a) MADE PERMANENT.—(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Section 170(b)(1)(E) of such Code is amended by striking clause (vi).

(b) CORPORATIONS.—Section 170(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking clause (i).

(c) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking section 278g–4.

13. CONFORMING CHANGES.—

(a) MADE PERMANENT.—(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Section 170(b)(1)(E) of such Code is amended by striking clause (vi).

(b) CORPORATIONS.—Section 170(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking clause (i).

(c) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking section 278g–4.

14. CONFORMING CHANGES.—

(a) MADE PERMANENT.—(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Section 170(b)(1)(E) of such Code is amended by striking clause (vi).

(b) CORPORATIONS.—Section 170(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking clause (i).

(c) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking section 278g–4.

15. CONFORMING CHANGES.—

(a) MADE PERMANENT.—(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Section 170(b)(1)(E) of such Code is amended by striking clause (vi).

(b) CORPORATIONS.—Section 170(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking clause (i).

(c) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking section 278g–4.

16. CONFORMING CHANGES.—

(a) MADE PERMANENT.—(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Section 170(b)(1)(E) of such Code is amended by striking clause (vi).

(b) CORPORATIONS.—Section 170(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking clause (i).

(c) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking section 278g–4.

17. CONFORMING CHANGES.—

(a) MADE PERMANENT.—(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Section 170(b)(1)(E) of such Code is amended by striking clause (vi).

(b) CORPORATIONS.—Section 170(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking clause (i).

(c) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking section 278g–4.

18. CONFORMING CHANGES.—

(a) MADE PERMANENT.—(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Section 170(b)(1)(E) of such Code is amended by striking clause (vi).

(b) CORPORATIONS.—Section 170(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking clause (i).

(c) CONTRIBUTIONS.—Title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking section 278g–4.
(within the meaning of section 3(m) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) under such Act.
(c) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to contributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF CHARITABLE DEDUCTION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD ITEM.

(a) Permanent Extension.—Section 170(e)(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking clause (iv).
(b) Increase in Limitation.—Section 170(e)(3)(C) of such Code, as amended by subsection (a), is amended by striking clause (ii), by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (ii), and by inserting after clause (i) the following new clause:

(i) Limitation.—The aggregate amount of such contributions for any taxable year which may be taken into account under this section shall not exceed—

(I) in the case of any taxpayer other than a C corporation, 15 percent of the aggregate net income from all trades or businesses from which such contributions were made for such year, computed without regard to this section, and from all trades or businesses from which such contributions may be taken into account under this section (but not below zero) by the aggregate such contribution, but the limitation imposed by this subparagraph shall not apply by taking into account the price at which the same or substantially the same food items (as to both type and quality) are sold by the taxpayer at the time of the contribution, or, if not sold at such time, in the recent past.

(e) Effective Date.—

(1) In General.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the amendments made by this section shall apply to contributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

(2) Limitation: Applicability to C Corporations.—The amendments made by subsection (b) shall apply to contributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 4. RULE ALLOWING CERTAIN TAX-FREE DISBURSEMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES MADE PERMANENT.

(a) In General.—Section 408(d)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subparagraph (F).
(b) Effectiveness.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to distributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 5. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) PAYGO Scorecard.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.
(b) Senate PAYGO Scorecard.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (116th Congress).

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Levin) asked the Speaker to recognize the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Camp).

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

The Speaker pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the previous request of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Levin), the unanimous consent is granted.

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

Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves here today to once again address a group of tax provisions that need to be made permanent, this time for the sake of those who give to and ultimately benefit from charitable organizations.

Every day, selfless Americans nationwide donate in support of an array of causes, be it finding a cure for cancer, helping underprivileged children succeed in school, or simply providing a meal and shelter that, for some, is hard to come by.

Countless Americans dedicate their lives to these causes and serving their friends and neighbors in need. The three charitable policies in this legislation can provide tremendous support for those good works. However, because these policies are only temporary, they are not as effective as they can or should be. It is well past time that Congress takes the necessary action to support America’s charities and those that benefit from their work and make these policies permanent.

What our charities do in America is beyond the power of government to give.

Now, we were close to reaching a bipartisan deal with the Senate that would have made these permanent, but the President decided to play politics and issue a veto threat. Just 2 days before Thanksgiving, the President announced that he considers a policy that encourages donations to food banks to be a giveaway to big corporations.

I would like to see the President travel to see the West Midland Family Center food pantry in my district and tell them that they are a corporate giveaway.

The Supporting America’s Charities Act, H.R. 5806, fixes what the administration and some Senators decided not to. This legislation will ultimately increase charitable giving by making these policies permanent and enabling charities to better serve those in need.

These bipartisan proposals previously passed the House in July of this year as part of the America Gives More Act and continue to experience unrivaled support from organizations nationwide. In fact, more than 1,000 charitable organizations—1,032, to be exact—have written every Member of Congress in support of the permanent tax incentives.

Take, for example, a joint letter authored in July for one of America’s leading charitable organizations. In discussing their unanimous support for the America Gives More Act, they said:

“...The charitable giving incentives being considered by the House have encouraged individuals and small businesses to actively support the development and sustainability of our society. They have spurred contributions, for example, to build health centers, develop counseling programs for at-risk youth, provide nutrition assistance to hungry children, and offer art therapy for people with developmental disabilities.”

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surprises are waiting for them, no more than it is the time for charitable organizations to grow uncertain about their futures.

There is no goodwill like that of an American, and as Representatives of this great Nation, we should do everything we can to encourage individuals to give more and help charitable organizations expand their reach nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, as the giving spirit of the holiday season is around us, I urge my friends on both sides of the aisle and both Houses of Congress to look at the policies—not the politics—look at the policies here and support those who give and support those who are in need by voting “yes” on H.R. 5806.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I shall consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me make clear at the outset that this isn’t a debate about the excellent work of charities or foundations or their vital role in our society. This House has already taken action to provide for the three provisions included in this bill for this year’s tax returns as part of the broad extender bill passed last week.

When the chairman talks about no surprises, we have already passed through the House and what will become law is an extender bill that makes it clear for this tax season that these provisions are in effect. There is no doubt about that. Everyone who voted in favor of the package has already ensured that taxpayers can benefit from these provisions this year.

Look, this isn’t about politics. Frankly, as the lead sponsor originally of one of these bills, I find objectionable any reference to politics. I sponsored that bill regarding food contributions because of my belief that many people wanted to contribute to help individuals to give and support those who are in need. When the President issued his Statement of Administration Policy, there was no politics at all, zero. He had followed for the other traditional tax extenders permanent without offsets were followed for the other traditional tax extenders, it would add $500 billion or more to deficits over the coming years, putting most of the deficit reduction achieved through the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012.

However, the administration strongly opposes passage of H.R. 5806, which would permanently extend three current provisions that offer enhanced tax breaks for certain donations. As the administration stated when strongly opposing similar legislation this past July, if this same, unprecedented approach to traditional tax extenders permanent without offsets were followed for the other traditional tax extenders, it would add $500 billion or more to deficits over the coming years, putting most of the deficit reduction achieved through the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as I may consume. I quote from the administration’s position myself. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The administration wants to work with the Congress to make progress on measures that strengthen America’s charitable sector. However, H.R. 5806 represents the wrong approach.

If the President were presented with H.R. 5806, his senior advisers would recommend that he veto the bill.

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

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

I would say, Mr. Speaker, I have listened very carefully to what the gentleman from Michigan said. I have listened to the statement that he read. I have actually read most of the administration’s position myself. I see nothing in that that gives any Member a reason to vote “no.”

Let me just say Feeding America estimates that H.R. 5806, this bill we are debating tonight, would create 100 million new meals a year. Frankly, I would say to my friend from Michigan: if you are hungry, you can’t wait. Let’s do this now.

Mr. Speaker, I would say in response to reading a statement of administration position that the President has repeatedly said, “Send me bipartisan measures that we can work on together.” there is no more bipartisan issue than helping America’s charities help the needy, help those who are hungry, and help those without housing.

There is no reason to wait. Let’s do this now. Look, we passed a 1-year measure on all these other things. That only gives us 2 weeks. For a lot of these charitable provisions, they need a longer window. They need more certainty to put these programs in place and to put the distribution systems in place to get the food and the resources to people in need.

I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GERLACH), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor.

I had some prepared remarks that I want to give relative to the conservation easement part of this legislation because it is a hugely important issue to the people in southeastern Pennsylvania and many, many other States as well because through conservation easement tax incentives, thousands of acres are preserved throughout the course of a year in a metropoli-

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Mr. Speaker, we have legislation that has hundreds of cosponsors, Republican and Democrat here in the House. We have that same kind of bipartisan support in the Senate.

We have charities all around the United States calling in to Congress asking that this legislation be passed. Regardless of whether they are a group involved in conservation easements or in other pursuits like land banks or the IRA issue, they want us to do something that we finally can agree to do and get it done by the end of the year.

I don't think that is too much to ask for Congress to do. Here we have the bill right in front of us that, on a wide bipartisan basis, is supported in the Senate and the House. We can pass it to make it a permanent part of the Tax Code so these groups can plan in the future and these individuals can plan in the future for how they want to help their charities in their communities. It is right now, and yet we still have opposition to basically coming together to do what we all want to do to begin with. We need to really look ourselves in the mirror here over the next 24 hours and really think about why we are here in Congress.

I would hope, regardless of your party affiliation, you have a wonderful opportunity to help the charities in your community by passing this legislation to make a permanent change in the Tax Code, and that is something we can all reflect on in the 113th Congress as one time, one place, one bill we could come together on and help our communities and help our charities. So I ask all of our colleagues to support this legislation. It is right before us, and yet we still have the future for how they want to help their charities in their communities. It is right now, and yet we still have opposition to basically coming together to do what we all want to do to begin with. We need to really look ourselves in the mirror here over the next 24 hours and really think about why we are here in Congress.

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Mr. LEVIN. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), another member of our committee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding.

Let me be clear. I yield to no one in terms of my support for programs and activities to help those who are in need. I ardently support Federal tax policies that support charities.

I have hundreds of charities and foundations in my congressional district, and even more throughout the State of Illinois. They all provide tremendous support to individuals in terms of services, and tax policies and even requires in their budget resolution that any tax extender made permanent be offset with other revenue measures.

Republican leadership easily could have paid for this bill by closing a tax loophole or two. Republican leadership easily could have brought up this bill under a rule that allowed an offset to be added. Instead, they have chosen to add to the deficit in a political ploy.

So I say again, Mr. Speaker, and I pledge to my constituents and to the charitable organizations to work in a bipartisan way to advance charitable benefits. However, I cannot support this irresponsible bill. The President has issued veto threat, and I support the President.

Mr. CAMP. I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman for yielding, and I would like to thank him for his leadership on this issue and so many others during his esteemed career here in the House. He will be greatly missed as he retires at the end of this Congress.

I rise today in support of H.R. 5806, the Supporting America's Charities Act. This bill reflects the good work that has been done in the Ways and Means Committee during the 113th Congress. It makes permanent important provisions that would continue to allow taxpayers to make contributions from their IRAs to charities, contributions to food inventory, and contributions of conservation easements on a tax-preferred basis.

In the case of these three important provisions, greater permanency will assist taxpayers with their tax planning while helping to advance their charitable goals. Charitable deductions are designed to encourage charitable giving by lowering the cost to privately support charitable organizations. It also recognizes the amounts of income generally given to charity should be treated differently from most other income spent or otherwise used for personal benefit.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill, and I hope that the Senate does this.

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

The way we have acted here, taxpayers will be able to use the IRArollover for this tax season. That is for sure. People who want to make donations, however they do it, relating to nutrition and food will be able to do that for this tax year.

So the issue is not whether we care much about those provisions. As I said, as someone who has worked so hard in terms of nutrition policy, food donations, who has been to so many pantryries, who has been to Forgotten Harvest, worked with them, and Gleaners in southeast Michigan, I know how important it is that these contributions continue. They will under the action of this Congress.

That is not the question. The question is whether this institution will take three provisions out of the extension bill that we passed and make them permanent, unpaid for—permanent and unpaid for, increasing the deficit by $11 billion without giving the same consideration to every other single provision in the extension bill, whether it is education or research and development and so many other provisions that also have some urgency to them.

No, I don't think anybody should worry here about voting 'no' and having challenge by anybody to their dedication to tax policies that give people incentive to give to charities, to foundations, or to nutrition programs, or their dedication in terms of conservation.

What the majority has decided to do is to take, as I said, out of the extension bill three provisions, knowing that the President would veto them, I guess trying to score points against the President instead of scoring points for those whose programs are here.

So that is what this is all about. I want to close by just urging everyone who votes 'no' here, you can say with total honesty that you have voted for legislation that makes sure for this tax season, like for all other extenders, that people will be able in this case to give contributions, to deduct them, to roll over their IRAs, whatever. It will be up to the citizen to make that decision. We are providing that opportunity for citizens who try to undermine the deep dedication of anyone on this side or the President of the United States to the importance of charity I think is
doing a real disservice to the Nation and to themselves—and to themselves. I urge a "no" vote.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would just say briefly, actions speak louder than words. While technically, yes, we are going to make sure that for the last couple of weeks, as my colleague from Pennsylvania so eloquently stated these tax policies will be in place, we need more than that. I mean, whether it is food inventory or conservation easements, these are long-term policies that we are asking people to get involved in.

Let's talk about southeast Michigan. The gentleman raised it. We know who is doing a lot of the work in Detroit—a lot of foundations are. They are setting up plans and processes to help rebuild that city. They need more than 2 weeks of policy. They need permanent policy. These are simple, bipartisan measures, whether it is food inventory, charitable IRAs, or conservation easements.

Look, we know that the watershed of New York City was protected by conservation easements. They couldn’t do that in 2 weeks. The things that we can do with conservation will last decades into the future. We need the interventional long-term policy to put these kinds of plans in place.

Even as I mentioned earlier with regard to food inventories and charitable IRAs, those aren't decisions you make on a whim. Whether you are going to turn a IRA over to charity is a decision that you may be looking at the next 20 years of your retirement, do you have the ability to do that or not. It is not something you can do based on just a couple of weeks.

Look, we know the only nation in the world that lets these things expire. I mean, what the gentleman hasn’t said is these items were expired for all of 2014. We are going to put them in place for the final 2 weeks, and retroactively we are going to say you are going to be able to make a conservation easement contribution? Well, you can’t, and you are not probably going to do it in the next 2 weeks because immediately when the clock hits 2015, you are not going to have the tax policy.

Look, I would ask people, don’t just vote in lockstep. Really examine your conscience and whether at this time of year, with the great needs this Nation is facing, if we faced really for the last decade, what we can do to make a difference now? Why do we need to wait?

As the gentleman has said, look, we have tried to make these things permanent, we worked, we didn’t work. It hasn’t worked in trying to make a lot of these extensions permanent in an agreement between the House and Senate. But these are important, these will make a difference where government doesn’t go.

It is our foundations and our charities that actually innovate in this area and find out what works. As we know, government isn’t the most innovative in this area. That is why these are important to do now.

I think especially in this season of giving we shouldn’t just vote because our leaders tell us to or because we have gotten the latest from the administration. We should really look carefully at how we can make a difference, how we can make a difference by this vote that we are going to take and what that will mean for people’s lives and the countless families or people that depend on selfless Americans to make it from day to day. I would urge a ‘‘yes’’ vote on this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.
SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for necessary expenses of the Coast Guard as follows:

(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard Reserve, $6,896,000.

(2) For the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, and improvement of aids to navigation, $1,546,456,000, to remain available until expended.

(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including personnel and training costs, equipment, and services, $140,016,000.

(4) For environmental compliance and restoration of Coast Guard vessels, aircraft, and facilities, including equipment related thereto, $1,546,456,000, to remain available until expended.

Title I—Authorization

Sec. 102. AUTHORIZED LEVELS OF MILITARY TRAINING STUDENT LOADS.

(a) ACTIVE DUTY STRENGTH.—The Coast Guard is authorized an end-of-year strength of active duty personnel of 38,500 for fiscal year 2015.

(b) MILITARY TRAINING STUDENT LOADS.—The Coast Guard is authorized average military training student loads for fiscal year 2015 as follows:

(1) For recruit and special training, 2,500 student years.

(2) For flight training, 165 student years.

(3) For professional training in military and civilian institutions, 350 student years.

(4) For officer acquisition, 1,200 student years.

Title II—Coast Guard

Sec. 201. COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Section 42(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking "7,200" and inserting "3,800."

Sec. 202. COMMANDANT; APPOINTMENT.

Section 44 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: “The term of an appointment, and any reappointment, shall begin on June 1 of the appropriate year and end on May 31 of the appropriate year, except that, in the event of death, retirement, resignation, or reassignment, or when the needs of the Service demand, the Secretary may alter the date on which a term begins or ends if that alteration will result in the term exceeding a period of 4 years.”.

Title VI—Miscellaneous

Sec. 601. Distant water tuna fleet.

Sec. 602. Extension of moratorium.

Sec. 603. Natural maritime strategy.

Sec. 604. Waivers.

Sec. 605. Competition by United States flag vessels.

Sec. 606. Vessel requirements for notices of arrival and departure and automatic identification system.

Sec. 607. Conveyance of Coast Guard properties at Gig Harbor, Washington.

Sec. 608. Conveyance of certain property in Rochester, New York.

Sec. 609. Vessel determination.

Sec. 610. Safe vessel operation in Thunder Bay.

Sec. 611. Parking facilities.
purposes of the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard, the Commandant shall provide notification regarding the proposed determination to—

‘‘(1) the Governor of each State in which such waterway, or portion thereof, is located;

‘‘(2) the public; and

(c) Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(d) Clerical Amendment—Each notification provided under subsection (a) to an entity specified in paragraph (3) of that subsection shall include—

‘‘(1) an analysis of whether vessels operating on the waterway, or portion thereof, subject to the proposed determination are subject to inspection or similar regulation by State or local officials; and

‘‘(2) an analysis of whether operators of commercial vessels on such waterway, or portion thereof, are subject to licensing or similar regulation by State or local officials; and

‘‘(3) an estimate of the annual costs that the Coast Guard may incur in conducting operations on such waterway, or portion thereof—

‘‘(A) the Commandant shall provide notifiable information to the Academy.

(b) Membership—The Commandant may consult with advisors the Commandant considers appropriate.

(c) Clerical Amendment—The analysis for chapter 14, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘163. Notification of certain determinations.’’

SEC. 211. ANNUAL BOARD OF VISITORS. Section 194 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

‘‘§ 194. Annual Board of Visitors

(a) In General.—A Board of Visitors to the Academy is established to review and make recommendations on the operation of the Academy.

(b) Membership.—

‘‘(1) In general.—The membership of the Board shall consist of the following:

‘‘(A) The chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, or the chairman’s designee.

‘‘(B) The chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, or the chairman’s designee.

‘‘(C) 3 Members of the Senate designated by the Vice President.

‘‘(D) 6 Members of the House of Representatives designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

‘‘(E) 6 individuals designated by the President.

‘‘(2) Length of Service.—

‘‘(A) Members of Congress.—A Member of Congress designated under subparagraph (C) or (D) of paragraph (1) as a member of the Board shall be designated as a member in the First Session of a Congress and serve for the duration of that Congress.

‘‘(B) Individuals Designated by the President.—Each individual designated by the President under subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) shall serve as a member of the Board for 3 years, except that any such member whose term of office has expired shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

‘‘(C) Death or Resignation of a Member.—If a member of the Board dies or resigns, a successor shall be designated for any unexpired portion of the term of the member by the officer designated by the member.

‘‘(c) Academy Visits.—

‘‘(1) Annual Visit.—The Board shall visit the Academy annually to review the operation of the Academy.

‘‘(2) Additional Visits.—With the approval of the Secretary, the Board or individual members of the Board may make other visits to the Academy in connection with the duties of the Board or to consult with the Superintendent of the Academy.

‘‘(d) Scope of Review.—The Board shall review, with respect to the Academy—

‘‘(1) the state of morale and discipline;

‘‘(2) the curriculum;

‘‘(3) the instructional equipment;

‘‘(4) physical equipment;

‘‘(5) fiscal affairs; and

‘‘(6) other matters relating to the Academy that the Board determines appropriate.

‘‘(e) Report.—Not later than 60 days after the date of an annual visit of the Board under subsection (c)(1), the Board shall submit a report to the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the actions of the Board during such visit and the recommendations of the Board pertaining to the Academy.

‘‘(f) Advisors.—If approved by the Secretary, the Board may consult with advisors in carrying out this section.

‘‘(g) REMOVAL.—Each member of the Board and each advisor consulted by the Board under subsection (f) shall be reimbursed, to the extent permitted by law, by the Coast Guard for the expenses incurred while engaged in duties as a member or advisor.’’

SEC. 212. FLAG OFFICERS. (a) In General.—Title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 296 the following:

‘‘§ 296. Flag officers

‘‘During any period in which the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy, section 296 of title 10 does not apply with respect to flag officers of the Coast Guard.’’

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 298 the following:

‘‘296. Flag officers.’’

SEC. 213. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON MEDALS OF HONOR. Section 494 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ‘‘medal of honor’’ each place it appears.

SEC. 214. COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE.

(a) In General.—Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after chapter 13 the following:

‘‘CHAPTER 14—COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE

‘‘SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

‘‘Sec. 531. Work-life policies and programs.

‘‘Sec. 532. Surveys of Coast Guard families.

‘‘Sec. 533. Youth sponsorship initiatives.

‘‘Sec. 534. Education and training opportunities for Coast Guard spouses.

‘‘Sec. 535. Work-life policies and programs.

(b) Definitions.—In this subsection, the following definitions apply:

‘‘(1) Eligible spouse.—

‘‘(A) In general.—The term ‘eligible spouse’ means the spouse of a member of the Coast Guard who is serving on active duty and includes a spouse who receives transitional compensation under section 1059 of title 10.

‘‘(B) Exclusion.—The term ‘eligible spouse’ does not include a person who—

‘‘(i) is married to, but legally separated from, a member of the Coast Guard under a court order or statute of any State or territorial possession of the United States; or

‘‘(ii) is eligible for tuition assistance as a member of the Armed Forces.

‘‘(2) Portable career.—The term ‘portable career’ includes an occupation that requires education, training, or both that results in a credential that is recognized by an industry, profession, or specific type of business.

‘‘(3) Child development center.—The term ‘child development center’ includes a program that is authorized to establish, within any Coast Guard unit, an initiative to help integrate the children of members of the Coast Guard who receive permanent change of station orders, and describes an initiative established under subsection (a) that—

‘‘(1) provides for the involvement of a dependent child of a member of the Coast Guard in the dependent child’s new Coast Guard community; and

‘‘(2) primarily focus on preteen and teen-aged children.

(c) Authority.—In carrying out an initiative under subsection (a), the Commandant may—

‘‘(1) establish an office for the purpose of developing, promulgating, and coordinating policies, programs, and activities related to the families of Coast Guard members;
“(1) provide to a dependent child of a member of the Coast Guard information on youth programs and activities available in the dependent child’s new Coast Guard community; and

“(2) enter into agreements with nonprofit entities to provide youth programs and activities to such child.

SUBCHAPTER III—COAST GUARD CHILD CARE

§ 551. Definitions

“In this subchapter, the following definitions apply:

“(1) CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.—The term ‘child abuse and neglect’ has the meaning given therein section 3 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106 note).

“(2) CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER EMPLOYEE.—The term ‘child development center employee’ means a civilian employee of the Coast Guard who is employed to work in a Coast Guard child development center without regard to whether the employee is paid from appropriated or nonappropriated funds.

“(3) COAST GUARD CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER.—The term ‘Coast Guard child development center’ means a facility on Coast Guard property under the jurisdiction of the commander of a Coast Guard unit at which child care services are provided for members of the Coast Guard.

“(4) COMPETITIVE SERVICE POSITION.—The term ‘competitive service position’ means a position in the competitive service (as defined in section 2102 of title 5).

“(5) FAMILY HOME DAYCARE.—The term ‘family home daycare’ means home-based child care services provided for a member of the Coast Guard by an individual who—

“(A) is the Commandant as qualified to provide home-based child care services; and

“(B) provides home-based child care services on a regular basis in exchange for monetary compensation.

§ 553. Child development center standards and inspections

“(a) STANDARDS.—The Commandant shall require each Coast Guard child development center to meet standards that the Commandant considers appropriate to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the children and employees at each center.

“(b) INSPECTIONS.—The Commandant shall provide for regular and unannounced inspections of each Coast Guard child development center to ensure compliance with this section.

“(c) NATIONAL REPORTING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall maintain and publicize a means by which an individual can report, with respect to a Coast Guard child development center or a family home daycare—

“(A) any suspected violation of—

“(i) standards established under subsection (a); or

“(ii) any other applicable law or standard;

“(B) any suspected child abuse or neglect; or

“(C) any other deficiency.

“(2) ANONYMOUS REPORTING.—The Commandant shall ensure that an individual making a report pursuant to paragraph (1) may do so anonymously if so desired by the individual.

“(3) PROCEDURES.—The Commandant shall establish procedures for investigating reports made pursuant to paragraph (1).

§ 554. Child development center employees

“(a) TRAINING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall establish a training program for Coast Guard child development center employees and satisfactory completion of the training program shall be a condition of employment for each employee of a Coast Guard child development center.

“(2) TIMING FOR NEW HIRES.—The Commandant shall require each employee of a Coast Guard child development center to complete the training program established under paragraph (1) not later than 6 months after the date on which the employee is hired.

“(3) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The training program established under paragraph (1) shall include at least a minimum, instruction with respect to—

“(A) early childhood development;

“(B) activities and disciplinary techniques appropriate to each employee’s age group;

“(C) child abuse and neglect prevention and detection; and

“(D) cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency medical procedures.

“(4) USE OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS.—The Commandant may use Department of Defense training programs, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, for purposes of this subsection.

“(b) TRAINING AND CURRICULUM SPECIALISTS.—

“(1) SPECIALIST REQUIRED.—The Commandant shall require that at least 1 employee at each Coast Guard child development center be a specialist in training and curriculum development with appropriate credentials and experience.

“(2) DUTIES.—The duties of the specialist described in paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) developing training curricula;

“(B) providing oversight and instruction of other child care employees;

“(C) daily assistance in the preparation of lesson plans;

“(D) assisting with child abuse and neglect prevention and detection; and

“(E) advising the director of the center on the performance of the other child care employees.

“(3) COMPETITIVE SERVICE.—Each specialist described in paragraph (1) shall be an employee in a competitive service position.

§ 555. Child development center employees

“(a) PARENT PARTNERSHIPS WITH CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

“(1) FORMATION.—The Commandant shall require that there be formed at each Coast Guard child development center a board of parents, to be composed of parents of children attending the center.

“(2) FUNCTIONS.—Each board of parents formed under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) meet periodically with the staff of the center at which the board is formed and the commander of the unit served by the center, for the purpose of discussing problems and concerns; and

“(B) be responsible, together with the staff of the center, for coordinating any parent participation initiative established under subsection (b).

“(3) PACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) does not apply to a board of parents formed under paragraph (1).

“(b) PARENT PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE.—The Commandant is authorized to establish a parent participation initiative at each Coast Guard child development center to encourage and facilitate parent participation in educational and related activities at the center.

“(c) TRANSFER OF PROVISIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.

“(A) REIMBURSEMENT FOR ADOPTION EXPENSES.—Section 511 of title 14, United States Code, is redesignated as section 514; and transferred to appear before section 541 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

“(B) CHIL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES.—Section 515 of title 14, United States Code—

“(i) is redesignated as section 552 and transferred to appear after section 561 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section; and

“(ii) is amended—

“(I) in subsection (b)(2)(B) by inserting “and whether a facility is participating in an initiative established under section 555(b)” after “family income”;

“(II) by striking subsections (c) and (d); and

“(III) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

“(C) DEPENDENT SCHOOL CHILDREN.—Section 657 of title 14, United States Code—

“(1) is redesignated as section 553; and

“(2) is amended—

“(A) PART I.—The analysis for part I of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 13 the following:

“14. Coast Guard Family Support and Child Care ............. 531”;

“(B) CHAPTER 13.—The analysis for chapter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

“(i) by striking the item relating to section 514; and

“(ii) by striking the item relating to section 515.

“(C) CHAPTER 14.—The analysis for chapter 14 of title 14, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section, is amended by inserting—

“(i) before the item relating to section 542 the following:

“541. Reimbursement for adoption expenses.”;

“(ii) after the item relating to section 551 the following:

“552. Child development services.”; and

“(iii) after the item relating to section 543 the following:

“544. Dependent school children.”.

“1. CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES....... 531

“2. SENSE OF CONGRESS

“(D) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that the amount of funds appropriated for a fiscal year for operating expenses related to Coast Guard child development services should not be less than the amount of the child development center fee receipts estimated to be collected by the Coast Guard during that fiscal year.

“(E) CHIL DEVELOPMENT CENTER FEE RECEIPTS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘child development center fee receipts’ means fees paid by members of the Coast Guard for child care services provided at Coast Guard child development centers.

SEC. 215. MISSION NEED STATEMENT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 569 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 569. Mission need statement

“(a) IN GENERAL.—On the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for the fiscal year 2011 under section 1101 of title 31, on the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2019

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under such section, and every 4 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an integrated major acquisition mission need statement.

(‘‘(1) INTEGRATED MAJOR ACQUISITION MISSION NEED STATEMENT.—The term ‘integrated major acquisition mission need statement’ means a document that—

‘‘(A) identifies current and projected gaps in Coast Guard mission capabilities using mission hour targets;

‘‘(B) explains how each major acquisition program addresses gaps identified under subparagraph (A) of this section if funded at the levels provided for in the most recently submitted capital investment plan; and

‘‘(C) describes the missions the Coast Guard will not be able to achieve, by fiscal year, for each gap identified under subparagraph (A).

‘‘(2) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘major acquisition program’ has the meaning given such term in paragraph (2) of section 219 of title 31, United States Code.

‘‘(3) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—The term ‘capital investment plan’ means the plan required under section 651(a)(1).

‘‘(b) C LERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by striking the item relating to section 651 the following:

‘‘§ 651. Mission need statement.’’.

SEC. 216. TRANSMISSION OF ANNUAL COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.

(a) In General.—Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 662 the following:

‘‘§ 662a. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request

‘‘(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for a fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on an ongoing basis; and

‘‘(b) COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘Coast Guard authorization request’ means a proposal for legislation that, with respect to the Coast Guard for the relevant fiscal year—

‘‘(1) recommends end strengths for personnel for that fiscal year, as described in section 661;

‘‘(2) recommends authorizations of appropriations for that fiscal year, including with respect to matters described in section 662; and

‘‘(3) addresses any other matter that the Secretary determines is appropriate for inclusion in a Coast Guard authorization bill.’’.

(b) C LERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 662 the following:

‘‘662a. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.’’.

SEC. 217. INVENTORY OF REAL PROPERTY.

(a) In General.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘§ 679. Inventory of real property—

‘‘(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2015, the Commandant shall establish an inventory of all real property, including submerged lands, under the control of the Coast Guard, which shall include—

‘‘(1) the size, the location, and any other appropriate description of each unit of such property;

‘‘(2) an assessment of the physical condition of each unit of such property, excluding lands;

‘‘(3) a determination of whether each unit of such property should be—

‘‘(A) retained to fulfill a current or projected Coast Guard mission requirement; or

‘‘(B) subject to divestiture; and

‘‘(4) other information the Commandant considers appropriate.

‘‘(b) INVENTORY MAINTENANCE.—The Commandant shall—

‘‘(1) maintain the inventory required under subsection (a) on an ongoing basis; and

‘‘(2) update information on each unit of real property included in such inventory not later than 30 days after any change relating to the control of such property.

‘‘(c) RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than March 30, 2016, and every 5 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes—

‘‘(1) a list of all real property under the control of the Coast Guard or a dependent of such a property;

‘‘(2) recommendations for divestiture with respect to any units of such property; and

‘‘(3) recommendations for consolidating any units of such property, including—

‘‘(A) an estimate of the costs or savings associated with each recommended consolidation; and

‘‘(B) a discussion of the impact that such consolidation would have on Coast Guard mission effectiveness.

‘‘(d) C LERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘679. Inventory of real property.’’.

SEC. 218. RETIRED SERVICE MEMBERS AND DEPENDENTS SERVING ON ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

(a) In General.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘§ 680. Retired service members and dependents serving on advisory committees—

‘‘(a) A committee that—

‘‘(1) advises or assists the Coast Guard with respect to a function that affects a member of the Coast Guard or a dependent of such a member; and

‘‘(2) includes in its membership a retired Coast Guard member or a dependent of such a retired member, shall not be considered an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) solely because of such membership.’’.

(b) C LERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 679 the following:

‘‘680. Retired service members and dependents serving on advisory committees.’’.

SEC. 219. ACTIVE DUTY FOR EMERGENCY AUGMENTATION OF REGULAR FORCES.

Section 712(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ‘‘70 days in any 4-month period’’.

SEC. 220. ACQUISITION WORKFORCE EXPEDITED REPORT.

Section 406(b) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–281; 124 Stat. 2651) is amended by striking ‘‘2015’’ and inserting ‘‘2017’’.

SEC. 221. COAST GUARD ADMINISTRATIVE SAVINGS.

(a) ELIMINATION OF OUTDATED AND DUPLICATE REPORTS.—

(1) MARINE INDUSTRY TRAINING.—Section 59 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ‘‘In General.—The Commandant’’ and inserting ‘‘The Commandant’’; and

(B) by striking subsection (b).

(2) OPERATIONS AND EXPENDITURES.—Section 651 of title 14, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis of chapter 17 of such title, are repealed.

(3) DRUG INTERDICTION.—Section 103 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 (14 U.S.C. 70 note), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents in section 2 of that Act, are repealed.

(4) NATIONAL DEFENSE.—Section 426 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 1206), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents in section 1(b) of that Act, are repealed.

(5) LIVING MARINE RESOURCES.—Section 4(b) of the Cruise Vessel Security and Safety Act of 2010 (16 U.S.C. 1228 note) is amended by adding at the end the following: ‘‘No report shall be required under this subsection, including that no report shall be required under section 224 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 or section 4 of the Coastal Maritime Transportation Act of 2006, for fiscal years beginning after fiscal year 2014.’’.

(b) CONSOLIDATION AND REFORM OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) MARINE SAFETY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 2116(d)(2)(B) of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows: ‘‘(B) on the program’s mission performance in achieving numerical measurable goals established in the budget under this subsection, including—

‘‘(i) the number of civilian and military Coast Guard personnel assigned to marine safety positions; and

‘‘(ii) the identification of marine safety positions that are understaffed to meet the workload required to accomplish each activity included in the strategy and plans under subsection (a); and

‘‘(C) CONFIRMING AMENDMENT.—Section 57 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(B) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (e), (f), and (g) respectively.

(2) MINOR CONSTRUCTION.—Section 656(d)(2) of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows: ‘‘(2) REPORT.—Not later than the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget under section 1105 of title 31 each year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing each project carried out under paragraph (1), in the most recently concluded fiscal year, for which the amount expended under such paragraph for such project was more than $1,000,000. If no such project was carried out during such year, no report under this paragraph shall be required with respect to that fiscal year.’’.

SEC. 222. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 14, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION.—Section 93(b)(1) of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in section 93(b)(1) by striking ‘‘Notwithstanding subsection (a)(14)’’ and inserting ‘‘Notwithstanding subsection (a)(15)’’;

(2) in section 93(b)(1) by striking ‘‘of Homeland Security’’;
SEC. 223. MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR OFFSHORE PATROL CUTTERS.

In fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may enter into, in accordance with section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, multiyear contracts for the procurement of Offshore Patrol Cutters and associated equipment.

SEC. 224. MAINTAINING MEDIUM ENDURANCE CUTTER MISSION CAPABILITY.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a written assessment of the Commander of the Coast Guard on the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) a schedule and plan for decommissioning, not later than September 30, 2029, each of the 210-foot, Reliance-Class Cutters operated by the Coast Guard on the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) a schedule and plan for enhancing the maintenance or extending the service life of each of the 270-foot, Pamouche-Class Cutters operated by the Coast Guard on the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) to maintain the capability of the Coast Guard to transmit weather, ice, and other important information to vessels; and

(B) the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters not capable of sea state 5 operations that, if 8 National Security Cutters are commissioned, are necessary to return the Coast Guard to the level of capability that existed prior to the decommissioning of the first High Endurance Cutter in fiscal year 2011;

(3) an identification of the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters capable of sea state 5 operations that, if 8 National Security Cutters are commissioned, are necessary to return the Coast Guard to the level of capability in areas where such technology will not be installed;

(4) a schedule and plan for decommissioning, not later than September 30, 2034, a number of Offshore Patrol Cutters not capable of sea state 5 operations that is equal to—

(A) less than—

(B) the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters identified under paragraph (3); and

(5) a schedule and plan for commissioning the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters identified under paragraph (3); and

(6) a schedule and plan for commissioning, not later than September 30, 2034, a number of Offshore Patrol Cutters not capable of sea state 5 operations that is equal to—

(A) less than—

(B) the number of Offshore Patrol Cutters identified under paragraph (3).

SEC. 225. AVIATION CAPABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may—

(1) request and accept through a direct military-to-military transfer under section 2271 of title 10, United States Code, such HH-60 helicopters as may be necessary to establish a year-round operational capability in the Coast Guard’s Ninth District; and

(2) use funds under section 101 of this Act to convert such helicopters to Coast Guard MH-60T configuration.

(b) PROHIBITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Coast Guard may not—

(A) close a Coast Guard air facility that was in operation on November 30, 2014; or

(B) retire, transfer, relocate, or deploy an aviation asset from an air facility described in subparagraph (A) for the purpose of closing such facility.

(2) HILL.—This subsection is repealed effective January 1, 2016.

SEC. 226. GAPS IN WRITINGS ON COAST GUARD HISTORY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on any gaps that shall exist in writings of the Coast Guard. The report shall address, at a minimum, operations, broad topics, and biographies with respect to the Coast Guard.

SEC. 227. OFFICER EVALUATION REPORTS.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a written assessment of the Coast Guard’s officer evaluation reporting system.

(b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the extent to which the Coast Guard’s officer evaluation reports differ in length, form, and content from the officer fitness reports used by the Navy and other branches of the Armed Forces;

(2) the extent to which differences determined pursuant to paragraph (1) are the result of inherent differences between—

(A) the Coast Guard and the Navy; and

(B) the Coast Guard and other branches of the Armed Forces;

(3) the feasibility of more closely aligning and conforming the Coast Guard’s officer evaluation reports with the officer fitness reports of the Navy and other branches of the Armed Forces;

(4) the costs and benefits of the alignment and conformity described in paragraph (3), including with respect to—

(A) Coast Guard administrative efficiency;

(B) fairness and equity for Coast Guard officers; and

(C) carrying out the Coast Guard’s statutory mission of defense readiness, including when operating as a service in the Navy.

SEC. 228. IMPROVED SAFETY INFORMATION FOR VESSELS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process for an operator of a marine exchange or other non-Federal vessel traffic information service to use the automatic identification system to transmit weather, ice, and other important navigation safety information to vessels.

SEC. 229. E-LORAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not carry out activities related to the dismantling or disposal of infrastructure that supported the former LORAN system until the later of—

(1) the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) the date on which the Secretary provides to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a notification that such infrastructure is not required to provide a positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.

(b) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and other agreements with Federal agencies, other public or private entities, including academic entities, to develop a positioning, navigation, and timing system, including an enhanced LORAN system, to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.

SEC. 230. ANALYSIS OF RESOURCE DEFICIENCIES WITH RESPECT TO MARITIME BORDER SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report describing any Coast Guard resource deficiencies related to—

(1) securing maritime borders with respect to the Great Lakes and the coastal areas of the Southeastern and Southwestern United States, including the ports of Florida, California, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands;

(2) patrolling and monitoring maritime approaches to the areas described in paragraph (1); and

(3) patrolling and monitoring relevant portions of the Western Hemisphere Drug Transit Zone.

(b) SCOPE.—In preparing the report under subsection (a), the Commandant shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the Coast Guard’s statutory missions with respect to migrant interdiction, drug interdiction, defense readiness, living marine resources, and ports, waterways, and coastal security;

(2) whether Coast Guard missions are being executed to meet national performance targets set under the National Drug Control Strategy;

(3) the number and types of cutters and other vessels required to effectively execute Coast Guard missions;

(4) the number and types of aircraft, including unmanned aircraft, required to effectively execute Coast Guard missions;

(5) the number of assets that require upgraded sensor and communications systems to effectively execute Coast Guard missions;

(6) the Deployable Specialized Forces required to effectively execute Coast Guard missions; and

(7) whether additional shoreside facilities are required to accommodate Coast Guard personnel and assets in support of Coast Guard missions.

SEC. 231. MODERNIZATION OF NATIONAL DISASTER TRESPASS AND RESPONSE SYSTEM.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the implementation of the Rescue 21 project in Alaska and in Coast Guard sectors Upper Mississippi River, Lower Mississippi River, and Ohio River Valley.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) describe what improvements are being made to the distress response system in the areas specified in subsection (a), including information on which areas will receive digital selective calling and direction finding capability; and

(2) describe the impediments to installing digital selective calling and direction finding capability in areas where such technology will not be installed.

(3) identify locations in the areas specified in subsection (a) where communication gaps will continue to present a risk to mariners after completion of the Rescue 21 project; and

(4) include a list of all reported marine accidents, casualties, fatalities occurring
in the locations identified under paragraph (3) since 1990; and
(5) provide an estimate of the costs associated with installing the technology necessary to accommodate the removal costs in the locations identified under paragraph (3).

SEC. 232. REPORT RECONCILING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that outlines a course of action to reconcile general maintenance priorities for cutters with operational priorities on the Missouri River.

SEC. 233. MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE ASSISTANCE POLICY ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall assess the Maritime Search and Rescue Assistance Policy as it relates to State and local responders.

(b) SCOPE.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall consider, at a minimum—
(1) the extent to which Coast Guard search and rescue vessels have entered into domestic search and rescue agreements with State and local responders under the National Search and Rescue Plan;
(2) whether domestic search and rescue agreements include the Maritime Search and Rescue Assistance Policy; and
(3) the extent to which Coast Guard sectors coordinate with emergency centers, including ensuring the dissemination of appropriate maritime distress check-sheets.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit a report on the assessment under subsection (a) to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

SEC. 301. REPEAL.

Chapter 555 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—
(1) by repealing section 55501;
(2) by redesignating section 55502 as section 55501; and
(3) by inserting the following:

“55501. United States Committee on the Marine Transportation System.”.

SEC. 302. DONATION OF HISTORICAL PROPERTY.

Section 51103 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) DONATION FOR HISTORICAL PURPOSES.—
"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may convey—
(i) the right, title, and interest of the United States in any property administered by the Maritime Administration, except real estate or vessels, if—
(A) the Secretary determines that such property is not needed by the Maritime Administration; and
(B) the recipient—
(i) is a nonprofit organization, a State, or a political subdivision of a State;
(ii) agrees to hold the Government harmless for any claims arising from exposure to hazardous materials, including asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls, or lead paint, after conversion of the property; and
(iii) provides a description and explanation of the intended use of the property to the Secretary for approval;
(iv) agrees that the Secretary, if requested in the Secretary’s proof, as determined by the Secretary, of resources sufficient to accomplish the intended use provided under clause (iii) and to maintain the property;
(v) agrees that when the recipient no longer requires the property, the recipient shall transfer the property to the Secretary; and
(vi) agrees to any additional terms the Secretary considers appropriate.
(2) REVERSOION.—The Secretary shall include in any conveyance under this subsection—
i.  section terms under which all right, title, and interest conveyed by the Secretary shall revert to the Government if the Secretary determines the property has been used other than as approved by the Secretary under paragraph (1)(B)(iii).

SEC. 303. SMALL SHIPOWER.

Section 706 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking “2009 through 2013” and inserting “2015 through 2017”.

SEC. 304. DRUG TESTING REPORTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—
(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “an applicant for employment by a Federal agency,“ after “Federal agency,”; and
(2) in subsection (c), by inserting “the employee or the applicant.”

SEC. 305. OPPORTUNITIES FOR SEA SERVICE VETERANS.

(a) ENDOWMENT FOR VETERANS.—Section 7101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) The Secretary may issue a license under this section in a class other than as approved by the Secretary under paragraph (1)(B)(iii).

SEC. 306. CLARIFICATION OF HIGH-RISK WATERS.

Section 5505 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—
(1) in paragraph (1)—
(A) by striking “providing armed personnel aboard” and inserting “reimbursing, subject to the availability of appropriations, the owner operators of”;
and
(B) by inserting “for the cost of providing armed personnel aboard such vessels” before “if”;
and
(2) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘high-risk waters’ means waters so designated by the Commandant of the Coast Guard in the maritime security directive issued by the Commandant and in effect on the date on which an applicable voyage begins, if the Secretary of Transportation determines that an act of piracy is probable in such waters.”.

SEC. 307. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Title 46, section 2181(b)(1)(D) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 93(c)” and inserting “section 93(c) of title 14.”

(b) COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2006.—Section 304(a) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-241; 33 U.S.C. 1503 note) is amended by inserting “and from” before “the United States”.

(c) DEEPWATER PORT ACT OF 1974.—Section 404 of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1504(b)(1)) is amended by striking “or that will supply” after “be supplied with”.

SEC. 308. REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the number of jobs, including vessel construction and vessel operating jobs, that would be created under United States maritime industry each year in 2015 through 2025 if liquefied natural gas exported from the United States were required to be carried—
(1) in domestically built vessels;
(2) in vessels built outside the United States; and
(3) in vessels built outside the United States; and
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(2) on and after such date, on vessels documented under the laws of the United States and constructed in the United States.

SEC. 309. FISHING SAFETY GRANT PROGRAMS.

(a) FISHING SAFETY TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4502(j)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking “2010 through 2014” and inserting “2015 through 2017”.

(b) FISHING SAFETY RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4502(j)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking “2010 through 2014” and inserting “2015 through 2017”.

SEC. 310. ESTABLISHMENT OF MERCHANT MARINE PERSONNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) Establishment.—Chapter 81 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘§ 8108. Merchant Maritime Personnel Advisory Committee

‘‘(a) Establishment.—The Secretary shall establish a Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as ‘the Committee’). The Committee—

‘‘(1) shall act solely in an advisory capacity to the Secretary through the Commandant of the Coast Guard on matters relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, documentation, and fitness standards, and other matters as assigned by the Commandant;

‘‘(2) shall review and comment on proposed Coast Guard regulations and policies relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards;

‘‘(3) may be given special assignments by the Secretary and may conduct studies, inquiries, workshops, and fact finding in consultation with individuals and groups relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, documentation, and fitness standards;

‘‘(4) shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations reflecting its independent judgment to the Secretary;

‘‘(5) shall meet not less than twice each year; and

‘‘(6) may make available to Congress recommendations that the Committee makes to the Secretary.

(b) Membership.—The Committee shall consist of not more than 19 members who are appointed by and serve terms of a duration determined by the Secretary. Before filling a position on the Committee, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register soliciting nominations for membership on the Committee.

(c) Required Members.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary shall appoint as members of the Committee—

(A) 9 United States citizens with active licenses or certificates issued under chapter 71 or merchant mariner documents issued under chapter 73, including—

(i) 3 deck officers who represent the viewpoint of merchant marine deck officers, of whom—

(I) 2 shall be licensed for ocean any gross tons;

(II) 1 shall be licensed for inland waterway route with a limited or unlimited tonnage;

(III) 2 shall have a master’s license or a master of towing vessels license;

(IV) shall have significant tanker experience; and

(V) to the extent practicable—

(aa) 1 shall represent the viewpoint of labor; and

(bb) another shall represent a management perspective;

(ii) 3 engineering officers who represent the viewpoint of merchant marine engineering officers, of whom—

(I) 2 shall be licensed as chief engineer any horsepower vessel license, or

(II) shall be licensed as either a limited chief engineer or a designated duty engineer; and

(III) to the extent practicable—

(aa) 1 shall represent a labor viewpoint; and

(bb) another shall represent a management perspective;

(iii) 2 unlicensed seamen, of whom—

(I) 1 shall represent the viewpoint of able-bodied seamen; and

(II) another shall represent the viewpoint of qualified members of the engine department; and

(iv) 1 pilot, who represents the viewpoint of merchant marine pilots;

(B) 6 maritime educators, including—

(i) 3 marine educators who represent the viewpoint of maritime academies, including—

(I) 2 who represent the viewpoint of State maritime academies and are jointly recommended by such State maritime academies; and

(II) 1 who represents either the viewpoint of the State maritime academies or the United States Merchant Marine Academy; and

(ii) 3 marine educators who represent the viewpoint of other maritime training institutions, 1 of whom shall represent the viewpoint of the small vessel industry;

(C) 2 individuals who represent the viewpoint of shipping companies employed in ship operation management; and

(D) 2 members who are appointed from the general public.

(d) Consultation.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Transportation in making an appointment under paragraph (2).

(e) Chair and Vice Chair.—The Secretary shall designate one member of the Committee as the Chair and one member of the Committee as the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall act as Chair in the absence or incapacity of the Chairman, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Chairman.

(f) Subcommittees.—The Committee may establish and disestablish subcommittees and working groups for any purpose consistent with this section, subject to conditions imposed by the Committee. Members of the Committee may be drawn from the general public may be assigned to such subcommittees and working groups. Only Committee members may chair subcommittees or working groups.

(g) Termination.—The Committee shall terminate on September 30, 2020.

(h) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘§ 8108. Merchant Maritime Personnel Advisory Committee.’’.

SEC. 311. TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE.

(a) TITLE 14, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 2110 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

‘‘(b)(1) In addition to the collection of fees and charges established under subsection (a), in providing a service or thing of value under this subtitle the Secretary may accept in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence.

(2) The value of in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence accepted under this paragraph may not exceed applicable per diem rates set forth in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37.

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “sections (a) and (b),” and inserting “subsection (a).”.

(b) TITLE 14, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 2110 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsections (e) through (g) as sections (f) through (h), respectively, and by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

‘‘(e) In addition to the collection of fees and charges established under this section, in the provision of a service or thing of value by the Coast Guard the Secretary may accept in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence.

(2) The value of in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence accepted under this paragraph may not exceed applicable per diem rates set forth in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37.’’.

(c) Limitation.—The Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating may not accept in-kind transportation, travel, or subsistence under this section, unless the Secretary determines that the acceptability of in-kind reimbursements and

(2) certifies that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is advised of the amendments made under paragraph (1).

SEC. 312. PROMPT INTERGOVERNMENTAL NOTICE OF MARINE CASUALTIES.

Section 6101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

‘‘(c) NOTICE TO STATE AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.—Not later than 24 hours after receiving a notice of a major marine casualty under this section, the Secretary shall notify each State or federally recognized Indian tribe that is, or may reasonably be expected to be, affected by such marine casualty.”’;

(2) in subsection (b),

(A) by striking ‘‘1’’; and

(B) by redesignating subsection (b)(2) as subsection (i) of section 6101, and in such subsection—

(i) by striking ‘‘paragraph,’’ and inserting ‘‘section.’’; and

(ii) by redesigning subparagraphs (A) through (D) as paragraphs (1) through (4); and

(3) by redesigning the last subsection as subsection (j).

SEC. 313. AREA CONTINGENCY PLANS.

‘‘(j) The value of in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence accepted under this paragraph may not exceed applicable per diem rates set forth in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37.’’; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ‘‘subsections (a) and (b),” and inserting ‘‘subsection (a).”.

(b) TITLE 14, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 2110 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsections (e) through (g) as sections (f) through (h), respectively, and by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

‘‘(e) In addition to the collection of fees and charges established under this section, in the provision of a service or thing of value by the Coast Guard the Secretary may accept in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence.

(2) The value of in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence accepted under this paragraph may not exceed applicable per diem rates set forth in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37.”'
Federal, State, and local agencies, and tribal governments;”;
(B) by redesignating clauses (vii) and (viii) as clauses (viii) and (ix), respectively; and
(C) by inserting after clause (vi) the following:
“(vii) include a framework for advance planning and decisionmaking with respect to the closing and reopening of fishing areas following a discharge, including protocols and standards for the closing and reopening of fishing areas;”;
SEC. 315. OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSEL THIRD-PARTY INSPECTION. Section 3316 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g), and by inserting after subsection (g) the following:
“(f)(1) Upon request of an owner or operator of an offshore supply vessel, the Secretary or the authority responsible thereof can, upon notice to the vessel and the United States Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, and for each year of the subsequent 2-year period, the Secretary shall provide to the Commandant of Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing—
“(A) the number of vessels for which a delegation was made under paragraph (1);
“(B) any savings in personnel and operational costs incurred by the Coast Guard that resulted from the delegations; and
“(C) based on measurable marine casualty and other impacts of the delegations on the operational safety of vessels for which the delegations were made, and on the crew on those vessels.”.
SEC. 316. WAIVER OF LIABILITY. Section 8104 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—
(1) in subsection (d), by striking “coal passers, firemen, oilers, and water tenders’’ and inserting “and oilers’’; and
(2) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “(except the coal passers, firemen, oilers, and water tenders)”.
SEC. 317. COAST GUARD RESPONSE PLAN REQUIREMENTS. (a) VESSEL RESPONSE PLAN CONTENTS.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall require that each vessel response plan prepared for a mobile offshore drilling unit includes information on the facility response plan prepared for the mobile offshore drilling unit regarding the planned response to a worst case discharge, and an inventory of the equipment and persons required to respond to such a discharge.
(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
“(1) MOBILE OFFSHORE DRILLING UNIT.—The term “mobile offshore drilling unit’’ has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701).
“(2) RESPONSE PLAN.—The term “response plan’’ means a response plan prepared under section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(j)).
“(3) WORST CASE DISCHARGE.—The term “worst case discharge’’ has the meaning given that term under subsection (d) of section 311(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(a)).
“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Coast Guard to review or approve a facility response plan for a mobile offshore drilling unit.
SEC. 318. REGIONAL CITIZENS’ ADVISORY COUNCIL. Section 5002(k)(3) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (43 U.S.C. 1321(k)(3)) is amended by striking “not more than $1,000,000’’ and inserting “not less than $1,400,000’’.
SEC. 319. UNINSPECTED PASSENGER VESSELS IN THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4105 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—
(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and
(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:
“(b)(1) In applying this title with respect to an uninspected vessel of less than 24 meters overall in length that carries passengers to or from a port in the United States Virgin Islands, the Secretary shall substitute “12 passengers’’ for 6 passengers’ each place it appears in section 2101(4) if the Secretary determines that the vessel complies with, as applicable to the vessel—
“(A) the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Commercial Motor Vessels (commonly referred to as the ‘Yellow Code’), as published by the U.K. Maritime and Coastguard Agency and in effect on January 1, 2014; or
“(B) the Code of Practice for the Safety of Small Craft to a national standard, as published by such agency and in effect on such date.
“(2) If the Secretary establishes standards to carry out this subsection—
“(A) such standards shall be identical to those established in the Codes of Practice referred to in paragraph (1); and
“(B) on any dates before the date on which such standards are in effect, the Codes of Practice referred to in paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to the vessels referred to in paragraph (1).’’
(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 4105(c) of title 46, United States Code, as redesignated by subsection (a)(1) of this section, is amended by striking “Within twenty-four months of the date of enactment of this subsection, the’’ and inserting “The’’.
SEC. 320. TREATMENT OF ABANDONED SEAFARERS. (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 111 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:
“§ 11113. Treatment of abandoned seafarers
“(a) ABANDONED SEAFARERS FUND.—
“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury a separate account to be known as the Abandoned Seafarers Fund.
“(2) AUTHORIZED USES.—Amounts in the Fund may be appropriated to the Secretary for use—
“(A) to pay necessary support of a seafarer—
“(i) who—
“(I) was paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)), or for whom the Secretary has requested parole under such section; and
“(II) is involved in an investigation, reporting, documentation, adjudication of any matter that is related to the administration or enforcement of law by the Coast Guard; or
“(B) to reimburse a vessel owner or operator for the costs of necessary support of a seafarer who has been paroled into the United States to facilitate an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter that is related to the administration or enforcement of law by the Coast Guard; if—
“(1) the vessel owner or operator is not convicted of a criminal offense related to such matter; or
“(ii) the Secretary determines that reimbursement is appropriate.
“(c) CREDITS TO FUND.—
“(1) CREDITING OF AMOUNTS TO FUND.—
“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), there shall be credited to the Fund the following:
“(i) Penalties deposited in the Fund under section 9 of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1908).
“(ii) Amounts reimbursed or recovered under section (c).
“(d) LIMITATION.—Amounts may be credited to the Fund under subparagraph (A) only if the unobligated balance of the Fund is less than $1,000,000.
§ 11114. Reporting requirement.—On the date on which the President submits each budget for a fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that determines—
“(A) the amounts credited to the Fund under paragraph (2) for the preceding fiscal year; and
“(B) amounts in the Fund that were expended for the preceding fiscal year.
“(c) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—
“(1) to create a private right of action or any other right, benefit, or entitlement to necessary support for any person; or

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[(2) to compel the Secretary to pay or reimburse the cost of necessary support.
(c) REIMBURSEMENT; RECOVERY.—
(A) In general.—A vessel owner or operator shall reimburse the Fund an amount equal to the total amount paid from the Fund for necessary support of a seafarer, if—
(1) during the course of an investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication of any matter under this Act that the Coast Guard referred to a United States attorney or the Attorney General, fails to provide necessary support of a seafarer who was paroled into the United States to facilitate the investigation, reporting, documentation, or adjudication; and
(2) subsequently is—
(A) convicted of a criminal offense related to such matter; or
(B) required to reimburse the Fund pursuant to a court order or negotiated settlement related to such matter; or
(C) a vessel owner or operator abandons a seafarer in the United States, as determined by the Secretary based on substantial evidence.

(2) ENFORCEMENT.—If a vessel owner or operator fails to reimburse the Fund under paragraph (1) within 60 days after receiving a written, itemized description of reimbursable expenses and a demand for payment, the Secretary may—
(A) proceed in rem against the vessel on which a seafarer worked and in the Federal district for the district in which the vessel is found; and
(B) withhold or revoke the clearance required under section 40105 for the vessel and any other vessel operated by the same operator as that term is defined in section 29(a)(1) of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1903(a)) as the vessel on which the seafarer served.

(3) OBTAINING CLEARANCE.—A vessel may obtain clearance from the Secretary after it is withheld or revoked under paragraph (2)(B) if the vessel owner or operator—
(A) reimburses the Fund the amount required under paragraph (1); or
(B) provides a bond, or other evidence of financial responsibility, sufficient to meet the amount required to be reimbursed under paragraph (1).

(4) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall notify the vessel at least 72 hours before taking any action under paragraphs (2) and (3).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) ABANDONS; ABANDONED.—Each of the terms ‘abandons’ and ‘abandoned’ means—
(A) a vessel owner’s or operator’s unilateral severance of ties with a seafarer; or
(B) a vessel owner’s or operator’s failure to provide necessary support of a seafarer.

(2) ABANDONED SEAFARERS FUND.—The term ‘Abandoned Seafarers Fund’ means the Abandoned Seafarers Fund established under this section.

(3) NECESSARY SUPPORT.—The term ‘necessary support’ means any support provided to the Federal maritime administrative law judges that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, including, but not limited to, lodging, subsistence, clothing, medical care, travel, and qualified representation.

(4) SEAFARER.—The term ‘seafarer’ means an alien crew member who is employed or engaged in any capacity on board a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(5) VESSEL SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE COAST GUARD.—The term ‘vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States’ has the meaning given that term in section 7002(c), except that it does not include—
(A) owned, or operated under a bareboat charter, by the United States, a State or political subdivision thereof, or a foreign nation; and
(B) not engaged in commerce.

(b) CIRCUMSTANCES INCURRED.—The analysis for such claims shall be amended by adding at the end the following:
‘‘11113. Treatment of abandoned seafarers.’’
(c) CONFIRMING AMENDMENT.—Section 9 of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1903) is amended by adding at the end the following:
‘‘(g) Any penalty collected under subsection (a) that is not paid under that subsection to the person giving information leading to the conviction or assessment of such penalties shall be deposited in the Abandoned Seafarers Fund established under section 11113 of title 46, United States Code.’’

SEC. 232. WEBSITE.
(a) REPORTS TO SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION; INCIDENTS AND DETAILS.—Section 3507(g)(3)(A) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—
(1) in clause (ii) by striking ‘‘the incident to an Internet based portal maintained by the Secretary’’ and inserting ‘‘each incident specified in clause (i) to the Internet website maintained by the Secretary to provide necessary support of a seafarer in the United States, as determined by the Secretary based on substantial evidence.’’
(2) in clause (iii) by striking ‘‘based portal maintained by the Secretary’’ and inserting ‘‘website maintained by the Secretary of Transportation under paragraph (4)(A)’’
(3) OBTAINING CLEARANCE.—A vessel may obtain clearance from the Secretary to an Internet based portal maintained by the Secretary to provide necessary support of a seafarer in the United States, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF INCIDENT DATA ON INTERNET.—Section 3507(g)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—
(1) by striking paragraph (A) and inserting the following:
‘‘(A) ‘WEBSITE.—‘‘(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall maintain a statistical compilation of all incidents on board a cruise vessel specified in paragraph (3) for a cruise vessel engaged in international voyages, which provides a numerical accounting of the missing persons and alleged crimes reported under that paragraph without regard to the investigative status of the incident.
‘‘(ii) UPDATES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The compilation under clause (i) shall—
(1) be updated not less frequently than quarterly;
(2) be able to be sorted by cruise line;
(3) identify each cruise line by name;
(4) identify each cruise vessel engaged in international voyages;
(5) identify the number of individuals alleged to have been absent from the vessel;
(6) include the approximate number of passengers and crew carried by each cruise line during each quarterly reporting period.
‘‘(ii) USER-FRIENDLY FORMAT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall ensure that the compilation, data, and any other information provided on the Internet website maintained under this subparagraph are in a user-friendly format. The Secretary shall, to the greatest extent practicable, use existing commercial off the shelf technology to transfer and establish the website, and shall not independently develop software, or acquire new hardware in operating the site.’’;
and
(2) in subparagraph (B) by striking ‘‘Secretary’’ and inserting ‘‘Secretary of Transportation’’

SEC. 233. COAST GUARD REGULATIONS.
(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act. The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives an analysis

of the Coast Guard’s proposed promulgation of safety and environmental management system requirements for vessels engaged in Outer Continental Shelf activities. The analysis shall include—
(1) a discussion of any new operational, management, design and construction, financial, and other mandates that would be imposed on vessel owners or operators;
(2) an estimate of all associated direct and indirect operational, management, personnel, training, vessel design and construction, record keeping, and other costs;
(3) an identification and justification of any such proposed requirements that exceed those in international conventions applicable to the application of the operational, and management of vessels engaging in United States Outer Continental Shelf activities; and
(4) an identification of exemptions to the proposed requirements, that are based upon vessel classification, tonnage, offshore activity or function, alternative certifications, or any other appropriate criteria.

(b) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not issue proposed regulations relating to safety and environmental management system requirements for vessels engaged in Outer Continental Shelf for which notice was published on September 10, 2013 (78 Fed. Reg. 55230) earlier than 6 months after the date of the analysis required by subsection (a).

TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
There is authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Maritime Commission $24,700,000 for fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 402. AWARD OF REPARATIONS.
(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4105 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—
(1) in subsection (b), by striking ‘‘plus reasonable attorney fees’’;
and
(2) by adding at the end the following:
‘‘(c) ATTORNEY FEES.—In any action brought under section 4103, the prevailing party may be awarded reasonable attorney fees.’’

SEC. 403. TERMS OF COMMISSIONERS.
(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—
(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:
‘‘(2) TERMS.—The term of each Commissioner is 5 years. When the term of a Commissioner ends, the Commissioner may continue to serve until a successor is appointed and qualified, but for a period not to exceed one year. Except as provided in paragraph (3), no individual may serve more than 2 terms.’’;
and
(2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (5), and inserting after paragraph (2) the following:
‘‘(3) VACANCIES.—A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy is appointed only for the unexpired term of the individual being succeeded. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy may serve 2 terms in addition to the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of that individual was appointed.

(4) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—
‘‘(A) LIMITATION ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH REGULATED ENTITIES.—A Commissioner may not engage in any business, vocation, or employment.’’

(5) DEPARTMENTAL REGULATIONS.—A Commissioner may not engage in another business, vocation, or employment.’’


December 10, 2014
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE
H9011
Title V—Arctic Maritime Transportation

Section 501—Arctic Maritime Transportation

(a) In General—Chapter 7 of Title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 112 the following:

"§ 154. Arctic maritime domain awareness.

"(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to ensure safe and secure maritime shipping in the Arctic including the availability of aids to navigation, vessel escorts, spill response capability, and search and rescue in the Arctic.

"(b) INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION AGREEMENTS.—To carry out the purpose of this section, the Secretary is encouraged to enter into negotiations through the International Maritime Organization to conclude and execute agreements to promote coordinated action among the United States, Russia, Canada, Iceland, Norway, and Denmark and other seafaring and Arctic nations to ensure—

"(1) placement and maintenance of aids to navigation;

"(2) appropriate marine safety, tug, and salvage capabilities;

"(3) oil spill prevention and response capability;

"(4) maritime domain awareness, including long-range vessel tracking; and

"(5) search and rescue.

"(c) COORDINATION BY COMMITTEE ON THE MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT.—The Committee on the Maritime Transportation Act of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, in the submission of the budget proposal submitted as required by subsection (a)(5) regarding whether it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report on—

"(1) the status of the negotiations at the International Maritime Organization regarding the establishment of a draft international code of safety for ships operating in polar waters, popularly known as the Polar Code, and any amendments proposed by such a code to be made to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships;

"(2) the coming into effect of such a code and such amendments for nations that are parties to those conventions;

"(3) actions the Secretary must take to implement the requirements of such a code and any amendments;

"(4) the safety of maritime transportation; and

"(b) the safety of maritime transportation;

"(c) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively; and

"(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

"(5) RESULT OF NO DETERMINATION.—If in the analysis submitted under this section the Secretary does not make a determination under subsection (a)(5) regarding whether it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, then—

"(A) the Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea; or

"(B) the Secretary may make such determination, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat. 1560) is amended—

"(1) in subsection (d)(2)—

"(A) in the paragraph heading by striking "BRIDGING STRATEGY" and inserting in lieu thereof "BROKING STRATEGY";

"(B) in the sentence beginning with "The Commandant of the Coast Guard" and all that follows through the period at the end inserting "Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea; or"

"(2) by adding at the end of subsection (d) the following:

"(b) C UTER "POLAR SEA".—Upon the submission of the budget proposal submitted as required by subsection (a)(5) regarding whether it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, then—

"(1) the status of the negotiations at the International Maritime Organization regarding the establishment of a draft international code of safety for ships operating in polar waters, popularly known as the Polar Code, and any amendments proposed by such a code to be made to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships;

"(2) the coming into effect of such a code and such amendments for nations that are parties to those conventions;

"(3) actions the Secretary must take to implement the requirements of such a code and any amendments;

"(4) the safety of maritime transportation; and

"(b) the safety of maritime transportation; and

"(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

"(5) RESULT OF NO DETERMINATION.—If in the analysis submitted under this section the Secretary does not make a determination under subsection (a)(5) regarding whether it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, then—

"(A) the Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea; or

"(B) the Secretary may make such determination, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012, and take actions in accordance with this subsection as though such determination was made in the analysis previously submitted;—

"(3) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively; and

"(4) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

"(5) STRATEGIES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the analysis required under subsection (a) is submitted, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

"(A) unless the Secretary makes a determination under this section that it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, a bridging strategy for maintaining the Coast Guard’s polar icebreaking services until at least September 30, 2024; and

"(B) a strategy to meet the Coast Guard’s Arctic ice operations needs through September 30, 2050; and

"(2) REQUIREMENT.—The strategies required under paragraph (1) shall include a business case analysis comparing the leasing and purchasing of icebreakers to maintain the needs and services described in that paragraph.

"(b) C UTER "POLAR SEA".—Upon the submission of a service life extension plan in accordance with section 222(d)(1)(C) of the
Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-213: 128 Stat. 1560), the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may use funds for the purpose of any of the following:

(1) design activities related to a capability of a Polar-Clipper Icebreaker in an area that is not included in the capability of a Polar-Clipper Icebreaker.

(2) Other amounts.—Amounts made available to the Secretary under an agreement with another Federal department or agency and expended on a capability of a Polar-Clipper Icebreaker that is based solely on an operational requirement of an other Federal department or agency, except for amounts appropriated for design activities for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2010; or

(b) Long-term lead-time materials, production, or post-delivery activities related to such a capability.

(2) OTHER AMOUNTS.—Amounts made available to the Secretary under an agreement with another Federal department or agency and expended on a capability of a Polar-Clipper Icebreaker that is based solely on an operational requirement of that or another Federal department or agency shall not be treated as amounts expended by the Secretary for purposes of the limitation established under paragraph (1).

SEC. 506. ICEBREAKING IN POLAR REGIONS.

(a) In general.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 86 the following: "$87. Icebreaking in polar regions. ‘The President shall facilitate planning for the design, procurement, maintenance, and operation of icebreakers as needed to support the statutory missions of the Coast Guard in the polar regions by allocating all funds to support icebreaking operations in such regions, except for recurring incremental costs associated with specific projects, to the Coast Guard.’" (b) Clerical amendment.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 86 the following: ‘87. Icebreaking in polar regions.’

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 601. DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.

Section 421 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (46 U.S.C. 8105) is amended by inserting after section 86 the following:

``86.冰破冰船在极地

(a) In general.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a national maritime strategy.

(b) Policy.—The national maritime strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) Identify—

(A) Federal regulations and policies that reduce the competitiveness of the United States flag vessels in international transportation markets; and

(B) the impact of reduced cargo flow due to reduced use of the United States flag vessels in international transportation markets; and

(2) Include recommendations to—

(A) make United States flag vessels more competitive in shipping routes between United States and foreign ports;

(B) increase the use of United States flag vessels to carry cargo imported to and exported from the United States;

(C) ensure compliance by Federal agencies with chapter 555 of title 46, United States Code;

(D) increase the use of third-party inspection and certification authorities to inspect and certify vessels;

(E) increase the use of short sea transportation routes, including routes designated under section 5600(e) of title 46, United States Code, to enhance intermodal freight movements; and

(F) enhance United States shipbuilding capability.

SEC. 604. WAIVERS.

(a) ''JOHN CRAIG''.—

(1) In general.—Section 8902 of title 46, United States Code, shall not apply to the Coast Guard Cutter John Craig (United States vessel identification number D119613) when such vessel is operating on the portion of the Kentucky River, Kentucky, located at approximately mile point 156, in Pool Number 9, between Lock and Dam Number 9 and Lock and Dam Number 10.

(2) Application.—Paragraph (1) shall apply on and after the date on which the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating determines that a licensing requirement has been established under Kentucky State law that applies to an operator of the vessel John Craig.

(b) ''F/V WESTERN CHALLENGER''.—Notwithstanding section 12128 of title 46, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for the F/V Western Challenger (IMO number 5388099).

SEC. 605. COMPETITION BY UNITED STATES FLAG VESSELS.

(a) In general.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct an assessment of authorities under subtitle II of title 46, United States Code, that have been delegated to the Coast Guard and that impact the ability of vessels documented under the laws of the United States to effectively compete in international transportation markets.

(b) Review.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall include a review of differences between United States laws, policies, regulations, and guidance governing the inspection of vessels documented under the laws of the United States and standards set by the International Maritime Organization governing the inspection of vessels.

(c) Deadline.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commandant enters into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences under subsection (a), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the assessment required under such subsection.

SEC. 606. VESSEL REQUIREMENTS OF NOTICES OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AND AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.

Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the status of the final rule that relates to the notice of proposed rulemaking titled ‘Vessel Requirements for Notices of Arrival and Departure, and Automatic Identification System’ and published in the Federal Register on December 16, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 7625).

SEC. 607. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

(a) Conveyance authorized.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard is authorized to convey, at fair market value, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property, consisting of approximately 0.2 acres, that is under the administrative control of the Coast Guard and located at 527 River Street in Rochester, New York.

(b) Right of first refusal.—The City of Rochester, New York, shall have the right of first refusal with respect to the purchase, at fair market value, of the real property described in subsection (a).

(c) Survey.—The exact acreage and legal description of the property described in subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Commandant.

(d) Fair market value.—The fair market value of the property described in subsection (a) shall—

(1) be determined by appraisal; and

(2) be subject to the approval of the Commandant.

(e) Costs of conveyance.—The responsibility for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation costs, associated with a conveyance under subsection (a) shall be determined by the Commandant and the purchaser.

(f) Additional terms and conditions.—The Commandant may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with a conveyance under subsection (a) as the Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) Deposit of proceeds.—Any proceeds from a conveyance under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the fund established under section 887 of title 14, United States Code.

SEC. 608. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY IN GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON.

(a) Definitions.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) City.—The term ‘City’ means the city of Gig Harbor, Washington.

(2) Property.—The term ‘Property’ means the parcel of real property, together with all appurtenant structures and improvements, approximately 0.86 acres, that is owned by the United States and is commonly identified as tract 65 of lot 1 of section 8, township 21 north, range 2 east, Willemette Meridian, on the north side of the entrance of Gig Harbor, Washington.

(3) Secretary.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) Conveyance.—

(1) Authority to convey.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating relinquishes the reservation of the Property for lighthouse purposes, at the request of the City and subject to the requirements of this section, the Secretary shall convey to the City all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Property, notwithstanding the land use planning requirements of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713).

(2) Terms of conveyance.—A conveyance made under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) subject to valid existing rights;

(B) at the fair market value as described in subsection (c); and

(C) subject to any valid existing rights that have been approved by the Secretary.
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March 13, 1909, the same being chapter 110 of the Legislature, State of Washington, approved United States pursuant to the Act of the

were granted to the Government of the

longing to the State of Washington and ad-

and after the date on which a conveyance of

by an independent appraiser selected by the Secretary; and

approved by the Secretary in accord-

ance with paragraph (3).

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—An appraisal con-

ducted under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) be conducted in accordance with na-

tionally recognized appraisal standards, in-clud-

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(ii) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and

(B) otherwise take into consideration equitable considerations described in paragraph (3).

(3) EQUITABLE CONSIDERATIONS.—In approv-

ing the fair market value of the Property under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into consideration matters of equity and fairness, including the City’s past and current use of the Property, any mainte-

nance or improvement costs that were borne by the City to the Property, and such other factors as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) REALLOCATION.—Effective on and after the date on which a conveyance of the Property is made under subsection (b)(1),

(i) Executive Order 3528, dated August 9, 1921, is revoked; and

(ii) the use of the tide and shore lands be-

longing to the State of Washington and ad-

joining and bordering the Property, that

were granted to the Government of the United States pursuant to the Act of the Legislature, State of Washington, approved March 13, 1909, be laid on the table.

SEC. 609. VESSEL DETERMINATION. The vessel assigned United States official number 1205366 is deemed a new vessel effec-
tive on the date of delivery of the vessel (B) approved by the Secretary in accor-
dance with paragraph (1), and in addition to the parking spaces allo-
crated and assigned to Coast Guard members and employees in fiscal year 2014, the Admin-
istrator shall allocate and assign not less than—

(1) 300 parking spaces not later than Sept-

ember 30, 2015;

(2) 700 parking spaces not later than Sep-

tember 30, 2016; and

(3) 1,042 parking spaces not later than Sept-

ember 30, 2017.

(b) TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT RE-

port.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enacting of this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter in which spaces are allocated and assigned under subsection (a)(2), the Ad-

ministrator shall provide to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Trans-

portation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on—

(1) the impact of assigning and allocating parking spaces under subsection (a) on the congestion at the St. Eliza-

beths Campus to the portions of Suitland Parkway and I–295 located in the Anacostia section of the District of Columbia; and

(2) progress made toward completion of es-

sential transportation improvements identi-

fied in the Transportation Management Pro-

gram for the St. Elizabeths Campus.

(c) REALLOCATION.—Notwithstanding sub-

section (a), the Administrator may revise the allocation and assignment of spaces to members and employees of the Coast Guard made under subsection (a) as necessary to accommodate employees of the Department of Homeland Security, other than the Coast Guard, when such employees are assigned to the St. Elizabeths Campus.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DHS OIG MANDATES REVISION ACT OF 2014

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2651) to repeal certain mandates of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General. The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2651

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-

sentatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “DHS OIG Manda-

tes Revision Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT AN ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE CARGO INSPECTION TARGETING SYSTEM.—

(1) REPEAL.—Subsections (g) and (h) of sec-

tion 809 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–293; 46 U.S.C. 70101 note) are repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 809 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transpor-

tation Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–293; 118 Stat. 1085), as amended by paragraph (1), is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “and (1)” and inserting “and (h)”;

and

(B) by redesignating subsections (1), (j), and (k) as subsections (g), (h), and (i), respect-

ively.

(b) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF COAST GUARD PERFORMANCE.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 888(f) of the Home-


(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 888 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468), as amended by paragraph (1), is amended by redesignating subsections (g), (h), and (i) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), re-

spectively.

(c) ANNUAL REVIEW OF GRANTS TO STATES AND HIGH-RISK URBAN AREAS.—


(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2022(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 612(a)), as amended by paragraph (1), is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (3), (4), (5), and (6), re-

pectively;

(B) in paragraph (4), as redesignated—

(i) by striking “paragraph (1)” and “(3)” and inserting “paragraph (2)”;

and

(ii) by striking “paragraph (4)” and insert-

ing “paragraph (3)”;

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on January 1, 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant

ant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gen-

tleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).
Committee on Homeland Security in S. 2651, the “DHIS OIG Mandates Revision Act of 2014”. The measure passed the Senate by unanimous consent on September 17, 2014 and was additionally referred to the Committee on Homeland Security.

In the interest of permitting the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to proceed expeditiously to the House floor, I will forgo further consideration of S. 2651. However, I do so with the following reservation. By eliminating mandates of Inspector General investigations, Congress loses its voice in oversight of the Department of Homeland Security. Under this lawless Administration, Congress should have more of a voice, not less, in the jobs of the Office of Inspector General investigates.

In addition, I will forgo consideration with the mutual understanding that the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security is in no way diminished. I further request that you urge the Speaker to name Members of this Committee to any conference committee that is named to consider such provisions.

Finally, I request you include this letter and your response into the Congressional Record during consideration of S. 2651 on the House floor. Thank you for your cooperation. Sincerely,

Michael T. McCaul, Chairman.


Hon. Michael T. McCaul,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

Dear Chairman McCaul: Thank you for your response regarding the Committee on Homeland Security’s jurisdictional interest in S. 2651, the DHS OIG Mandates Revision Act of 2014. I appreciate your willingness to forego consideration of S. 2651, and see that by forgoing action on this legislation, the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security is in no way diminished. Additionally, I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to an House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

Finally, I will include our letters in the Congressional Record during House floor consideration of the bill. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Bill Shuster, Chairman.

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

I rise in support of this legislation. As summarized by my colleague from California, it alleviates the Office of Inspector General of the United States Department of Homeland Security from having to perform three annual audits.

Repealing these audits will help to slightly reduce the burden of congressional oversight on this Department. All the information is available to us in other forms and it is good to get rid of these reports, which are sometimes not really sent anyway.

By the way, Mr. Hunter, congratulations on the recently passed Coast Guard legislation.

Furthermore, eliminating the mandate will allow the IG to reallocate resources to something really useful, like finding out what went wrong, wherever it might be. This way, the legislation may improve the oversight of programs and the activities of the Department of Homeland Security, which would be extremely useful to Congress.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. Hunter) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2651.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES COTTON FUTURES ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5810) to amend the United States Cotton Futures Act to exclude certain cotton futures contracts from coverage under such Act. The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows: H.R. 5810

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

SECTION 1. EXCLUDING CERTAIN COTTON FUTURES CONTRACTS FROM COVERAGE UNDER UNITED STATES COTTON FUTURES ACT.

(a) In general.—Subsection (c)(1) of the United States Cotton Futures Act (7 U.S.C. 15B(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “except that any cotton futures contract” and inserting the following: “except that—

“(A) any cotton futures contract”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) any cotton futures contract that permits tender of cotton grown outside of the United States is excluded from the coverage of this paragraph and section to the extent that the cotton grown outside of the United States is tendered for delivery under the cotton futures contract.”;

(b) Application.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to cotton futures contracts entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. McCaul) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. David Scott) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Austin Scott).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. Austin Scott of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Westmoreland), my colleague.

Mr. Westmoreland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5810. The bill would meet the cotton industry’s growing need for a rural contract for cotton on the United States market.

H.R. 5810 offers a simple technical fix that is needed due to the outdated 1916 Cotton Futures Act in terms of recognizing the global cotton trade.

Recent discussions with USDA revealed that the 1916 Cotton Futures Act requires all cotton tendered on a cotton futures contract that is listed for trading on a U.S. exchange to be classified by the USDA. This is unrealistic, both logistically and financially, for non-U.S. cotton stored in warehouses outside the U.S.

The industry’s desire to trade and hedge a more modern contract requires a legislative tweak to the 1916 Cotton Futures Act to allow for any non-U.S. cotton tendered toward this U.S. contract to be inspected and classified by non-USDA personnel.

Our proposal would not change the regulation of the contract, nor the current USDA classing requirement that U.S. cotton must be classified by the USDA personnel.

Additionally, this bill also would not impact fees being generated by the USDA in the clasising of U.S. cotton, tendered toward the existing cotton futures.

This is the bottom line. For the industry to be able to hedge the 2015 cotton crop, they will need a tweak to this futures act that they may petition the CFTC for the new world contract to be listed. If H.R. 5810 is not passed, a new contract would likely be listed at other exchanges in Europe or Singapore.

With such unanimous support for this contract and solution, we hope this effort will be considered technical in nature and adopted quickly.

I urge my colleagues to support the measure.

Mr. David Scott of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As my colleague from Georgia (Mr. Westmoreland) has just eloquently stated, there is a great need for this, everybody is in agreement on it. The Cotton Number 2 contract is needed as a hedging tool for our cotton industry globally. It is needed so that we can have both delivery points inside and outside the United States because our global markets are now more global.

As my colleague, Mr. Westmoreland, mentioned, we have not touched these reports since 1916. That is nearly 100 years. You can imagine so much has changed. It is very, very much more global, and we do not need to put our cotton participants in trade, in marketing, in commodities at a disadvantage, as was indicated, to other markets.

This is urgent. If we do not move within the next 3 weeks, so that we can
have this on the books as law in time for our cotton participants in the United States to be able to function for their year 2015—in the cotton business you start early, you start in January and February, so it is very urgent. The legislation benefits everybody. All participants are in agreement.

The bottom line is that this legislation is about modernization. Our markets, as I said before, have become much more global. It is a technical correction. It will help our cotton farmers, our cotton producers, and those who have to hedge in the marketplace around the world, and it does not—does not—put our cotton industry in the United States at a disadvantage globally.

I certainly urge that we all accept this amendment and move forward with a very, very important part of American industry, the cotton industry.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As my colleague said, Mr. Speaker, every year, cotton farmers prepare their fields. Off the field they must prepare as well, hedging risk and protecting themselves from possible disaster with cotton futures contracts on U.S. commodity exchanges.

The Cotton Number 2 contract, which is a U.S.-regulated contract, is the benchmark contract for the entire United States cotton industry. However, recently, a wide range of cotton industry participants have recommended the development of a world cotton contract with delivery points inside and outside of the United States. This is in recognition of the global nature of today’s cotton industry.

The 1916 Cotton Futures Act requires that all cotton futures contracts that are listed on the U.S. exchange must be classed by the USDA, regardless of where the cotton is being stored. This structure is outdated and does not recognize the global cotton trade that exists today.

H.R. 5810 would simply allow for cotton futures contracts to be offered on a U.S. exchange that is based off of the world market price. This bill would not change the regulation of the current futures contracts nor the current USDA classing, which requires U.S. cotton be classed again by USDA personnel.

With these technical changes in H.R. 5810, a new cotton futures contract will be available in U.S. commodity markets.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5810. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5810.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mr. ROYCE, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5816) to extend the authorization for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5816

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION AND TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 is amended—

(1) in section 207(a) (22 U.S.C. 6435(a)), by striking “2014” and inserting “2015”; and

(2) in section 209 (22 U.S.C. 6436), by striking “September 30, 2014” and inserting “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect as if enacted on December 10, 2014.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DENOUNCING USE OF CIVILIANS AS HUMAN SHIELDS BY HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. ROYCE, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 107) denouncing the use of civilians as human shields by Hamas and other terrorist organizations in violation of international humanitarian law, with Senate amendments thereto, and concur in the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read as follows: Senate amendments:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the use of human shields is unconscionable and morally unacceptable;

Whereas since June 15, 2014, there have been over 2,000 rockets fired by Hamas and other terrorist organizations from Gaza into Israel;

Whereas Hamas uses civilian populations as human shields by deploying their missile batteries in densely populated areas and near schools, hospitals, and mosques;

Whereas Israel dropped leaflets, made announcements, provided phone calls, and sent text messages to the Palestinian people in Gaza warning them in advance that an attack was imminent, and went to extraordinary lengths to target only terrorist actors and to minimize collateral damage;

Whereas Hamas urged the residents of Gaza to ignore the Israeli warnings and to remain in their homes and encouraged Palestinians to gather on the roofs of their homes to act as human shields;

Whereas on July 23, 2014, the 46-Member UN Human Rights Council passed a resolution to form a commission of inquiry over Israel’s operations in Gaza that completely fails to condemn Hamas for its indiscriminate rocket attacks and its unconscionable use of human shields, with the United States being the lone dissenting vote;

Whereas public reports have cited the role of Israel and Syria in providing military support and training to Hamas and other terrorist groups carrying out rocket and mortar attacks from Gaza;

Whereas throughout the summer of 2006 conflict between the State of Israel and the terrorist organization Hezbollah, Hezbollah forces utilized innocent civilians as human shields;

Whereas the United States and Israel have cooperated on missile defense projects, including Iron Dome, David’s Sling, and the Arrow Anti-Missile System, projects designed to thwart a diverse range of threats, including short-range missiles and rockets fired by non-state actors, such as Hamas;

Whereas the United States provided $469,000,000 in fiscal year 2014 for Iron Dome research, development, and production;

Whereas during the most recent rocket attacks from Gaza, Iron Dome successfully intercepted dozens of rockets that were launched against Israeli population centers; and

Whereas 5,000,000 Israelis are currently living under the threat of rocket attacks from Gaza.

Now, therefore, be it

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.
H9017

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

December 10, 2014

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Mr. ROYCE pro tempore. The unanimous consent is agreed to.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1683) to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients, and for other purposes.

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

There was no objection.

NAVAL VESSEL TRANSFER ACT OF 2013

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1683) to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients, and for other purposes:

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request?

There was no objection.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representations of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.

In this Act, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

TITLE I—TRANSFER OF EXCESS UNITED STATES NAVAL VESSELS

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ‘Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2013’.

SEC. 102. TRANSFER OF NAVAL VESSELS TO CERTAIN FOREIGN RECIPIENTS.

(a) TRANSFERS BY GRANT TO MEXICO.—The President is authorized to transfer to the Government of Mexico the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigates USS CURTS (FFG–38) and USS MCCLUSKY (FFG–41) on a grant basis under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j).

(b) TRANSFER BY SALE TO THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES.—The President is authorized to transfer to the Government of the Republic of China the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigate USS TAYLOR (FFG–50), USS GARY (FFG–25), and USS PERRY (FFG–57) on a sale basis under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j).

(c) TRANSFER BY SALE TO THE TAIPEI ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES.—The President is authorized to transfer the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class guided missile frigate USS CURTS (FFG–38) and USS MCCLUSKY (FFG–41) on a grant basis under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j).

(d) TRANSFERS BY GRANT TO ANOTHER FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The President is authorized to transfer maritime defense articles and services, subject to the conditions set forth in section 816(a)(3)(B), to another foreign country, and the President is authorized to transfer the vessels described in subsection (a) on a grant basis under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(e)), if—

(1) the recipient is a country to which national security and economic interests of the United States are consistent with the notification requirements of section 36(b)(4)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776); and

(2) the vessel joins the naval forces of that recipient country.

(e) COSTS OF TRANSFERS.—Any expense incurred by the United States in connection with a transfer authorized by this section shall be charged to the recipient notwithstanding section 516(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(e)).

(f) REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT IN UNITED STATES SHipyards.—To the maximum extent practicable, the President shall require, as a condition of the transfer of a vessel under this section, that the recipient to which the vessel is transferred have such repair or refurbishment of the vessel as is needed, before the vessel joins the naval forces of that recipient, performed at a shipyard located in the United States.

(g) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to transfer a vessel under this section shall expire at the end of the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. ENHANCED CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF ARM S Sales, INCLUDING TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

Section 36 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2766) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

‘‘(1) PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF SHIPMENT OF ARMS.—At least 30 days prior to a shipment of defense articles subject to the requirements of subsections (b) at the joint request of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate or the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the President shall provide notification of such pending shipment, in unclassified form, with a classified annex as necessary, to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.’’.

SEC. 202. INCREASE IN ANNUAL LIMITATION ON TRANSFER OF EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.

Section 516(g)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(g)(1)) is amended by striking ‘‘$425,000,000’’ and inserting ‘‘$500,000,000’’.

SEC. 203. INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAMS AT TRAINING LOCATIONS IN SOUTHWEST ASIA.

Section 544(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2474(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

‘‘(4) The President shall report to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 566(e)) annually on the activities taken by the contractor and the Department of Defense to incorporate any updated training into the programs authorized under this subsection.’’.

SEC. 204. LICENSING OF CERTAIN COMMERCE-CONTROLLED ITEMS.

Section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

‘‘(k) LICENSING OF CERTAIN COMMERCE-CONTROLLED ITEMS.—

‘‘(1) IN GENERAL.—A license or other approval from the Department of State granted in accordance with this section may also authorize the transfer of defense articles subject to the Export Administration Regulations if such items are to be used in or with defense articles controlled on the United States Munitions List.

‘‘(2) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The following requirements shall apply with respect to a license or other approval to authorize the export of items subject to the Export Administration Regulations under paragraph (1):

‘‘(A) Separate approval from the Department of Commerce shall not be required for such items if such items are approved for export under a Department of State license or other approval.

‘‘(B) Such items subject to the Export Administration Regulations that are exported pursuant to a Department of State license or other approval would remain under the jurisdiction of the Department of State license or other approval.

‘‘(C) The inclusion of the term ‘subject to the EAR’ or any similar term on a Department of Commerce license or other approval shall not affect the jurisdiction with respect to such items.

‘‘(D) DEFI NITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘Export Administration Regulations’ means—

‘‘(A) the Export Administration Regulations as maintained and amended under the Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

‘‘(B) any successor regulations.’’.

SEC. 205. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO REMOVAL OF MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FROM UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR REMOVAL OF MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FROM UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—Section 38(f) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(5)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the President shall take such actions as may be necessary to require that, at the time of export or reexport of any major defense equipment listed on the 600 series of the Commerce Control List contained in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of subpart B of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, the major defense equipment will not be subsequently modified so as to transform such major defense equipment into a defense article.

‘‘(B) The President may authorize the transfer of any major defense equipment described in paragraph (A) into a defense article if the President—

‘‘(i) determines that such transformation is appropriate and in the national interests of the United States; and

‘‘(ii) provides notice of such transformation to the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate consistent with the notification requirements of section 36(b)(4)(A) of this Act.

‘‘(C) In this paragraph, the term ‘defense article’ means an item designated by the President pursuant to subsection (a)(1).’’.

(b) NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT REMOVED FROM UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—Section 38(f) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(f)), as amended by this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(B) Section 655 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2324).’’

(c) Section 36(b), (c), and (d) of this Act.

(d) Section 25 of this Act.

(e) Section 36(b), (c), and (d) of this Act.’’.
SEC. 205. AMENDMENT TO DEFINITION OF “DEFENSE ARTICLE” AND “DEFENSE SERVICE” UNDER THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.

Section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2770a) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of subsection (a), by striking “includes” and inserting “means, with respect to a sale or transfer by the United States under the authority of this Act or any other foreign assistance or sales program of the United States”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “includes” and inserting “means, with respect to a sale or transfer by the United States under the authority of this Act or any other foreign assistance or sales program of the United States”;

(3) in section 21(c), by striking “tion” and inserting “tion”;

(4) in sections 21(f) and 62(a), by inserting “section” and inserting “section”;

(5) in section 73(e)(2), by striking “the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each place it appears and inserting “the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and”; and

(6) in section 21(i)(1) by inserting after “the Speaker of the House of Representatives” the following: “; the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services of the House of Representatives,”;

(7) in sections 25(e), 38(f)(2), 38(j)(3), and 38(j)(4)(B), by striking “International Relations” and each place it appears and inserting “International Relations”;

(8) in sections 27(f) and 62(a), by inserting “the Speaker of the House of Representatives,” each place it appears the following: “the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives,”; and

(9) in section 54(f)(2), by striking “the Committee on National Security and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives” and inserting “the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives”.

(b) OTHER TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—(1) Arms Export Control Act.—The Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

(A) in section 38—

(i) in subsection (b)(1), by redesignating the second subparagraph (B) (as added by section 1203(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Public Law 101-246) as subparagraph (C); and

(ii) in subsection (g)(1)(A)—

(I) by striking “or” or inserting “; or”;

and

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “section” and inserting “sections”;

(bb) by striking “(18 U.S.C. 175b)” and inserting “(18 U.S.C. 175c)”;

and

(iii) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “in” after “to”; and

Section 1 of title V of the Export Administration Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2531) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking “Wherever applicable, a description” and inserting “Wherever applicable, such report shall include a detailed description”;

(B) in subsection (d)(2)(B), by striking “credits” and inserting “credits”.

SEC. 206. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Section 12(c) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2411(c)) is amended by adding shortly after subsection (b)—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''Wherever applicable, a description'' and inserting ''Wherever applicable, such report shall include a detailed description'';

and

(b) TERMINATION DATE.—Subsection (a) terminates at the end of the 4-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

MR. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I will include in the record a letter signed by myself and Mr. ENGEL to the Secretary of State.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

WASHINGTON, DC, December 10, 2014.

Hon. John F. Kerry,
Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: Today the House of Representatives will pass and send to the President S. 1683, a bill that bolsters allies Taiwan and Mexico with the transfer of U.S. Navy frigates and makes other changes to the law to enhance our security assistance to foreign partners.

As you may know, section 201 of this legislation amends section 36 of the Arms Export Control Act to require the President to notify Congress 30 days before shipments of certain defense articles if jointly requested by the Department of Defense and the Committee on Foreign Affairs or the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. It is our understanding that the Department may be concerned that this new congressional notification requirement could pose an undue burden on the administration of United States arms transfers.

However, given the comprehensive exchange of information between the Department and the Committee during the congressional review process on U.S. arms sales, we would expect to invoke section 201 only in rare circumstances. For example, a similar provision in section 38(f)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act provides for a request by the same committees of additional and highly detailed information from the President on a pending Foreign Military Sales request that has been used only once in the last seven years.

Likewise, we expect that the current protocols governing the notification of arms sales, a process by which sensitive national security and foreign policy questions are addressed informally before a notification is formally submitted for congressional review, will remain the preeminent means by which the Committee conducts oversight over United States arms transfer policy.

We are forward to work with you on these important matters in the 114th Congress.

Sincerely,

Edward R. Royce,
Chairman.

Eliot L. Engel,
Ranking Member.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, S. 1683. It would allow the United States to transfer certain decommissioned naval vessels to Taiwan and Mexico. It also makes some technical amendments to U.S. export control laws.

I am proud to say that the broad bipartisan support that the contents of this measure already received because this April, the House passed the underlying bill, H.R. 3470, of which I am the author, the companion legislation to this bill. Mr. Eliot Engel and I were the cosponsors.

I am pleased that this important legislation supporting the defense of our Taiwanese allies has now been passed by the other body. With passage by the House, it will make its way to the President’s desk.

On April 10, 1979, the Taiwan Relations Act was established to govern America’s relationship with the Republic of China-Taiwan. For 35 years, the act has helped maintain peace and security across the Taiwan Strait and across the Asia-Pacific region.

During this time, Taiwan has undergone a monumental transformation. It has gone from grinding poverty and political repression to a vibrant, pluralistic, multiparty democracy that it is today. Taiwan’s economy has evolved. It is now our 10th top trading partner.

As chairman, I led two bipartisan delegations to Taipei, Kaohsiung, and Tainan to examine Taiwan’s economy and defense capabilities. Today’s legislation is the product of the committee’s bipartisan effort to prioritize the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

This legislation authorizes the President to send four 4,200 class guided missile frigates to Taiwan. These are ships that are greatly needed to augment Taiwan’s defense capability. I
have seen firsthand the World War II-era submarines—I was on one of them—and the 50-year-old fighter jets that form the core of Taiwan’s military.

Congress has made it clear to the administration that it wants more defense transfers to Taiwan, including transfers to support the modernization of its combat aircraft and its submarine fleet. These four guided missile cruisers would bolster Taiwan’s defense to ensure that peace in the Taiwan Strait continues to benefit not just Taiwan, but the entire region.

In addition to supporting Taiwan, this legislation also authorizes the transfer of excess decommissioned naval vessels to Mexico. Mr. VARGAS and I recently returned from Mexico City, and transfers such as these help to support the priorities of the U.S. Navy while strengthening the capability of allies and our close partners to meet our shared maritime security objectives.

Finally, the bill includes a provision requested by the Department of Commerce to ensure that our export control regime will continue to protect sensitive information related to export licensing. In particular, it clarifies that the business confidentiality protections of the lapsed Export Administration Act remain in effect under another provision of the law and will continue to protect information related to export licensing.

This provision will both protect U.S. national security and the competitive- ness of American exporters while providing time for Congress and the executive branch to modernize the statutory basis for our export control regime.

While I am disappointed that this measure does not include a provision from the House bill that would have expedited U.S. arms sales to close allies, the committee will continue to promote improvements to the foreign military sales process in the next Congress.

Finally, the bill will also clarify that certain business confidentiality protections of the Export Administration Act will continue to protect the information related to export licensing.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1683, the Naval Vessel Transfer Act. This bill includes many of the provisions in H.R. 3470, which the House passed on April 7 and sent to the other side.

I would like to thank Chairman ROYCE for working with us in a bipartisan manner on this important legislation. I would also like to say that as a freshman Member who may not be serving again on the committee that it was a real honor to serve under the chairman. He in fact acts very bipartisan.

He is a real leader in this country, and I am very proud that he is a Californian. It has been an honor, sir, to serve with you.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I would say likewise to Mr. VARGAS for his service on the committee.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2270) to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

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 “Insurance Capital Standards Clarification Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF LEVERAGE AND RISK-BASED CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS.

Section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5371) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following—

“(4) BUSINESS OF INSURANCE.—The term ‘business of insurance’ has the same meaning as in section 1001(3).

“(5) PERSON REGULATED BY A STATE INSURANCE REGULATOR.—The term ‘person regulated by a State insurance regulator’ has the same meaning as in section 1003(2).

“(6) REGULATED FOREIGN SUBSIDIARY AND REGULATED FOREIGN AFFILIATE.—The terms ‘regulated foreign subsidiary’ and ‘regulated foreign affiliate’ mean a person engaged in the business of insurance in a foreign country that is regulated by a foreign insurance regulatory authority that is a member of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors or other comparable foreign insurance regulatory authority as determined by the Board of Governors following consultation with the State insurance regulators, including the lead State insurance commissioner (or similar State official) of the insurance holding company system as determined by the procedures within the Financial Analysis Handbook adopted by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, where the person, or its principal United States insurance affiliate, has its principal place of business or is domiciled, but only to the extent that—

“(A) such person acts in its capacity as a regulated insurance entity; and

“(B) the Board of Governors does not determine that the capital requirements in a specific foreign jurisdiction are inadequate.

“(7) LIABILITY CAPACITY AS A REGULATED INSURANCE ENTITY.—The term ‘liability capacity as a regulated insurance entity’—
VENEZUELA DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ACT OF 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2142) to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela, to strengthen civil society in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

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 "Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Central Bank of Venezuela and the National Statistical Institute of Venezuela stated that the annual inflation rate in Venezuela in 2013 was 56.3%, the highest level of inflation in the world, and that the country had the third highest level of inflation in the world behind South Sudan and Syria.

(2) The Central Bank of Venezuela and the Government of Venezuela have imposed a series of currency controls that has exacerbated economic problems and, according to the World Economic Forum, has become the most problematic factor for doing business in Venezuela.

(3) The Central Bank of Venezuela declared that the security index of Venezuela dropped from 29.4% in March 2014, which signifies that fewer than one in 4 basic goods is unavailable at any given time. The Central Bank has not published any information on the scarcity index since that time.

(4) Since 1999, violent crime in Venezuela has risen sharply and the Venezuelan Violence Observatory, an independent non-governmental organization, found the national per capita murder rate to be 79 per 100,000 people in 2013.

(5) The international nongovernmental organization Human Rights Watch recently stated, "Under the leadership of President Chavez and now President Maduro, the accumulation of pervasive branch and the erosion of human rights guarantees have enabled the government to intimidate, censure, and prosecute its critics.’’

(6) The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013 of the Department of State maintained that in Venezuela "the government did not respect judicial independence or permit judges to act accord ing to the law without fear of retaliation” and "the government used the judiciary to intimidate and selectively prosecute political, union, business, and civil society leaders who were critical of government policies or actions”.

(7) The Government of Venezuela has detained foreign journalists and threatened and expelled international media outlets operating in Venezuela, and the international nongovernmental organization Freedom House declared that Venezuela’s "media climate is characterized by intimidation, sometimes including physical attacks, and strong antimedia rhetoric by the government is common”.

(8) As of February 4, 2014, the Government of Venezuela has responded to antigovernment protests with violence and killings perpetrated by its public security forces.

(9) In May 2014, Human Rights Watch found that the unlawful use of force perpetrated against antigovernment protesters was “part of a systematic practice by the Venezuelan security forces”.

(10) As of September 1, 2014, people who had been arbitrarily arrested, approximately 150 remained in prison and faced criminal charges as a result of antigovernment demonstrations throughout Venezuela.

(11) Opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez was arrested on February 18, 2014, in relation to the protests and was unjustly charged with criminal incitement, social irresponsibility, and property damage. Since his arrest, Lopez has been held in solitary confinement and has been denied 78 out of his proposed witnesses at his ongoing trial.

(12) As of September 1, 2014, not a single member of the public security forces of the Government of Venezuela had been held accountable for acts of violence perpetrated against antigovernment protesters.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ANTIGOVERNMENT PROTESTS IN VENEZUELA AND THE NEED TO PREVENT FURTHER VIOLENCE IN VENEZUELA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States aspires to a mutually beneficial relationship with Venezuela based on respect for international law and a functional and productive relationship on issues of public security, including counternarcotics and counterterrorism;

(2) the United States and its allies support the people of Venezuela in their efforts to realize their full economic potential and to advance representative democracy, human rights, and the rule of law within their country;

(3) the chronic mismanagement by the Government of Venezuela of its economy has produced conditions of economic hardship and scarcity of basic goods and foodstuffs for the people of Venezuela;

(4) the failure of the Government of Venezuela to guarantee minimal standards of public security for its citizens has led the country to become one of the most violent and corrupt in the world;

(5) the Government of Venezuela continues to take steps to remove checks and balances on the executive, politicize the judiciary, undermine the independence of the legislature through use of executive decrees powers, persecute and prosecute its opponents, curtail freedom of the press, and limit the free expression of its citizens;

(6) the Government of Venezuela continues to engage in ongoing economic hardship, high levels of crime and violence, and the lack of basic political rights and individual freedoms, have turned out in demonstrations in Caracas and throughout the country to protest the failure of the Government of Venezuela to protect the political and economic well-being of its citizens; and

(7) the repeated use of violence perpetrated by the National Guard and security personnel of Venezuela, as well as persons acting on behalf of the Government of Venezuela, against antigovernment protesters that began on February 4, 2014, is intolerable and the use of unprovoked violence by protesters is also a matter of serious concern.
and the immediate cessation of violence against antigovernment protestors; and
(3) to hold accountable government and security officials in Venezuela responsible for or complicit in the use of violence against antigovernment protests and similar future acts of violence; and
(4) to continue to support the development of democratic processes and independent civil society in Venezuela.

SEC. 5. SANCTIONS ON PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE IN VENEZUELA.

(a) In General.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person, including any current or former official of the Government of Venezuela or any person acting on behalf of that Government, that the President determines—
(1) has perpetrated, or is responsible for ordering or otherwise directing, significant acts of violence or serious human rights abuses in Venezuela against persons associated with the antigovernment protests in Venezuela that began on February 4, 2014; (2) has ordered or otherwise directed the arrest or prosecution of a person in Venezuela primarily because of the person’s legitimate exercise of freedom of expression or assembly; or
(3) has knowingly materially assisted, sponsored, or provided significant financial, material, or technical support; or provided goods or services in support of, the commission of acts described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(b) Sanctions Described.—
(1) In General.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:
(A) Asset blocking.—The exercise of all powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a person determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.
(B) Exclusion from the United States and revocation of visa or other documents.—The entry, or visa or other documents of an alien determined by the President to be subject to subsection (a), of a denial of a visa to, and exclusion of, the alien, and revocation of the alien’s status by the Attorney General, persons acting within the United States, including a foreign financial institution, or any jurisdiction of the United States; or
(C) Sanctions described.—The terms “sanctions” and “sanctions described in this subsection” have the meaning given to such terms in section (a) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(c) Waiver.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to any person if the President determines—
(1) that such a waiver is in the national interest of the United States; and
(2) that the waiver is necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of the House of Representatives a notice of and justification for the waiver.

(d) Regulatory Authority.—The President shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

(e) Termination.—The requirement to impose sanctions under this section shall terminate on December 31, 2016.

(f) Definitions.—In this section:
(1) Admitted; Alien.—The terms “admitted” and “alien” have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).
(2) Financial institution.—The term “financial institution” has the meaning given that term in section 5312 of title 31, United States Code.
(3) Foreign person.—The term “foreign person” means a person that is not a United States person.
(4) Good.—The term “good” has the meaning given that term in section 16 of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2145) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).
(5) Knowingly.—The term “knowingly”, with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge of the circumstances or result.
(6) MateriaLlySLy assisted.—The term “materially assisted” means the provision of assistance that is significant and of a kind directly relevant to acts described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a).
(7) United States person.—The term “United States person” means—
(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States;
(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign financial institution, or any jurisdiction of the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

SEC. 6. REPORT ON BROADCASTING, INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION, AND CIRCUITUfATION TECHNOLOGY DISTRIBUTION IN VENEZUELA.

(a) In General.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairmen of the broadcasting Board of Governors (in this section referred to as the “Board”) shall submit to Congress a report that includes—
(1) a thorough evaluation of the governmental, political, and technological obstacles faced by the people of Venezuela in their efforts to obtain accurate, objective, and comprehensive news and information about domestic and international affairs;
(2) an assessment of current efforts relating to broadcasting, information distribution, and circumvention technology distribution in Venezuela, by the United States Government and otherwise; and
(3) a strategy for expanding such efforts in Venezuela, and proposals for additional measures to expand upon current efforts.
(b) Elements.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—
(1) an assessment of the current level of Federal funding dedicated to broadcasting, information distribution, and circumvention technology distribution in Venezuela by the Board before the date of the enactment of this Act;
(2) an assessment of the extent to which the current level and type of news and related programming and content provided by the Voice of America and other sources is adequate to meet the informational needs of the people of Venezuela; and
(3) recommendations for increasing broadcasting, information distribution, and circumvention technology distribution in Venezuela.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE
Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to re-vise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may con-ceive.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that today, International Human Rights Day, we consider and debate the bill before us: the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act. The House has already taken a similar measure that I authored and introduced earlier this year, and I urge passage of this measure before us presented by Senators MENENDEZ and RUIRO.

The people of Venezuela, Mr. Speak-er, have been crying out for help. They have been begging the United States and all responsible nations to help protect them against the tyranny and brutal-ity under the Maduro regime, the terrors of the oppressive Castro re-gime in Cuba. I should point out that today, International Human Rights Day, the Castro thugs rounded up and imprisoned 52 human rights activists.

Today, Congress speaks in a unified and bipartisan voice. The human rights situation in Venezuela has actually gotten worse under Maduro since the death of that other Castro sycophant, Hugo Chavez. In fact, since February 12, 2014, also known as National Youth Day in Venezuela, the freedom-seeking people of Venezuela have risen up to challenge the abuses and undemocratic actions being committed by Nicolas Maduro and his lackeys, demanding their most basic and fundamental rights.

Naturally, oppressors have but one option which they never fail to resort to; and, Maduro, as we knew he would, responded with a violent crackdown against those who had the courage to challenge his authoritarian rule.

Ever since the peaceful demonstra-tions against the regime began on Na-tional Youth Day, 42 people have been
Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2142, the Venezuelan Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014, and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN—thank you for your leadership on this—and also Senator MENENDEZ for his leadership on this legislation. I also want to thank, once again, Chairman ROYCE, who has approached this issue in a bipartisan way, as he always does.

Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN’s bill passed the House unanimously in May, and I am pleased that we are now ready to send this bill to the President’s desk.

The world has watched closely over the last year as Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro has stifled the democratic aspirations of the Venezuelan people. Peaceful protesters seeking basic rights and dignity have been met with violence. Forty-two people were tragically killed and 800 were injured on both sides of the conflict. We mourn all of their losses. At the same time, the Maduro government has arrested political opponents and stood in the way of a free press.

Nearly 10 minutes after his arrest, opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez remains in jail on trumped-up charges. The U.N. Committee Against Torture, seven former Latin American Presidents, and the leaders around the world have called for Leopoldo’s release.

Last week, Venezuelan opposition leader and former National Assembly Deputy Maria Corina Machado was charged for conspiring to assassinate President Maduro, another desperate move by a desperate government. Maduro’s government even considers the U.S. Ambassador to Colombia in on this bizarre conspiracy. It would be humorous if it wasn’t so sad and dangerous.

The legislation that we are considering today makes it clear that Congress will not turn a blind eye to the human rights violations in Venezuela. By stripping human rights violators of their visas, we are saying that those responsible for abuses in Venezuela are not welcome in the United States. By freezing their assets, we are making it clear that those who violate human rights in Venezuela won’t have access to financial institutions in the United States.

Venezuela’s leaders will say this bill is going to hurt the average Venezuelan citizen. That is nonsense. These sanctions won’t touch the oil sector or other vital parts of the Venezuelan economy. They only affect those complicit in the recent crackdowns.

Finally, I will note that this bill gives President Obama needed flexibility to respond to the ground in Venezuela. Each and every sanction in this bill can be waived by the President at any time.
Let's stand with the people of Venezuela and support the immediate passage of S. 2142.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to thank and congratulate the vibrant Venezuelan American community in our area in south Florida and, indeed, throughout our great Nation for never forgetting the suffering of their native lands. They have many family members in Venezuela, and they care deeply about what happens in their homeland.

Now they have adopted America as their homeland and they are proud Americans, but they are also very proud of their traditions. It is because of their desire to go back to a Venezuela one day—that will be free, that will be democratic, that will respect the voice of those that we are here today fighting on their behalf. So thanks to our constituents for making this day a reality.

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to thank my colleague and the gentlewoman from south Florida, who has really been a passionate advocate and whom I have stood in solidarity with on this and so many other issues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014. I do so as the proud representative of Westonzuela, my hometown, and one in which we have an incredibly rich and vibrant community of Venezuelans and Venezuelan Americans. As the representative of one of the largest communities of Venezuelans and Venezuelan Americans in the United States, I am here to strongly speak out against the continued, unconscionable abuses of the Maduro government against innocent citizens.

Earlier this year, facing a repressive government and crushing economic conditions, thousands of Venezuelans peacefully protested to demand their basic human rights and dignity. In response, President Maduro and his security forces brutally suppressed their own citizens in the streets and used the judiciary to squash voices championing freedom of expression and democracy. Although President Maduro has tried to further silence these voices by limiting media coverage of the ongoing oppression and repression and terrible economic conditions of his country, we can still hear the demands for justice and for dignity.

This bill would impose sanctions on those individuals in Maduro's regime who have ordered the arrest or prosecution of anyone exercising their right to peacefully assemble or protest, or those who supported those actions. Through our action here today, we signify the determination of the American people to stand for freedom and democracy, and this bill reinforces the sentiments and actions of the U.S. Congress and the Obama administration.

Along with my colleagues, I stand in solidarity with those brave Venezuelans continuing to advocate for their rights, including opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, who outrageously and unconstitutionally has been kept in jail as a reward to this measure's passage and to President Obama's signature, and working with the Obama administration and our allies to hold these perpetrators of the injustice accountable for their crimes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

In closing, I would like to emphasize, once again, that today's legislation is consistent with our treatment of human rights violators throughout the world. Will this legislation all of a sudden turn President Maduro and his government into great respecters of human rights? None of us are naive enough to believe this, but what it will do is it will send a message to human rights violators in Venezuela and throughout the world that your visas and your assets in U.S. financial institutions are in peril if you abuse individuals' human rights.

I once again urge my colleagues to support the immediate passage of S. 2142.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to thank our entire south Florida congressional delegation. All of us worked together in a bipartisan way to get this bill to this moment.

I would especially like to thank Senator MARCO RUBIO, along with our own Florida Senator from the Foreign Relations Committee, for their hard work on this bill and, really, for their work on the broader issues of the lack of democracy in our hemisphere, the disrespect for human rights, the lack of the rule of law.

Sadly, in our hemisphere, instead of seeing advances of human rights and advances of democracy, we have seen a sad erosion in these years. We thank all of the Members for always using these esteemed floors to talk about our basic values that we share, that we will live in freedom, and that is respect for human rights, respect for democracy, respect for the rule of law, and always to continue to do everything we can to make sure that all of our oppressed brothers and sisters will live in freedom, that we enjoy so much.

I thank very much our chairman of our Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ROYCE, for his help and his leadership in this fight.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Speaker pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2142.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5656) to authorize the Feed the Future Initiative to reduce global poverty and hunger in developing countries on a sustainable basis, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk reads the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 5656

This Act may be cited as the “Global Food Security Act of 2014”:

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE. (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY OBJECTIVES.—It is in the national security interest of the United States to promote global food security and nutrition, consistent with national food security investment plans, which is reinforced through programs, activities, and initiatives that—

(1) accelerate inclusive, agricultural-led economic growth that reduces global poverty, hunger, and malnutrition, particularly among women and children;

(2) increase the productivity, incomes, and livelihoods of smallholder and family farmers, especially women, by working across agricultural value chains and expanding producer access to local and international markets;

(3) build resilience to market shocks among vulnerable populations and households while reducing reliance upon emergency food assistance;

(4) create an enabling environment for agricultural growth and investment, including through the promotion of secure and transparent property rights;

(5) improve the nutritional status of women and children, with a focus on reducing child stunting, including through the promotion of highly nutritious foods, diet diversification, and nutrition interventions that improve maternal and child health;

(6) align with and leverage broader United States investments in trade, economic growth, science and technology, maternal and child health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene; and

(7) ensure the effective use of United States taxpayer dollars to further these objectives.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the President, in providing assistance to implement the Global Food Security Strategy, should—

(1) coordinate, through a whole-of-government approach, the efforts of relevant Federal departments and agencies to implement the Global Food Security Strategy;
(2) utilize, to the extent possible, open and streamlined solicitations to allow for the participation of a wide range of implementing partners via the most appropriate coordination and contracting mechanism; and

(3) continue to strengthen existing partnerships between developing country institutions of agricultural sciences with universities in the United States, with a focus on building the capacities of developing nation universities in agriculture.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this section:

(1) AGRICULTURE.—The term "agriculture" means crops, livestock, fisheries, and forestry.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(3) AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.—The term "agricultural production" means crops, livestock, aquatic species, and forestries.

(4) FOOD SECURITY.—The term "food security" means the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses and ensure the availability of food in sufficient quantities and quality for an active and healthy life.

(5) MALNUTRITION.—The term "malnutrition" means poor nutritional status caused by nutritional deficiency or excess.

(6) RESILIENCE.—The term "resilience" means the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses and ensure the availability of food in sufficient quantities and quality for an active and healthy life.

(7) RESILIENCE.—The term "resilience" means the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses and ensure the availability of food in sufficient quantities and quality for an active and healthy life.

(8) SMALL-SCALE PRODUCER.—The term "small-scale producer" means farmers, pastoralists, foresters, and fishers that have a low-asset base and limited resources, including land, capital, skills and labor, and, in the case of farmers, typically farm on fewer than 5 hectares of land.

SEC. 4. COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGIC GOALS.—The President shall coordinate the development and implementation of a United States whole-of-government strategy to accomplish the policy objectives set forth in subsection (b), which shall—

(1) support and be aligned with country-owned agriculture, nutrition, and food security policy and investment plans developed with input from relevant governmental and nongovernmental sectors within partner countries and regional bodies, including representative sector, agricultural producers, including women and small-scale producers, international and local civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, relevant governmental and nongovernmental, and farmers as reasonable and appropriate;

(b) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—The President shall seek to ensure that assistance to implement the Global Food Security Strategy is provided under established parameters for rigorous accountability system to monitor and evaluate progress and impact of the strategy, including by reporting to the appropriate congressional committees and the public on an annual basis.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the President $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 to carry out this section.

SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to provide assistance to implement the Global Food Security Strategy pursuant to the authorities of title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151a, 2151a–1, 2220a et seq.) notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(b) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—The President should seek to ensure that assistance to implement the Global Food Security Strategy is provided under established parameters for rigorous accountability system to monitor and evaluate progress and impact of the strategy, including by reporting to the appropriate congressional committees and the public on an annual basis.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the President $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 to carry out this section.

SEC. 6. REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the status of the implementation of the Global Food Security Strategy.

(b) CONTENT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) contain a summary of the Global Food Security Strategy as an appendix;

(2) identify any substantial changes made in the Global Food Security Strategy during the preceding calendar year;

(3) identify the indicators that will be used to measure results, set benchmarks for progress over time, and establish mechanisms for reporting results in an open and transparent manner;

(4) describe the progress made in implementing the Global Food Security Strategy;

(5) assess the progress and results of implementing international food and nutrition security programming;

(6) contain a transparent, open, and detailed accounting of spending by relevant Federal departments and agencies to implement the Global Food Security Strategy, including by listing all recipients of funding or partner organizations and, to the extent possible, describing their activities;

(7) identify any United States legal or regulatory impediments that could obstruct the effective implementation of the program referred to in paragraph (5);

(8) contain a clear gender analysis of programming that includes established disaggregated gender indicators to better analyze outcomes for food productivity, income, and markets, and nutrition;

(9) describe the strategies and benchmarks for graduating target countries and monitoring any graduated target countries;

(10) assess efforts to coordinate United States international food security and nutrition security programs, activities, and initiatives with—

(A) other bilateral donors;

(B) international and multilateral organizations;

(C) international financial institutions;

(D) host country governments;

(E) international and local private voluntary, nongovernmental organizations, and civil society organizations; and

(F) the private sector; and

(G) local nongovernmental and civil society organizations.

(H) other stakeholders, as appropriate.
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 include extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) 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.

Mr. Speaker, the Global Food Security Act, H.R. 5656, is a bipartisan bill with 21 cosponsors, including BETTY MCCOLLUM, our lead Democrat, who has worked very hard on this issue. I would also like to thank House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ED ROYCE, Ranking Member ELIOOT ENGEL, Ranking Member BASS, I would like to thank JEFF FORTENBERRY, who has played a key role, as well as ERIK PAULSEN and, again, other Members who have joined across the aisle to work on this legislation and to work on the language.

I also want to thank the staff that worked tirelessly on this. In particular, Jenn Holcomb, Kelly Stone from Congresswoman McCollum’s office; Joan Condon, Katy Crohey, and Janice Kaguyutan from the full committee; and from my own staff, PIERRO TOZZI. Thank you so much for your work in helping to make this bill a reality and bringing it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, this is important legislation which will help provide a long-term solution to global hunger by authorizing and strengthening the existing national food security program coordinated by USAID, commonly known as Feed the Future. This program strengthens nutrition, especially for children during the critical first 1,000-day window—from conception to the child’s second birthday. It also teaches small-scale farmers, in particular, women—the requisite techniques and best practices to increase agricultural yield, thereby helping nations achieve food security, which is something that is, first and foremost, humane but also in the national security interests of the United States.

As USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah has pointed out—who, I want to note, has done an outstanding job as the Administrator of USAID—this program encourages self-sufficiency and operates in targeted countries where the host governments have committed to investing in local agricultural and food systems and undertaking reforms that allow the private sector to flourish. Its hallmarks are the building of local capacity and sustainability, as well as resiliency in linking local entrepreneurs to the global economy, while boosting transparency and accountability.

The end result of this can be seen in lives saved and in lives enriched. In the past year, the Feed the Future program has helped 7 million farmers across the globe to increase harvests, resulting in roughly 160,000 fewer children suffering from malnutrition.

Yet, today, even though progress has been made, malnutrition is the underlying cause of death for at least 3.1 million children per year around the world and is responsible for 45 percent of all child deaths worldwide. More than 800,000 babies—one in four newborns—die each year because they are born too soon or they are too small as a result of poor maternal nutrition.

Mr. Speaker, one of the first laws that I wrote over 30 years ago was the Child Survival Fund—a $50 million program that included vaccinating kids to protect against preventable diseases like polio, pertussis, and diphtheria, as well as oral rehydration for kids at risk of death from dehydration. More than 800,000 babies—one in four newborns—die each year because they were born too soon or they are too small as a result of poor maternal nutrition.

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this bill up in committee and bring it to the floor.

Around the world, 800 million people suffer from chronic hunger. Malnutrition causes the deaths of 3.1 million children under the age of 5 every year. This is a global crisis. President Obama has made reducing hunger and poverty a top priority, and USAID Administrator Raj Shah has done tremendous work in carrying out that policy.

The Feed the Future Initiative focuses on reducing global poverty and hunger in developing countries through agricultural development. This program is only a few years old, but it has already made a real difference in fighting hunger, poverty, and malnutrition.

In 2010, Feed the Future helped nearly 7 million farmers and food producers use new technologies. This initiative has secured more than $10 billion in private sector commitments to African agriculture, the majority of which has been made by African businesses. It has helped bring millions of hectares of land under improved cultivation and management practices. Last year, the initiative reached more than 12.5 million children with nutritional assistance.

The success of this initiative stems, in part, from the collaboration and partnership of more than 10 U.S. Government agencies, the private sector, NGOs, and American universities. By working together, they have helped to advance real solutions to global hunger, poverty, and malnutrition.

Most importantly, Feed the Future has generated strong buy-in from partner governments in 19 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa. Each host country is required to put forward a country investment plan and contribute a portion of its own GDP to agricultural development. This model ensures that Feed the Future programs are sustainable and can be transferred fully to the host country.

Despite the gains we have made, there is still a lot of work that has to be done. We need continued American leadership in global food security. We need proven programs like Feed the Future to continue its highly effective work in alleviating global hunger and poverty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY), a member of the Appropriations Committee and also one of the sponsors of the legislation before us.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank my friend and colleague, Chairman CHRIS SMITH, for his steadfast leadership on this issue, this important bill, as well as on so many other concerns that affect vulnerable persons around the world.

Again, Congressman SMITH, you rightly pointed out that Dr. Rajiv Shah, the Agency Director for the United States Agency for International Development, has been steadfast in his leadership on this as well and deserves a tremendous amount of credit.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this bipartisan initiative to save the lives of hurting people around the world. The United States has a decades-long history on food security, and this act— the Global Food Security Act, also known as Feed the Future— really does three things: it saves lives; it creates critical development throughout the world; and it strengthens our own national security by stopping the underlying problems that lead to international instability.

Americans are the most generous people in the world. This bill continues our tradition of generosity in a smart, whole-of-government approach that combines the goodwill of the private sector as well as charities for a 21st century approach to development aid. Feed the Future has proven to be one of the most cost-effective and results-oriented international development initiatives that we have championed to date. It is the right thing to do.

Many of the dedicated 800 million people throughout the world who suffer from chronic hunger rely on agriculture to make a living. Back in 2007 and 2008, we launched this response to the global food crisis by helping to bring self-sufficiency to struggling agriculture around the world. By working together with partner countries that are invested in taking responsibility for their own success, what started out as a modest program has developed into a serious global commitment to end hunger and improve nutrition standards, especially for vulnerable women and their children.

In 2013 alone, market-based agricultural productivity initiatives funded by Congress reached more than 12.5 million children on nutrition and has helped some 7 million farmers leverage new agricultural technologies on nearly 10 million acres of land. Importantly as well, Feed the Future has leveraged more than $10 billion in private sector investment—the majority from American businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this very thoughtful measure, which has earned broad-based support from the U.S. agricultural sector, universities nationwide, faith-based non-governmental organizations, as well as private enterprise. We will never regret the good we can do in helping feed the hungry, and the return on this investment will surely compound to the benefit of future generations in, perhaps, ways we can never measure.

To everyone who has been involved here and to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I want to thank you all for working in such a bipartisan spirit to get this important bill done. I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota, Representative BETTY MCCOLLUM, the co-author of this bill.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Thank you, Mr. VARGAS.

Mr. Speaker, the Global Food Security Act is an important bill, and I want to thank my colleagues—Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, Representative BASS, and Representative FORTENBERRY for his kind remarks—for their hard work to get this bipartisan legislation to the floor today. My very biggest “thank you” goes to my great partner in this, Representative CHRIS SMITH.

Thank you, Mr. SMITH.

Mr. Speaker, in the world’s poorest countries, more than 800 million people are chronically hungry and malnourished. They are struggling and are in desperate poverty, forced to watch as their children suffer and too often die from malnutrition. Children who do survive will remain hungry, and they are so chronically malnourished they are physically and mentally stunted. This malnutrition—this lack of food—hurts not only the individual but the development of an entire country.

With this in mind, former Republican Senator Dick Lugar and I introduced bipartisan-bicameral legislation to call for a comprehensive U.S. food global security strategy in 2009.

But while that bill did not become law, we did build a strong base of bipartisan support around food security, and in 2010, President Obama took up the call to invest in agricultural development and launched Feed the Future.

With the support of Congress, Feed the Future is working to accelerate agriculturally-led economic growth and reduce poverty. It is working with smallholder farmers in 19 countries to help them grow their way out of poverty, improve nutrition for women and children, and create income-generating opportunities.

I have seen the difference our investments in agriculture and nutrition are having in these countries. I have met the women farmers who are feeding their families, sending their children to school, and investing in their communities because of Feed the Future. And we need to continue to build on these successes.

The Global Food Security Act will continue to enhance global food security by assisting small-scale farmers, increasing yields, putting more food on families’ tables, and then selling more food in the market.

Our bill is about partnering with hardworking farmers who are mostly women to make them more successful. It helps to provide them access to the knowledge, the tools, the markets, and the business ways to succeed when a woman farmer succeeds, her children and family are healthier, and they are more likely to succeed.

H.R. 5656 is leveraging a unique partnership with NGOs, private sector businesses, educational institutions, and faith-based groups.

Three Minnesota-based businesses—Land O’ Lakes, General Mills, and

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Cargill—are already partnering with Feed the Future. In fact, General Mills CEO Ken Powell said: “We are hungry to help the farmer in Malawi who, by selling her crop, will generate the money needed to support her family and pay for her children to go to school.”

So the bottom line is, we cannot sit by and do nothing as 800 million hungry people suffer and far too many die from malnutrition. As mothers and fathers are forced to watch their children go hungry, there is nothing we can do something.

Human dignity, decency, and our own national security demands that we support and sustain this important investment in agricultural development and nutrition.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the Global Food Security Act.

Once again, I would like to thank CHRIS SMITH, Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, Representative Bass, and all of our staff—Piero, Kelly, Joan, Janice, and Jen—ifor all of their work on this bill.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and of course is also one of the sponsors of this bill.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman SMITH for his hard work and bipartisan leadership, and for bringing a very, very important issue to the floor, and also for his long-time advocacy for lifting people up out of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard Members speak on the floor here today very bipartisan in support of H.R. 5656, the Feed the Future Global Food Security Act. The Feed the Future Initiative embodies the very best of the United States’ foreign aid. It is a new approach. It doesn’t just provide handouts but, instead, provides a hand-up to some of the very poorest parts of the world.

Feed the Future is working to bring sustainable agricultural practices to targeted communities around the world to help lift people out of extreme poverty. In fact, in 2013, farmers working with the program applied these improved techniques to over 4 million hectares of land.

The program’s work goes far beyond just increasing yields for farmers through the program. It is introducing a new approach to agriculture, one that builds on lessons learned in the past. It is increasing yields for farmers, just increasing yields for farmers, increasing incomes. It is expanding economic opportunities. It is increasing food security not only in domestic markets but also internationally.

Mr. McCUOERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) for his leadership on these important issues.

I also want to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey, CHRIS SMITH, and the gentlewoman from Minnesota, BETTY MCCOLLUM, for their leadership in bringing this important bill before the House.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to rise in support of H.R. 5656, the Feed the Future Global Food Security Act of 2014. I remember in 2008 when our former colleague from Missouri, Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson, and I sat down with researchers from the GAO to talk about how our global food security programs could be improved and made more effective. Their advice was simple: Create a comprehensive government-wide strategy.

I want my House colleagues to know that it was State Department and USAID officials under President George W. Bush who were the first to bring me and my colleagues together on this issue. They introduced an entrepreneurial spirit into these communities, a business model, an empowerment model. It is increasing family incomes. It is expanding economic growth. And it is opening up new trade opportunities.

This work is also empowering communities to take control of their future by building sustainable local economies. As they become more reliant on themselves, they become less reliant on government assistance. This should always be the goal of our U.S. foreign aid programs.

This program is also leveraging support, as has been mentioned, from the private sector, the civil sector, and the research community. This targeted approach from all of these sides of the equation and the reliance on advanced data and research has allowed them now to achieve these cost-effective results. These results are very impressive, so far: 4.5 million acres have reached over $98 million in private sector investment, $93 million in new local income, and 12.5 million children under the age of 5 receiving very important nutrition programs.

We need to continue to build upon the successes of the Feed the Future Initiative in our efforts to end global poverty. There is no doubt that programs like this are driving a new pathway in foreign aid and bringing along life-changing results.

I want to recognize the bipartisan work that is going on in Congress, along with the leadership also of Dr. Raj Shah at USAID, so that we can continue to help so many.

I ask all my colleagues to support this very bipartisan legislation and the Feed the Future Initiative.

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts, Representative Jim McGovern, the Anti-Hunger Caucus, who is a real champion for food security not only here domestically but also internationally.

Mr. McCUOERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) for his leadership.

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, the Feed the Future Initiative has been successful in alleviating food insecurity over the last 4 years. This important bill authorizes this proven approach to food security. It is a moral, economic, and security imperative that we continue the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

I think we all need to be thankful for the heart that has gone into this and our colleagues. Certainly we want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey, CHRIS SMITH, and the gentlewoman from Minnesota, BETTY MCCOLLUM. Their hearts have been in this and fighting for this. They brought us all together. We appreciate that.

And with that, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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

First of all, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) for his leadership. This truly is a bipartisan bill. I want to again say how grateful I am to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts, and to Mr. VARGAS, the Anti-Hunger Caucus, to be working with her and her staff. Our staffs are all trying to make sure we have a bill that will make a huge difference not only in putting our arms around the existing program but in strengthening it and taking it to the next level.

I do want to point out that this is a whole government strategy:

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all in on the part of the U.S. Government so that everyone is working on all six cylinders to make sure that sustainable development occurs throughout the world in target countries and, as those targets increase, that it is totally inclusive. When we worked on issues like microweathering, we found—particularly in most parts of Africa—that women have really stepped up to the plate and have done yeoman’s work. They are fully included in this effort. Again, I want to thank all of my colleagues. I want to thank the leadership, the gentleman from California, KEVIN McCARTHY, and Speaker BOEHN
ER, for making sure that this legislation got to the floor. Our hope is that the Senate may take it up. If not, we will be right back here next year. But I do hope that they will take it up because delay is denial. This is an important piece of legislation that will save lives.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). 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. 5656, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the House, by a vote of 411-1, agreed to the motion, except for the following:

Mr. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order on honoring our retiring Members, Congressman HENRY WAXMAN and Congressman GEORGE MILLER.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART).

HONORING CONGRESSMAN HENRY WAXMAN AND CONGRESSMAN GEORGE MILLER ON THEIR RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENRAL LEAVE

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART). The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEWART).

IN MEMORY OF MARGARET COLF HEPOLA

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

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great admiration and a little bit of humility because I get to honor the life of a tremendous woman, a friend from southwest Washington who has made a lasting impact on our region. She passed away this week at the age of 97.

A lifelong resident of Clark County, Margaret Colf Hepola could recount the history of southwest Washington in a way that was more complete and exponentially more colorful than any history book. Her great grandparents moved to the Lewis River Valley before Washington had even claimed statehood, and more than 140 years later, Margaret’s family still calls our region home.

There are people who live in a community, and then there are people who define what “community” means. Margaret was the latter. She made it one of her greatest legacies to share the history of the community she loved and to preserve the memories of those who came before her. Through the Colf family’s generous philanthropy, Margaret saved historical landmarks, supported museums, and founded the La Center Library.

Margaret’s wit, her grit, and her compassion made her one of the most celebrated women in our entire region. Twice-widowed and a mother of five, Margaret did not let tragedy or the responsibilities of motherhood deter her from giving back to the community that she cared about so deeply. By the time she had reached the ninth decade of her life, Margaret Colf Hepola had become a household name in southwest Washington.

I will conclude today by honoring her legacy, one of a passionate historical preservationist who herself has earned a place in southwest Washington’s history books.

H9028
and the Committee on Education and Labor from 2007 to 2010. He is a long-
time cochair to the Democratic Steering Policy Committee. He is among the
50th, as is Henry, consecutive longest-
serving Members of Congress in history out of over 2,000 Members.

His list of accomplishments is too long to read, but they certainly include
fair pay for women; investigating sweatshops not only here, but around the
world; fighting for pension reform; standing up for occupational safety and
occupational disease compensation; international labor standards; the mini-

mum wage; antidiscrimination laws; and the defense of the right to organize
and collectively bargain.

The notable legislation written or co-
written by GEORGE MILLER include: the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007; the
student loan reforms of 2007 and 2010; the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002;
the California Desert Protection Act of 1994; the Education for All Handicapped
Children Act of 1975, now known as the Individuals With Disability Act; and the
Pay-As-You-Go Act, PAYGO, passed in 1982 to reduce the deficit and
instill greater discipline in the budget process and to ensure that military and
nonmilitary spending were treated under the same rules.

He played a key role in shaping the American Recovery and Reinvestment
Act, the response to the worst Amer-
ican recession since the Great Depres-
sion.

California is proud of our two col-
leagues, and many Californians and in-
deed some honorary Californians are
here tonight who would like to say a
few words to honor these two out-
standing men.

First, I yield to the gentleman from
California, Mr. ALAN LOWENTHAL, who rep-
resents a district in southern Cali-
foria for his tribute.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I thank the gentle-
woman from San Jose for yielding to
me.

Mr. Speaker, I am really humbled to
have a chance just to say a few words about
GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAX-
MAN. As a new Member, I have had the
wonderful experience of spending my first
2 years as both Mr. WAXMAN and Mr.
MILLER kind of conclude a great
career.

A little bit first about GEORGE MIL-
LER: as we pointed out, he is a progres-
sive; he has fought for the environ-
ment, he has protected it, he has been a
leader in the Natural Resources Com-
mittee, and he has fought to protect public lands such as in the 1994 Cali-

fornia Desert Protection Act and cre-
ated Death Valley National Park and Joshua Tree. He was the chief sponsor
of the Central Valley Project Improve-
ment Act of 1992, also to protect the
fish and wildlife.

I came also to the legislature, to the
Congress, after chairing education in Cali-
ifornia. GEORGE MILLER was a
champion and a leader here, and we all
looked up to him. As was pointed out
already, he did great work on helping
to draft the No Child Left Behind Act, and he was a great supporter of school
modernization and community col-
leges—finally, about George, passion,
humor, respected by all, and a zest for
political combat.

On the other hand, let’s see what peo-
ple say about my good friend HENRY WAXMAN. Like myself, Henry’s grand-
parents were Jewish immigrants. We both
served in the legislature. The Wash-
ington Post said that HENRY WAX-
MAN is to Congress what Ted Williams was to baseball: a natural.

Ralph Nader once said that HENRY WAXMAN is the only argument against
term limits. Senator ALAN SIMPSON once said that HENRY WAXMAN is
tougher than a boiled owl, and The Los
Angeles Times describes Representa-
tive HENRY WAXMAN’s tenacity as leg-
endary.

We all know his work on the environ-
ment. I am just going to point that
out, is legendary not only in terms of the
Clean Air Act amendments, but he is
also known for the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments; laws reducing
childhood lead exposure; the Forma-
ldehyde Standards for Composite Wood
Products Act; reduction of greenhouse
gases; and taking on, as we all know, the tobacco industry.

In keeping with his role as the de-
fender of the environment, Mr. WAX-
MAN has served as chair of the House Safe Climate Caucus. It was a
distinct honor for this new Member to
serve with him, HENRY WAXMAN, and a
greater honor to be selected as the next
chairperson of the Safe Climate Cau-
cus.

Mr. Speaker, I only hope that I and
every Member of this body can live up
to the amazing legacies of public serv-

ice that GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN have left this Congress.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am
honored now to yield to the gentle-
woman from California, NANCY PELOSI, the Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank
the leader of our California Democratic delegation. ZOE LOFGREN, thank you
for bringing us together this evening for a very bittersweet circumstance, that is
to say how proud we are to honor the leadership of two great gi-
ants of the Congress, HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER. How sad we are
that they are leaving us.

I come to the floor, Mr. Speaker, today, to join in celebrating two of the
most accomplished members of the
great body, and when I say “most ac-
complished,” I am not just speaking in
the context of the present Congress.

I am talking about two of the most
accomplished Members of this great
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complished,” I am not just speaking in
the context of the present Congress.
It was 1982; we were at a midterm convention of the Democrats in Philadelphia. GEORGE MILLER had the resolution to pass PAYGO. It was very fiscally sound and responsible. It passed. The resolution passed. It was so revolutionary that they never had a midterm convention again because it was really there not to make speeches but to make change.

In any event, they made that change, and it didn’t become effective really until several more years later when President Bush, the new President of the United States, and then we want on a pay-as-you-go basis, so whatever we were doing, we were not increasing the deficit.

So he has been a deficit hawk, a very progressive, liberal deficit hawk in the lead on that subject.

So when he was doing the earned income tax cut, Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids; ENDA—really, we haven’t passed anything yet, but GEORGE has advanced it in the House any number of times—early childhood education to lifetime learning, I keep coming back to the children.

I have said that when people ask me what are the three most important issues facing the Congress, I always say the same thing: our children, our children, and our children. Their health, their education, their economic security of their families, the air they breathe, environment in which they live, a world at peace in which they can reach their fulfillment. No one in the Congress has done more for our children, our children, our children than GEORGE MILLER, GEORGE MILLER, GEORGE MILLER.

So his focus on the children, but having them live in a world at peace has taken him outside of our country. So forceful was he in his advocacy for children in other countries, for fairness and opportunity and social justice, that he became a subject of the Salvadoran death squads. They tried to search him down in the United States because he was such a fierce champion for fairness in their country as well.

So here we are—two great, very committed people. If you ask them what the secret of their success would be and how they achieved so much, they will be modest—well, sometimes. But what they will tell you separately and the guidance they give the rest of us, just stick with it. Just keep on working. Just make sure that the other side, whoever that might be, knows you are not going to go away because you have a goal that is responsibility to have an urgency for the people, and you will make sure that you make the difference.

In many ways we all live in a nation shaped, defined, and strengthened by GEORGE MILLER AND HENRY WAXMAN. Their dedication, their driving dedication, courageous leadership have put them in the ranks of the greatest legislators in our history. When they leave this House, we can be certain that they will use their extraordinary knowledge and talent in new venues and in new ways to serve America’s children and families.

As we acknowledge them and express our appreciation to them, we also have to acknowledge the work of others. Janet and Cynthia Miller have contributed 80 years of being spouses to Members of Congress. That is really almost like 80 years each. That is twice as long as serving, to be a congressional spouse, with all the sacrifice that involves.

Tonight we say a heartfelt “thank you” not only to GEORGE and HENRY and voice our gratitude to them, but to the Waxman and Miller families for sharing these great men with our great Nation.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to our colleague from California, Mr. MARK TAKANO.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady, the dean of our delegation in California. I come to the floor with tremendous pride and a heavy heart as we say good-bye to two of the greatest liberal legislators California has ever known—HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER.

I had the honor of receiving HENRY WAXMAN’s endorsement for my very first congressional bid in 1992, but I had been an admirer of his long before that. I believe HENRY’s career will be judged by history.

Going back to his cofounding of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats with Congressman Howard Berman back in 1973, his passion for social justice has long been storied. I have to say, as a Member from the Inland Empire where we suffer from some of the worst air quality in the Nation, I am grateful for HENRY’s commitment to clean air.

He has been a stalwart of progressive values, conducting powerful investigations on water pollution, AIDS, and tobacco, to name a few. Who else could have cajoled executives of tobacco companies to claim that nicotine was not addictive under oath? Only HENRY.

Let me turn to the other liberal titan, GEORGE MILLER. GEORGE’s work on education and labor issues are unparalleled, from leading the effort that raised the minimum wage in 2007 to his commitment to protecting Pell grants and expanding college accessibility for all students.

His support of my bid to the Education and the Workforce Committee made one of this teacher’s lifelong aspirations a reality. To honor GEORGE, I plan on renaming the committee Education and Labor when we retake the majority.

GEORGE’s passion and presence on the House floor and in committee was powerful and will be missed.

The commitment that both these men had to the right issues, not always the easy or popular issues, makes them true public servants and examples for the rest of us to follow.

While there is no question that both HENRY and GEORGE have earned their retirement, the House is losing two of its fiercest liberal voices. I am humbled to have served one term alongside these gentlemen, but selfishly wish that I could work with them for many more years to come.

In departing, they are leaving big shoes for the rest of us to fill, but I can safely speak for all of us when I say to HENRY and to GEORGE: It has been an honor.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER, my neighbor in the San Francisco Bay area.

Ms. SPEIER. I thank the California Democratic leader and want to say very simply that Members come and go on the Hill, but some you can’t imagine leaving. Tonight I rise to honor two public servants whose departure will leave an extraordinary void for years to come. Like the giant redwoods of California, these men are giants of the Congress.

Representatives HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER have honorably served the State of California and this Chamber for a combined 80 years—1982 and 1992, respectively. Both arrived in the shadow of Watergate, ushering in a new era of strong congressional oversight. They led some of the most significant legislative achievements in our history and set the gold standard for active oversight for all who follow.

Representative WAXMAN, the mustard of justice, never backed down. His book chronicling his congressional investigations, “The Waxman Report,” is the bible for conducting effective oversight and holding industry and government officials accountable.

His work combating the tobacco industry is one of the greatest public health achievements of the last century. But it is only one of many accomplishments, including the Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Affordable Care Act, and holding the Bush administration accountable throughout the Iraq war.

His truth serum inquiries caused plenty of CEOs to squirm and brought American consumers cleaner air, water, and quality of life. His stature in this Congress is iconic, and his oversight techniques are legendary. He will always be remembered as the grand inquisitor.

Representative MILLER was mentored by Phillip Burton, who famously said: People sent me to Congress to kick A and take names. Well, GEORGE MILLER took that to heart, making his presence on the House floor through passionate speeches and actions to match. He didn’t mince words or volume.

GEORGE looks like a warm teddy bear but is like a teddy bear, he is ferocious in protecting his children, all the children in this country. He worked to protect educational opportunity for low-income students and children with
disabilities from preschool to graduation. Even in his final days of service, he has worked to expand access to early childhood education through a new White House initiative.

He has also been an unwavering champion for working families and our environment. He fought pay discrimination with the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, has worked to keep college accessible for all, and conserved the California landscape through his tireless efforts to preserve San Francisco Bay.

As chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, Mr. MILLER helped pass the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992, which increased water allocations for San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, and he spent the last 20 years defending those precious gains which benefit the bay area’s wildlife, endangered species, and commercially critical salmon runs.

When MILLER arrived in D.C., he was intent on extending affordable health care to all, and thanks to his leadership on the Education and the Workforce Committee, nearly 11 million people are newly ensured under the Affordable Care Act. It is not often that Members achieve such lofty goals in Congress, but his masterful work has led to a law for the history books.

HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER have represented the great heights in this Chamber and what can be achieved. I hope that we can all learn from their example and emulate their legacies.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California for yielding this time to me.

Mr. Speaker, it is with such great pride and with a heavy heart at our pending loss—we gather here this evening to honor two of the giants of the House of Representatives, and they are friends, friends to me, friends to us all, GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN.

HENRY and GEORGE are two of America’s greatest public servants, each serving their California constituents and serving the Nation for almost 40 years. But it is not just their longevity that makes them so notable. They have been incredibly effective.

They have used each of their days here in this institution to improve the lives of all Americans. They have taught us who served with them by their example to do the same. They have made their footprint, their imprint on this place indelible for all ages because they have focused on all Americans, and particularly the vulnerable.

Each of them has been especially skilled and adept at combining their keen intellect with how to get things done here on the Hill with their ability to dive deep into policy and to see how average Americans, everyday Americans, are affected back home in their districts—all Americans. When you look at any major piece of domestic policy over the past 40 years that they have served here, their imprint is felt. For example, HENRY WAXMAN was so intimately involved in our Nation’s best efforts to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid coverage, to improve access to generic drugs so that all Americans can afford their medicine, to protect our air and water. These topics have been covered, have been mentioned, but they are major pieces of legislation. And he has led us in moving toward a clean tech energy economy.

HENRY WAXMAN literally wrote the laws that have improved the lives of so many, including the Ryan White CARE Act for HIV treatment and prevention, the landmark Clean Air Act amendments of 1990, the 2009 Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act.

HENRY, working with you on the Energy and Commerce Committee has been one of the greatest joys that I have experienced here in Congress.

Similarly, GEORGE MILLER has been such a stalwart in protecting middle class families, those of our Nation, as well as the school districts that I understand represent, similar to all the school districts across this country.

You have promoted education and opportunity for the least of these, for all of these.

He authored the last increase in the Federal minimum wage. He passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act so that we could address pay discrimination. Imagine what that means to every woman, every family, in this country because of this legislation.

He has led efforts to reform our Nation’s education system. As a school nurse, this hits home with me.

He has made college more affordable, to protect pregnant and our coastal communities from increased oil drilling. That is an issue that you empowered me to focus on when I came here as a new Member of Congress.

It must be noted that thanks to each of these Members, to the work that you did on the Affordable Care Act, so incredibly important each of you were to this major landmark passage, families now can have the peace of mind knowing that they are not going to go bankrupt just because they get sick.

And while we are going to deeply miss you here in this place next year, as we gather to vote tomorrow, you look around this Chamber during that vote, you can see each of the people you have mentored during your time here, including me.

Mr. LOFGREN. At this point, I yield to the gentlewoman from California, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, our colleague.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding this time to me.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we are here to thank and honor two of California’s greatest congressional legislators and our dear friends, HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER.

This is an especially, as the Leader has said, bittersweet and poignant time because they are our dear friends. We are so proud of them, and we are going to miss them dearly.

The reason that HENRY and GEORGE are so significant here in this body are that they are the architects of the most significant legislation of the last 40 years. You think about anything we have done in this House, whether it is health care, environment, energy, consumer protection, communications, workforce protection, education opportunities, it goes on and on. The reason why they have been so successful and why they are so dearly respected and loved, it is that they are men of the House, they are men of the people. They love this institution and they honor this institution, and so this institution honors them. They are people, individuals, who understand this country and understand what makes it great, understand that it is the people that they are going to be helping.

HENRY has been a dear friend of mine for over 30 years and his absence will be keenly felt in the Halls of Congress and in the Energy and Commerce Committee, on which I serve. In his four decades here, HENRY has been a stalid advocate for his constituents in Los Angeles and for this whole Nation and their world too.

On the Energy and Commerce Committee, I have worked closely with HENRY to tackle a number of critical issues facing the country. The Affordable Care Act will forever be the benchmark in any discussion of the committee’s greatest accomplishments, and HENRY has been a true leader in that passage.

We worked together to combat climate change, eliminate the harmful formaldehyde emissions, promote strong net neutrality rules, and expand access to Internet services for more Americans. He has been a true leader.

We are also saying good-bye to my really good friend GEORGE MILLER. During my time in Congress, he has become a trusted friend and colleague. He led the fight on raising the minimum wage and fighting for a vibrant education system.

But what I remember the most and cherish the most about him is that he leaves such a great legacy on water law and policy in California, from his historic California water reform law that requires the balanced use of our State’s surface water resources to the many battles on the floor fending off all-conceived attempts to drastically change the distribution of our precious water resources.
With the departure of Henry and George, Congress is losing champions of the people whose knowledge and passion will not soon be replaced, but they leave many of us behind who understand how important it is. We say farewell to them, but we also wish them well, and certainly wish their families well. Of course, none larger than George and Henry. This institution has seen many giants, and all of us here have been on the shoulders of giants. I learned quickly that none of us are the first of our family to serve. My father, who was a California State senator, introduced us to politics at the State level, and both of us remained end up as staff members in the California State legislature, where, in 1986, Henry Waxman was elected. And George Miller was elected. And George on the Senate side and myself on the analyst side, but mostly on the assembly side. I worked a lot with Henry Waxman because I was doing constitutional revision work, and one of the few things that Henry was interested in was constitutional revision. This is really about the history of the state of the Constitution, and he carried these really complicated constitutional amendments to clean up the Constitution and remember the dedication. The style was always one of intellect, very legal, lawyer-like, quiet, but everybody respected him, and we got a lot done. George, George is like his dad. He is the fiery one. In fact, this podium right here I saw broken by George hitting it. This is a new podium, ladies and gentlemen, thanks to George Miller. Now it is adjustable and all kinds of things it didn’t used to be in the old days.

Look, behind us is the American flag. There are 50 stars on it. Everybody knows those represent the 50 States. In my opinion, they are going to remind us of the 50 pieces of major legislation that each one of these Members carry. Now, a lot of these are elected. But these people that come through here are famous, and we have had Senator Kennedy and so on being in this House, and we think of the legislation they have created. Look, these gentlemen have done more for this Nation in major legislation than any people in either the Senate or the House. In fact, little known, but George Miller would have been the Speaker of the House when Nancy Pelosi wanted him to run, and he said: “Nancy, this is your job, we are going to make history with you.”

These two gentlemen are some of the greatest people that have ever served in the United States Congress, and I hope the record will remember all of their incredible accomplishments because we are a better country and a better world for their service. We are going to greatly miss them. Ms. Lofgren, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from East Bay, Congressman Eric Swalwell, a new Member of our delegation.

Mr. Swalwell of California. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to pay tribute to two legislators, two lions of the United States Congress whom I am honored to have had the privilege to serve with for 2 years. Henry, it is often said that there is nothing more important than one’s health, and no one has done more to improve the health of Americans than the gentleman from California, Henry Waxman. He provided better health care to the elderly through improved Medicare and Medicaid programs, offered Federal help to those with HIV and AIDS, and vastly expanded the use of less expensive generic drugs, on and on and on. Henry also worked to advance public health by improving the environment in which we live. This included pushing for legislation to protect the quality of our air, water, and food.

Now, George, my neighbor, just to the north, I will never forget the first day I met George. It was in our caucus meeting. He came up to me and he said, “How old are you?” I told him I was 31 years old. He said he was about the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger. He was the same age, just a little bit younger.
But, perhaps, my favorite memory of GEORGE is coming down onto the House floor as GEORGE has given an impassioned floor speech. GEORGE tends, as you know, to go just a little bit over time, but when he starts to go over time he starts to raise his voice and he starts to gavel and bang and bang on that podium as he is standing up for working families and children in our country, and the poor Speaker tries to gavel him down. But never, never, never has anyone been able to gavel down Vice President H.W. Bush. It had to be reset, and that is what GEORGE MILLER did.

The CVPIA encouraged more efficient water use, established conservation requirements for water metering. It started to reform the antiquated water contracts that gave away public water for 40 years at a time at below-market rates.

The law that GEORGE MILLER authored also helped pave the way for the restoration of the San Joaquin River which once supported one of the largest salmon runs on the Pacific Coast. Although we will miss their daily leadership in our delegation and in Congress, I know that their body of work will continue to stand the test of time. The people of California have been very fortunate to have Congressman MILLER and Congressman WAXMAN representing them for the past 40 years, and it has been a privilege and honor for me to serve with them for the past 2 years.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to our distinguished colleague from Los Angeles, Congresswoman LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Tonight is a bittersweet event for all of us of the California delegation. While we are here to celebrate the accomplishments of our colleagues HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER, we are also here to bid farewell to these outstanding statesmen who have made indelible contributions to the House of Representatives and to our Nation.

When I came to Congress in 1993, they had served 18 years as colleagues of my father, former Congressman Edward R. Roybal, who had great respect for these men. As a freshwoman Member, I remember being very much in awe of them and their accomplishments. HENRY was already considered the go-to guy with gun, as GEORGE well-established as a leader in education and labor policy, but their contributions to our country had just begun.

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As a Member of the House for the last 22 years, I have seen firsthand the expertise, the passion, and the courage with which they fought for policies and laws to improve the quality of life for all Americans. Their accomplishments are much too many to mention. HENRY will always be remembered for his championship of universal health care, his efforts to ensure the affordability and availability of prescription drugs, and his leadership in tobacco cessation policies.

GEORGE’s legacy will be his stewardship of a fair minimum wage, worker protections through secret ballots, and his staunch advocacy for school modernization and student aid expansion.

My constituents and all Americans, including future generations, will benefit from the educational opportunities, labor protections, clean air and water, and expanded health access that were made possible by these two Caliifornians. Statesmen who were the privilege to serve. I will always cherish the opportunities I have to collaborate with them on issues like adult immunization, newborn screening, and education technology.

HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER will leave a void that is nearly impossible to fill and a heritage of critical policy imperatives that will define our efforts in health, education, labor, and environmental justice for many Congresses to come.

These men truly understand the meaning of the responsibility of serving in the House of Representatives. I wish them Godspeed, good health, and sincere thanks for their lifetime of service in doing the people’s work in the people’s House.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield to our colleague from New York, an honorable Californian and a fellow fan of these two great Members of Congress, PAUL TONKO of New York’s 20th District.

Mr. TONKO. Thank you to the gentlewoman from California for yielding.

It is an honor this evening to join in the tribute to two very strong individuals who have represented their districts so very well, Representative WAXMAN and Representative MILLER.

One of the benefits and one of the opportunities that comes the way of Members of this House is to stand alongside men and women of greatness who lead not only their home district and State, but the Nation—and the world, for that matter. This evening, we recognize the contributions of HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER.

When I first arrived in the House some three terms ago, my first assignment was on the Education and Labor Committee. I thank you, Representative MILLER for being an outstanding chair who enabled me to join in your sound efforts in providing for the employment of children, the strengthening of workers, stamping out gender discrimination, and all sorts of work that addressed not only issues of your
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home State of California and my district in New York, but the entire Nation—and the world—for that matter. It has been an empowering statement.

To HENRY WAXMAN, the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, when I joined earlier in this third term, it was an honor to join with you, HENRY, and to recognize the great work that you have done on climate change and energy issues, certainly on public health, from the warnings of tobacco to affordable prescription drugs and to move forward with the Affordable Care Act.

It has been an honor. It has been a great treasure to call you colleagues and friends. I want to thank you for your intellect, the institutional memory that you carry with you, and the passion that you poured forth for your State, your country, and the world.

Thank you so much for your service. We will deeply miss you.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to yield to our colleague from Maryland, Congressman CHRIS VAN HOLLEN.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. It is an honor to stand with the California delegation tonight in saluting two extraordinary Members of the United States Congress, GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN, two friends, two individuals who have been an inspiration to me and so many other Americans.

What is extraordinary about these two men is that they greeted every day of their 40 years here in the United States Congress as if it were their very first day, with the same determination, with the same drive, with the same passion to make our country a little better place than they found it.

Make no mistake, they came here on a mission to build a more just, a more inclusive Nation, where every American has a fair shot at the American Dream, and through that determination and that perseverance, they succeeded.

If you look around the country today, in almost every aspect of American life, these two gentlemen have left their mark, from health care to education to workers' rights to protecting our environment. They have changed the arc of American history.

One quality really stands out when I think about both these individuals: fearlessness and moral courage and a willingness to take the most powerful special interests on behalf of the common good, no matter the personal risk, no matter the political cost.

They have been warriors for the public good, sometimes happy warriors, sometimes just tough warriors, but always standing up for what is best in America. It is the job of those of us who remain here to dedicate ourselves to carry on the work that these gentlemen carried out for the love of their country.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to another distinguished gentleman from Maryland, Congressman JOHN SARBANES.

Mr. SARBANES. Thank you for yielding.

It is a privilege to rise and acknowledge the incredible service of GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN. I had the honor of serving with both of them on each of their committees, the Education and the Workforce Committee in the case of GEORGE MILLER, and the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Oversight Committee with HENRY WAXMAN.

As public servants, they are unrivaled. At a time when unfortunately many Americans have become cynical and wonder whether their voice is heard here in Washington, these are two individuals that when you look back over their careers in public service, you cannot have a shred of cynicism because they got up every day determined to do the right thing to help people across this country.

In the case of HENRY WAXMAN, his fight on behalf of consumers is legendary. He fought to guarantee access to affordable health care is before us every day. His desire to see that every citizen be able to live in a world where they have clean air and clean water, a world that is protected against the ravages of climate change, is his legacy. In fact, when it comes to climate change, I think we can say he is the conscience of the Congress.

In the case of GEORGE MILLER, he is somebody who was deeply committed to making sure that the next generation had decent educational opportunities and fought for that during his entire time here in this Congress; of course, he was always putting the priorities and the needs of working families first.

If legislating is a profession, then these two individuals reached the height of that profession. They knew the substance of the work. They fought hard for what they believed in, but they knew how to reach compromise when it was demanded.

As people, they are both decent, ethical, and caring, and most importantly, down to Earth, getting up every day saying, "I have got a job to do," and going out to do it. We will miss them. We thank them for their service. As long as we have the privilege of serving here, we will cherish their legacy.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey, RUSHTON HOLT.

Mr. HOLT. As one who has also chosen to step aside at the end of this term, I want to recognize and thank two legislative giants, HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER. They came at the same time. Although they are very different people, each shows compassion, courage, determination, persistence, powerful mind skill, and even good humor in accomplishing all these things that we have heard about tonight.

I have seen their personal qualities up close. I have been with HENRY as he stands for fairness and justice in Israel. I have been with GEORGE MILLER as he

inspects the vanishing glaciers that are the victims of our climate change.

They have worked, as you heard, on elementary and secondary education, worker protection, health care, communication, clean air, clean water, tobacco to affordable prescription drugs and to move forward with the Affordable Care Act.

We will deeply miss you.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. It is an honor to rise and acknowledge the contributions of the two gentlemen, HENRY and GEORGE, and it opened a new chapter in American government and to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, just squeaking under the wire, and I am not going to do a GEORGE MILLER imitation, talking over the Speaker and pounding the lectern, nor am I going to try and really come before us in terms of talking about the legendary accomplishments of the two gentlemen. I just want to mention one.

When I first came here, I was privileged to be part of a small discussion group of faith and politics. It had HENRY and GEORGE, and it opened a face to me of people who cared about their colleagues, an extraordinary kindness that both had given to me and my family, and had given a face to this institution that is too often missing now. And I think that may be their greatest contribution.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, we are through with an hour. We could have filled many hours, but we say goodbye to these two colleagues. Eighty years of experience and expertise will leave this Chamber.

I looked—in 1974, the top of the charts was "The Way We Were," that was the song, but also on that chart was a song called "Rock On," and that is what we want our two colleagues to do.

We are in their debt. We are impressed. Our country and our world is a better place because of their wonderful service.

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank two of the finest legislators in California's history for their contributions to our nation and to this body over the past forty years. HENRY WAXMAN and GEORGE MILLER were both elected in the post-Watergate Democratic
wave election of 1974—one from Southern California, the other from Northern California. They have served together through many legislative battles that have shaped the modern history of our country, and they have each chaired committees during times of momentous change and achievement. It has been my privilege to serve on many committees with them, and it will be my disappointment to see both of them leave this House when they retire at the close of the 113th Congress.

HENRY WAXMAN has spent his four decades in Congress as a tireless fighter for clean air and water, a stronger economy that creates opportunities for all Americans, and a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. He worked hard to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco and worked across the aisle to help lower the costs of drugs used to treat those with rare diseases. HENRY wrote major legislation on food safety to inform consumers about the nutritional value of what they eat and to keep chemical pesticides out of the fruits and vegetables we feed our children.

Hens and GEORGE MILLER both helped lead the efforts to pass the Affordable Care Act and expand access to affordable health insurance to more Americans.

GEORGE has served as Chairman of both the Natural Resources Committee and the Education and Labor Committee—now called the Education and Workforce Committee—of which he is still the Ranking Member. GEORGE helped write legislation to reform and expand student loans, was instrumental in crafting the new G.I. Bill to send Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to college, and worked to pass the College Cost Reduction Act to make higher education more affordable for all Americans. He and I worked together in 2009 to enact statutory PAY-GO rules to ensure that Congress must pay for what it buys—rules GEORGE pioneered in the early 1980’s when he wrote the first PAY-GO legislation.

Both GEORGE and HENRY will leave big shoes to fill in the next Congress, and I look forward to working with the Democratic Members of their committees who will succeed them in order to carry forward the work they have been engaged in for forty years. I join with a grateful nation and a grateful House in thanking them both for their many years of distinguished service to Congress, to the people of California, and to the United States.

Mr. BERCERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the legacy of public service for two of our departing colleagues, Rep. GEORGE MILLER and Rep. HENRY WAXMAN.

I have had the pleasure of serving alongside Reps. MILLER and WAXMAN for over twenty years and it is with great respect and admiration that I say goodbye to them as colleagues, friends and brothers-in-arms.

Since 1975, HENRY and GEORGE have not only served the people of their districts but also our nation as champions of progressive democratic ideals and stewards for the tenets established by our founding fathers. Their legacy as effective legislators is virtually unmatched in the history of Representatives and serves as a reminder that constructive work can lead to positive results in this legislative body.

GEORGE and HENRY together claim responsibility for enacting some of the most important legislation that has come before Congress over the last century. HENRY’s leadership on the Clean Air Act, the Ryan White CARE Act, the State Children’s Health Insurance Program or the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act are a few examples of his passion and dedication. GEORGE’s leadership on the California Desert Protection Act, the Davis-Bacon Act, and the Fair Minimum Wage Act were a result of his endless tenacity and compassion.

I will always remember how instrumental each of them was in securing the enactment of the Affordable Care Act; what seven presidents could not accomplish over so many decades, President Obama principally accomplished because of the relentless efforts of each of them.

Whether we found ourselves in legislative foxholes or at the vanguard of new ideas and solutions, we were always in it together for the American people. Their efforts were always led by the desire to serve the best interests, ideals and policies for our nation.

Mr. Speaker, many are called to public service, but few leave legacies that endure the way that Rep. HENRY WAXMAN and Rep. GEORGE MILLER’s legacies will endure. As they move on to the next stage of their lives, with their heads held high, let us be thankful that we had these champions of American democracy and patriots for America’s freedom for forty years.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, HENRY WAXMAN is one of the most prolific and successful legislators in modern congressional history.

After 46 years of serving his constituents in Los Angeles County—my fellow Californian, a champion for health care, for the environment, and consumers—is retiring at the end of the 113th Congress.

Since 2009 Congressmen WAXMAN has served as Chairman and Ranking Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, a committee with broad jurisdictions that reach into each of the 113th Congress.

Since 2009 Congressman WAXMAN has served as Chairman and Ranking Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, a committee with broad jurisdictions that reach into the daily lives of millions of Americans. His legislative achievements are unparalleled—

The Infant Formula Act, to improve the quality and integrity of infant formula;

The Orphan Drug Act, which gave pharmaceutical companies incentives to develop treatments for rare diseases they had previously ignored;

The Hatch-Waxman Act to create the first ever pathway for generic drugs;

The Clean Air Act to address the problems of urban smog, hazardous air pollution, acid rain, and the depletion of the ozone;

The Ryan White Care Act, groundbreaking legislation that benefits millions of Americans living with HIV/AIDS;

The State Children’s Health Insurance Program to ensure all children had access to health insurance;

The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act to restrict the sale of cigarettes and make tobacco use a thing of the past for children and give the FDA jurisdiction to regulate these products; and

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, arguably the most important and far-reaching legislation passed by Congress in a century, creating a framework for universal health coverage for the American people.

Rep. WAXMAN has also authored laws that improved the quality of nursing homes and home health services and that set policy for childhood immunization programs, vaccine compensation, tobacco education programs, communicable disease research, community and migrant health centers, maternal and child health care, family planning centers, health maintenance organizations, and drug regulations.

Rep. WAXMAN is a strong advocate for women’s health, supporting family planning programs and the right of women to freedom of choice with respect to safe and legal abortion.

From 1997–2009, Rep. WAXMAN served as either Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, conducting investigations into a wide range of important topics from the high cost of prescription drugs to waste, fraud and abuse in government contracting. He also formed a Special Investigations Division that prepared hundreds of investigative reports on local and national topics for Members of Congress.

Mr. WAXMAN’s contributions to our country span 40 years in Congress and six years in the California State Assembly. He and his wife Janet have been married for 44 years, they have two children and five beautiful grandchildren, Ari, Maya, Noa, Eva, and Jacob. It’s been a great honor to serve with HENRY WAXMAN and I wish him and Janet my full wishes for the future.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the great legislators of our time, Congressman HENRY WAXMAN.

I have had the honor of working with HENRY on the Energy and Commerce Committee for many years. In that time, we have worked together on children’s health coverage, affordable prescription drugs, environmental protection, and universal health care coverage, the Affordable Care Act.

In Congress, HENRY has served as the Chairman and currently serves as the Ranking Democrat on Energy and Commerce and previously served as the Ranking Democrat for the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Mr. ESHOO and I both currently serve as co-chairs of the Democratic Israel Working Group where we have worked together in supporting our nation’s partner in peace in the Middle East, Israel.

HENRY, along with fellow Californian, Rep. GEORGE MILLER, are the last two House Members of the “Watergate” Class of 1974 and have left an indelible mark on our chamber. Their leadership will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank HENRY for his years of public service on behalf of millions of Americans who have benefited from his work from tobacco regulation and reproductive rights to air and water quality standards and ensuring that all Americans have access to health care coverage.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two giants of this House, GEORGE MILLER and HENRY WAXMAN, who will be leaving this institution at the end of this Congress. They will be missed, but their legacies live on in the myriad ways that they have made America better.

HENRY and GEORGE have made their marks on this nation through an unwavering commitment to their ideals, dogged hard work and a pragmatism that is too often lacking in this hyper-partisan era. One, or the other—or both,
have been instrumental in almost every major piece of domestic policy legislation in the last few decades and have improved the lives of countless Americans and millions overseas.

As long as GEORGE and HENRY have been in Congress, those who had long been ignored by Washington have been heard. Poor people, the sick, persecuted minorities around the world, and our nation’s children have all been lifted up by the work of these two men.

During his 40 years in Congress, GEORGE chaired three committees—the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, the Natural Resources Committee, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce—and through them fought for high quality education not just for a select few students but for all. He has worked to strengthen environmental protections even in the face of aggressive opposition from entrenched interests, and for safe conditions and a living wage for workers in America and overseas.

GEORGE is blessed with boundless energy and has never been satisfied to rest on his laurels—staying engaged to ensure that the bills he has passed are implemented and improved upon. He wrote the legislation that successfully raised the minimum wage in 2007 and has written the bill to increase it again.

He worked across the aisle to write and pass No Child Left Behind and has not wavered from his efforts to improve and fund it.

Beyond his extensive legislative achievements, GEORGE has touched so many lives, including mine when I interned in his office as a college student. At the time, I never imagined I would one day serve alongside him, but it has been a great honor.

HENRY WAXMAN has similarly focused a wide array of causes, focusing on investigating companies whose products had harmed consumers, and questioning and holding accountable corporate executives on behalf of those who otherwise had no opportunity to seek justice.

As Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Committee, HENRY investigated waste, fraud and abuse in the tobacco, finance and energy industries to name only a few.

Conducting investigations and oversight was not enough for him, once he exposed wrongdoing, he would work, sometimes for decades, to translate his findings into legislation. As Chairman of the Energy and Commerce he helped write and oversee the passage of the Affordable Care Act, the culmination of lifelong work on behalf of uninsured Americans.

HENRY’s commitment to human rights, especially the persecution of religious minorities in the former Soviet Union and Iran has given hope to those without hope. His steadfast support of Israel has ensured that our two nations will remain allies and partners.

As dean of the Los Angeles delegation, HENRY has been both a leader on issues facing Angelenos, and a mentor. I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with him.

Our state and the nation have been lucky to have the decades of service that GEORGE and HENRY have given us. They will be missed from the halls of Congress, but their legacy will continue to shape this institution and nation for decades to come.

Ms. ESPRO. Mr. Speaker, for the past 22 years, I’ve had the privilege of working alongside one of the greatest statesmen this institution has ever known—Congressman GEORGE MILLER.

Throughout his 40-year career, Congressman MILLER’s work has transformed the lives of children and families, hard working people and our environment. From our country’s education system, to labor, to health policy and the preservation of our natural resources, Congressman MILLER has left lasting and profoundly important imprints on our society. From the first day he stepped into the halls of Congress and ever since, he’s been a true reformer for the people.

Congressman MILLER was instrumental in passing the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which curbs pay discrimination against women. In 1975, he championed the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, which for the first time provided children with special needs a free and appropriate public education.

Congressman MILLER paved the way to dramatically improve the quality of meals for children at schools with the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, and spearheaded transformative legislation to save students billions of dollars in student loan costs while serving as Chairman of the Education and Labor Committee. In 1982, he passed the landmark Pay-Go Act to reduce the deficit, instill greater discipline in the budget process, and ensure that military and non-military spending is considered equally.

Congressman MILLER chaired the House Natural Resources Committee and delivered the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, which established Death Valley National Park, the Mojave National Preserve, and the Mojave Desert National Preserve. He also unlocked longstanding and fiercely defended taxpayer subsidized domination of California’s scarce water resources by agribusiness, quite literally saving our fisheries and water quality.

His accomplishments are countless and far reaching, and his tenacious pursuit to serve his constituents and the American people resonates throughout each and every one of his victories, as well as his defeats.

Nearly every weekend for 40 years, Congressmen MILLER and I have traveled to his district in the East Bay of San Francisco from Washington, D.C. It’s where he has drawn his strength, his inspiration, and his desire to keep fighting the good fight.

GEORGE, you are my brother, my confidant, and I will forever keep in my heart the time we spent working together in Congress. I wish you, Cynthia, your sons and grandchildren every blessing, and know that your tireless spirit will forever be a part of this sacred institution.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the legislative giants of our era. A man who I am proud to call my colleague and my friend, Congressman GEORGE MILLER.

GEORGE first came to Congress as part of the legendary “Watergate Class” of 1974. In the four decades that PACE has been a member of this chamber, he has played a key role in the passage of some of our nation’s most important education, labor, and health statutes.

GEORGE has served as chairman of three committees: the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, the Committee on Natural Resources, and the Committee on Education and Labor. He continues his legacy of leadership to this day as co-chair of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.

GEORGE has been a tenacious fighter in support of workers’ rights, students and teachers, workplace safety, the environment, and a livable wage for all working Americans. GEORGE was a card carrying member of the Communications Workers of America and someone who shares GEORGE’s commitment for working Americans. Congressman MILLER has been a colleague I have continued to look to on issues important to the labor community.

Before I close, I would like to thank GEORGE for his decades of public service on behalf of our nation’s working families. Our chamber will be losing one of the true lions of our generation and I wish him and his family all the best.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN GEORGE MILLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of our Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, tonight we celebrate my friend and esteemed colleague, Chairman DOG HASTINGS, for his 20 years of dedicated service in the United States House of Representatives.

Doc has been a constant source of wisdom, of compassion, of patience, and of leadership for our Chamber, and I know that he will be sorely missed by all who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Every day he has represented the people of the Fourth District of Yakima, Moses Lake, and all of Central Washington with his tireless commitment.

When he first came to Congress in 1995 to represent Washington’s Fourth Congressional District, he came with his sleeves rolled up ready to get things done. He didn’t come to seek the spotlight. He came to Congress to help the people of Central Washington in every way he could, to make their lives better, and that is exactly what he has done.

In his years on Capitol Hill, Doc has been a humble leader and a masterful legislator. He was in 1974 when Doc entered politics. He was elected Franklin County Republican Party Chair and served Franklin County with his tremendous work ethic and attention to detail.

As a proud early supporter of Ronald Reagan, it wasn’t long before Doc was chosen as a delegate for Ronald Reagan at the 1976 Republican National Convention.

He went on to serve as a faithful representative in the State legislature...
from 1979 to 1987. He first ran for Congress in 1992 and came up a little short, but that didn’t deter him. In 1994 he ran again, and he soon came to our Nation’s Capitol after winning a race against then-incumbent and current Governor of Washington State, Jay Inslee.

That year, Republicans gained control of the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years, and Doc embodied that spirit of hard work and determination. In all the years I have known him, I have always been impressed by his ability to get things done without seeking the limelight.

When I came to Congress, I quickly learned that when Doc spoke, people listened. It is because of him that BPA rate increases in the Pacific Northwest were limited. It is because of him that those back home didn’t see their electric rates skyrocket.

And it is because of his relationships, both here and at home, that we have been able to work upon the formation of our economy. It is because of him that we have been able to move forward on so many effective economic solutions for the Pacific Northwest.

Doc has been a steady hand and an instrumental voice in his chairman-ship of the House Committee on Natural Resources, and on the House Committee on Ethics.

In his recent work as Natural Resources Chairman, Doc has worked to re-form the 24-year-old Endangered Species Act in an effort to improve species recovery, reduce ESA-related litigation, and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently and wisely. He worked to make the law work for both species and for people.

His focus has always been on making laws more efficient and effective to help people, and this is no exception. Regardless of the issue, whether it is energy, healthy forests, protecting our dam and irrigation infrastructure, or manufacturing, Doc has championed countless policies that have driven our economy in the Pacific Northwest.

Serving as founder and chairman of the House Nuclear Cleanup Caucus, Doc has tirelessly educated his colleagues about cleaning up nuclear waste created by World War II and Cold War-era nuclear weapon production programs. The program includes waste at Hanford site, which is the world’s largest and most complex environmental cleanup effort, and it is Doc who has worked to ensure that cleanups move forward safely and efficiently, and it is Doc who has ensured that the Tri-Cities community prepare for the post-clean-up era.

Go without saying that those in Washington State are better because of Doc’s service. As cochair of the bipartisan Congressional Northwest Energy Caucus, Doc has worked to promote cooperation on issues that impact the continued availability of low-cost hydropower.

He gave us the opportunity to work together on policies like protecting the Northwest’s important source of renewable hydropower, addressing the future of the Columbia River Treaty, protecting the Snake River Dams, and integrating wind energy into BPA’s transmission systems.

Under his guidance, we have had the opportunity to collaborate to promote a strong future for our regional power system.

As a master of all things rules, he knows the rules better than just about anyone. The Speaker could always turn to him when we needed a steady hand who understood the rules.

What I admire most about Doc is that he is kind and selfless. He is as kind and selfless as he is brilliant.

When our son, Cole, was born, and after he was diagnosed with Down syndrome, Doc was the one that welcomed us back and introduced Cole to the world on the House floor. He is an invaluable legislator, an unmatched mentor, and a man I am proud to call my friend.

Doc’s family has always come first. His wife, Claire, has been his partner, by his side 20 years now in service, and I can say from experience it is not easy to have your family on one coast when you are on another.

Claire and the entire Hastings family have always been a source of continued commitment and unconditional love, and I know Doc feels so blessed to have had that unwavering support.

I thank the Hastings family for sharing with America a tremendous and invaluable leader. His heart has always been with his children and grandchildren, and I know that he will be glad to be able to spend some more time with them.

Doc has filled the role of dean of the Washington delegation, and he is going to be missed. While this great leader will no longer walk the Halls of Congress every day, this institution is better and stronger for having had him here. Doc will be missed every day, but his legacy will live on in Congress and, of course, all across Eastern Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), chairman of our Appropriation Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I will not be lengthy, but I will be very serious.

I have had the privilege to watch the cars. And of course, most of those started out in the South and still principally are. But Doc loves the NASCAR world, so that makes him a southerner, which is another reason I admire the man.

Well, we are going to miss this man. He has served so well here in so many different important roles: chairman of the Ethics Committee that looks after the ethics of Members of Congress; of course, on the Rules Committee, the house that works and think anyone has, and his service there was superlative; and of course, the chair he now holds, that has turned out more bills, I dare say, than any other committee of the Congress. I mean, it seems like every day there is a string of Hastings bills that are being considered by the floor.

He is a strong worker, a hard worker. He is conscientious in his work. He is approachable and friendly and likes to take advice.

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So we are going to miss this man, and we hope that the folks back in the home State appreciate just how well loved Doc HASTINGS is here in the U.S. Congress.

So, Doc, we will miss you. We want you to come back from time to time, and I will even buy you dinner. God bless you.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Thank you.

I would like to yield to the gentleman from Washington, Mr. Denny Heck.

Mr. HECK of Washington. I thank the gentlewoman from Washington State.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge, thank, and pay tribute to the service of Richard “Doc” Hastings on behalf of the people of this country and Washington State.

I have had the privilege to know Doc more than 35 years, and with perverse reference to Mr. Rogers’ earlier comments, I even knew him when he had hair. I had the great privilege to serve in the Washington State House of Representatives with him. We overlapped by 6 or 8 years in the seventies and eighties, and as somebody who wears a different colored jersey—his is red and mine is blue—and this is me engaging in understatements as we had materially different world views—with Doc, it
was never, ever, ever, personal. He always has a kind word and, frankly, a ready smile for people.

Doc is now finishing up 10 terms—20 years in this Chamber. I don’t know that I have ever adequately thanked him for being the very first person to come to my office and extend his hand in friendship and offer to help me in any way he could 2 years ago—something he probably doesn’t even remember, so natural an act it was for him but, frankly, so meaningful for me.

I am wondering if it is possible to gather input about all of these differences that Doc and I have—oh, and we do—I also want to assurely assert that he can be every bit as good an ally as he can be an honorable adversary. The gentlewoman from Washington State has mentioned several of the ways in which Congressman Hastings has worked collaboratively with all of us, over a long period of time, on behalf of the interests of Washington State: cleaning up Hanford Nuclear Reservation, extending to Congressman Hastings’ skill over the presiding of this Chamber. Most people don’t understand what an incredible skill that is to do it with such seeming ease, not just to have command of the rules and of the parliamentary procedures.

The very manner in which you comport yourself, Congressman Hastings, is true of Doc to be admired. You did it with grace.

Speaking of grace, more than a year ago, one of my dear, dear friends and mentors—someone who also wears my colored jersey—former Governor Booth Gardner, passed away. Congressman Hastings was one of the very first people to take the podium to acknowledge the kindness that Governor Gardner extended to Congressman Hastings’ family, a gesture which he would be very familiar with because it comes so naturally to him as well.

It is a privilege to know you. It is a privilege to have served with you to these short 2 years, but I am very proud to have done so. I am proud to have known you all of these years, and I am proud to call you friend, Doc. Most importantly, on behalf of all of the people of Washington State, including the people of the 10th Congressional District, we thank you for your fine, fine public service and for your dedication to all of these issues that you have worked on so ably and in such a dedicated fashion for so many years. Thank you, sir.

Mrs. McMorris Rodgers. Thank you.

I would like to yield to the gentlewoman from Vancouver, Washington (Ms. Herrera Beutler), our friend and colleague.

Ms. Herrera Beutler. Thank you so much.

Mr. Speaker, it is fun to get to come down here and honor my friend and colleague, Chairman Doc Hastings from central Washington. It has been a privilege to get to be right adjacent to Doc.

Cathy, we have been on either side.

In being the younger member of the delegation, the newest member of the delegation, I think your time and your effort and your willingness to bring us along—to bring me along—is invaluable. It is impossible to overstate the influence that Doc has had on this body over the last 20 years. He has been a constant advocate, fighting for the people of his home and our State—and our region, really—and the rest of Washington.

You have been doing it since I was in high school, studying U.S. history.

Unlike a lot of politicians, Doc doesn’t need to punch to the microphone or brag about his accomplishments. He truly lives by one of his favorite quotes: “It is amazing what you can accomplish if you are not worried about who gets the credit.”

I joined the Washington delegation 4 years ago and from the beginning, Doc has been incredibly generous to me with his time and his wisdom and even with his dinner invites. Like so many in this body, I truly value his friendship.

During my time here, I have had the privilege—I don’t even want to say “of working alongside”—of following along with some of the issues that are incredibly important to my district and of things that Doc has championed. Trust me, whether it is joining him out at Hanford Nuclear Reservation or teaming up with him to try and advance our Nation’s forest policies and best practices, it is plain to see how passionate Doc is about serving the people in central Washington and throughout Washington State.

In this day and age when we hear mostly about a polarized Congress and politicians that no one likes and about people who can’t work together. It is important to focus on those Members who are the opposite—people like Doc—who are always looking to find the common ground, who are looking for solutions, and who are wanting to confront the biggest challenges facing our region. I hope, and believe it is how Doc is going to be remembered—as a statesman who always did the right thing by the people at home.

Doc’s retirement is certainly a loss for Washington, but I am happy that the pull of being the full of family—has finally won out after having to balance that life on both coasts for so long. When I had my baby girl last year—it feels like 1,000 years ago—Doc was one of the first to ask how we were, how we were doing, what he could do, and to share in the joy of our miracle, and I am truly grateful.

I know, for me, when I am trying to work a tough issue and need advice, I am going to miss being able to say, “Well, what do you think?” “How would we do this?” or “What coalition would we build?” “What is the strategy?” That is one of the biggest things I remembered. I shouldn’t say “remembered.” He is still with us. One of the biggest things I think of when I think of Doc is that his approach is always: let’s lay out the strategy to get to our solutions, and let’s try this and talk to this person and do it this way and remember this.

It is that intimate knowledge of how this institution works that we are going to be at a loss for, not just here, but even in the Washington delegation.

It is having that institutional knowledge and the relationships, because this place, like anything else, is funneled by relationships. His intimate understanding of that and the way he has worked so carefully with people to advance ideas, we are going to miss it. We are going to feel it.

We look forward to hearing from you and watching you enjoy your time at home with your kids and your grandkids. Tell us about how great it is home with your kids and your grandkids. Tell us about all of these differences that Doc has championed. Trust me, you will find that this place, like anything else, is funneled by relationships. His intimate understanding of that and the way he has worked so carefully with people to advance ideas, we are going to miss it. We are going to feel it.

In closing, I would say, Doc, on behalf of everyone in Washington State and on behalf of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives, we are grateful for your service, your leadership for our region, and your impact on our lives.

As we walk the Halls of Congress, we often think about those who have gone before us and have worn these halls, and we think about the fact that we stand on the shoulders of giants. You have been a giant in our lives, and you have been a giant for Washington State in Congress, and these are just small tokens of our appreciation for your service. Thank you, Doc. May God bless you, and may God bless your family.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Gingrey).

Mr. Gingrey of Georgia. Madam Chairman, thank you very much.

I actually came down to the floor this evening, Mr. Speaker, to give my farewell remarks as I am retiring as well as my good friend, Doc Hastings. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to just say what a great human being Doc Hastings is and what a pleasure it has been for me in my 12 years. Of course, Doc has been here much longer than I, but to rely on his experience and to draw from that and his wisdom and his judgment and his kindness and his great representation of the people of the great State of
I hope I will see you again very, very soon. Thank you, Doc.

Mrs. McMorris Rodgers. Thank you very much.

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

AN HONOR TO SERVE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Valadao). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Gingrey) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. Gingrey of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today for, perhaps, my last time speaking as a Member of this institution.

I rise this evening, first and foremost, to pay a debt of gratitude to Georgia's 11th Congressional District and to the people there, who have graciously allowed me the privilege of serving them for these past 12 years.

Growing up modestly in Augusta, Georgia, I would never have dreamed that, someday, I would be standing where I am today, and I would not have had this opportunity if it weren't for my wonderful constituents in northwestern Georgia. I may be biased, Mr. Speaker, but I think the people in my district are the best and the most hospitable in this country.

So, to them, on behalf of myself, my family, and my staff, I extend my deepest thanks for allowing us to serve you in this House of Representatives.

To my wife, Billie; my three daughters, Gannon, Phyllis, and Laura-Neill; and my son, Billy, I am forever grateful that you all have stayed by my side and that you have supported me throughout my public service. I wouldn't be where I am today without your sacrifices. To my family, a huge, heartfelt thanks.

Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues, it has been the honor of a lifetime to serve with all of you. The respect I have for each and every one transcends ideology and party line. I have made some of the greatest memories of my life with you, and I hope to stay connected with all of you in the years to come.

Of course, in order to be successful in this job, you have to have a great staff. Thank you to each and every one of the staff members who have shown such great devotion in serving the people and in helping me to serve them in the 11th District of Georgia.

Thank you all for joining in my fight to protect the freedoms of the Georgians we serve and for working tirelessly for me for a better America.

I entered into Congress during a time of great unrest, not even 2 years after the 9/11 attacks in New York City. Since then, I have been honored to have been a part of this body as it has faced some of the largest challenges of the new millennium: the global war on terror, the Great Recession, Medicare Part D back in 2003, the stimulus response to the financial collapse, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, fighting for fiscal solvency during the fiscal cliff, and a litany of new challenges facing the health care industry due to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

It is my hope that as history examines my actions as a part of this body that the record will show that I always acted with the thought of the best interests of the Georgians I served and, of course, this great Nation.

Now, I can't claim to be perfect. Far from it. Not every piece of legislation I championed passed, but no matter the outcome, I take comfort in knowing that the work that I have offered this body has spurred important debate that better this institution as a whole and, in turn, our country.

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It is that very spirit that led me to cofound the House GOP Doctors Caucus, a group of physicians and health care providers, medical professionals in Congress, people who had served in the medical professions prior to coming here, who utilize our collective firsthand medical expertise to develop patient-centered health reforms for all Americans.

Since the group's founding, we have tackled ObamaCare's threat to the doctor-patient relationship head-on and have played a key role in forming the repeal of SGR reform. That fight continues.

Though it would be hard to let the Doctors Caucus go, to give up that leadership, to say goodbye to my colleagues, I extend my thanks to them, who joined with me as Members of that caucus. And I am confident that the group will continue its valuable work for many, many years to come.

I would also like to take a moment to thank my colleagues, people like my good friend from New Jersey (Mr. Pascrell), who is sitting here in the Chamber. And I would also like to thank Representative Gene Green from Texas and many others for putting party lines aside and joining with me to lead on a number of fights, not the least of which is the threat of antibiotic-resistant "superbugs," a growing threat in hospitals all across the country. We worked so hard on that legislation, and we were so proud to see it pass—yes, in a bipartisan fashion—through the Energy and Commerce Committee under the leadership of Chairman Upton; the vice chairman of the committee; the ranking member of the committee; the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee, Joe Pitts; and the chairman of the Health Subcommittee, Dr. Waxman; and the ranking member of the Health Subcommittee and now ranking member of the overall committee, Mr. Frank Pallone. We worked together. And this is the way that exemplifies what public service should be all about, identifying a problem and then working together to solve it without regard to party lines.

But no matter how many problems we solve, there lay, of course, many hurdles ahead: immigration, continued reckless spending, these new, horrible threats in the Middle East, an ever-growing executive branch, and, of course, as I mentioned, health care.

As an OB/GYN, I truly worry me to be leaving Congress at a time when our health care industry has been tipped on its side—I think because of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. It is critical that this country find a more sustainable path to creating quality care and access to physicians. Government bureaucrats have no place between doctors and their patients.

But still, in light of these few frustrations, I have great confidence in this body. If history shows us anything, it is that despite the day-to-day angst of gridlock—and there is plenty of that to go around—this institution remains the greatest representative body the world has ever seen.

As we face the hurdles we face in this institution are always overcome, sometimes with more grace than others, and it will survive, as it always has. Our system of government is durable, it is resilient, and it is designed to withstand the test of time. It has been my greatest honor to have played even a small part in it.

But now it is time for my wife, Billie, and me to turn the page. We are looking forward to having the opportunity to check a few more boxes before we leave, and then spend more time with all the grandchildren back home in Marietta.

So in short, Mr. Speaker, I guess you could say I am proud of the past, and I am excited for what the future may hold. But today, I am just happy to say that I am leaving. I feel confident that this body is better prepared for the future than it was when I got here.

I want to thank, again, all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, of course, last but not least, the people of Georgia's 11th Congressional District for giving me this opportunity, this honor, and this privilege. And I would be remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I closed without honoring our military heroes, the men and women and their families who have paid so much sacrifice for this great country.

I think over 40 have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan and have paid the last full measure. The heroes we honor and remember.

I just want to say, I will never forget you, Patti and Jamie Saylor, and your great son, your hero Paul, who gave his life for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity and the time tonight, and I yield back the balance of my time.

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON VITAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment, pursuant to section...
DEPARTING MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Pascrell) for 30 minutes.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the gentleman from Georgia, before he leaves the floor, that I wish him the best of luck, Doc. And I wish the other Doc, the gentleman from Washington who has already left the floor, the best of luck. The gentleman from New Jersey, Rush Holt, who is going to speak after me, is leaving as well.

And I must say some things about all three of you, if I may, because you fit into these particular characteristics. The three of you are gentlemen. The three of you are real patriots. The three of you are civil in every respect. The three of you have a good sense of the Congress. The three of you have a great respect for the institution. And you will be missed.

God bless you. Godspeed. And good luck to you and your families.

THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the state of our Nation’s economy. I have been waiting for this opportunity, Mr. Speaker. This is the time to do it.

Six years ago, when President Obama raised his hand on the steps of the Capitol of the United States of America and was sworn in as President, we were losing over 800,000 jobs every month, and these were mostly middle-income and lower-income Americans who were out of work. In the final 6 months of President Bush’s administration, we lost 3.5 million jobs. By the time the recession was over, 8.8 million Americans were out of work. The ending of that recession technically was in June of 2009, but we did not start to create new jobs until March of 2010, and many of those jobs came from the census that was going on that year.

Our country’s gross domestic product, GDP, in the fourth quarter of 2008—the last months of President Bush’s administration—decreased by 8.9 percent. That is an unbelievable number. And President Bush was not solely responsible; we all shared in our financial demise. We have been digging ourselves out of this deep, deep hole ever since, with almost no help from our friends on the other side.

And I am glad my friend from Georgia mentioned that legislation that we passed in 2009, Plan D. Because right after we lost that debate and lost that vote, we became part and parcel of that legislation which had been democratically passed in this House, although we didn’t like it. We cooperated. We didn’t try to undercut. We did not try to minimize. But the record will show that Democrats stood up, shook off their loss, and became part of what American democracy is all about. We cooperated.

Now, what have we had from the other side of the aisle? We have had no cooperation. We have had very little goodwill. We have had, simply speaking, no poetry whatsoever. In fact, just the opposite. We have sown division, in fear, in disharmony.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which passed in February of 2009, our first response to the crisis, received zero votes from our friends on the other side of the aisle. We know now that this bill saved or created 3.6 million jobs in this country, although it was far too small to dig us out of the hole. But we were on our way.

The Affordable Care Act will allow a new generation of entrepreneurs to create a business, provide incentives for small business to offer health insurance, and attract qualified employees, even on the heels of growth with unheard of levels, freeing up cash so that businesses can invest more and hire more workers—again, zero votes from our friends on the other side.

And then when you lose, you undermine as much as you possibly can. Where was the other side of the aisle when the unemployment insurance for long-term unemployed expired, cutting off 3.6 million Americans, including 350,000 veterans, at the end of September of 2014? When we had lost over 550,000 government jobs, dragging down our economy, our entire economic recovery, instead of working to keep people on the job, my friends on the other side of the aisle were pushing more and more disastrous, job-killing budget cuts.

And, Mr. Speaker, let me say this: The record will bear me out. We now have the lowest number of Federal employees, the lowest amount of employees, since 1966. So when our friends on the other side talk about Big Government, they ought to know about it since they created it. We have had the lowest amount of Federal workers. And for the last 5 or 6 years, many of those workers—who were not even gotten a cost of living increase.

So you can understand very clearly why the American people are frustrated with the pace of our recovery. And in many ways, I share their frustration. It has taken far too long, and the fruits of the recovery have not been equally distributed.

During the recovery, incomes have been flat for the vast majority of Americans while the folks at the top of the income scale are doing better than ever. Nobody should try to undermine anybody making a living and a good living, but everybody should be part of making sure that there are shared fruits on the line and everybody gets a chance and an opportunity.

The stock market is up over 165 percent since the low it hit at the depths of the recession. While stocks have fully recovered and continue to set record highs, the job market has lagged behind, not recovering all the jobs lost in the recession until just 6 months ago, 5 years after the recession officially ended.

In my home State of New Jersey, total employment is still well below where we were at the start of the recession. There are over 130,000 fewer jobs in New Jersey than in December of 2007. Our unemployment rate is nearly a full point higher than the national average. Take heed what happens to your own State, never mind what happens in other States.

Wages have also been stagnant, stuck at around 2 percent for the last few years. If wage growth had been a more robust 4 percent—enough to factor in inflation and growth in productivity—the average worker would be making more than $3 more per hour today than they are. That is a fact. It is undeniably 2100.

It is undeniable. This is because, for example, during the first 3 years since the end of the recession, the top 1 percent of Americans captured 95 percent of the entire country’s income gains. This wage stagnation didn’t just start with the recession.

Gains for the middle class had been stagnant for the past 15 years, and if you adjust for inflation, middle class wages are lower than they were in 1989. That is a fact. There are many reasons for the middle class to feel like they are left out, like the recovery has left them behind. It is because the entire economy is leaving them behind.

This year, it seems like we may have finally begun to turn that corner, and our economic recovery is still and realty accelerating. Last week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the economy created 321,000 jobs. That makes for 57 straight months of job growth, the longest streak of consecutive months of job creation on record for a total of over 10.9 million new jobs. For the last 10 of these months, we have created over 200,000 jobs per month. That is the first time we have had a streak of that with robust job creation since the 1960s. The 321,000 jobs created in November brings the total number of jobs created just this year to 2.65 million jobs, so with 1 month to go, we have already created more jobs—get this—than any year since the 1990s. Now, those are not the statistics about the job numbers you might read in USA Today.

Manufacturing is the linchpin of our economy, adding 28,000 good-paying jobs just last month for a total nearly three-quarters of new jobs. Wages, as I mentioned, have been stagnant. You will see a nice monthly gain of 0.4 percent.
We have not had a month this year when wages have fallen, and for the first time since 2008, we have had 4 months where they have grown at least 0.3 percent. The average workweek increased to 34.6 hours, meaning more workers are finding full-time employment. It is also clear that this time is not different enough in the job market strength to leave and look for a better opportunity.

The first week average of weekly jobless claims has been below 300,000 for the last several months, another welcome sign, and according to the Commerce Department, construction spending increased 1.1 percent in October, including a 1.8 percent increase in home building.

Total construction spending is up 3.3 percent from last year, part of the reason why unemployment amongst construction workers has fallen from 8.6 percent to 7.5 percent for the last year. I say to the American people: we know that there has been a long, tough road over the last couple of decades; we know many of us have been frustrated that it has taken so long to get back on our feet, but today, the American worker is the strongest in the world.

We should feel good that not only are we on the right track, but we are moving faster. The only thing now that could hold us back is if we sabotage the economy by returning to some of the favorite old tactics, shut the place down, shutting down the government, or defaulting on our national debt. We are now only 1 day away from shutting down the government.

The last time, the tantrum over defaulting on our debt cost us $24 billion. I don't know who the austere party is. I don’t know who the party is that is going to watch every dime that is being spent. Twenty-four billion dollars is going to watch every dime that is going to be spent. Twenty-four billion dollars. I don't know who the austere party is. I don’t know who the party is that is going to watch every dime that is being spent. Twenty-four billion dollars is going to watch every dime that is going to be spent.

Combined with the continued drop in gas prices, not once did I ever see someone come to this floor and give the President credit for anything on the other side—not once—whether it was falling gas prices—and we know what happened when the prices went up a few years ago. Not once did we see anything about the 321 new created jobs. Not one person came to this floor. He has done a few things right, my friends, but you believe it or not, and if you do admit it, nothing is going to happen to you. Believe me, nothing will happen to you.

Combined with these gas prices going down, the positive impact of the President's immigration order, which will bring money into America’s Treasury, we are on a track for a great year for the American worker. The best thing Congress could do to make sure that happens is simple: just get out of the way, say thank you, and let’s work together.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HOLT. I thank my colleague, Mr. PASCRELL from New Jersey, for underscoring the importance of what we do here in this House. Those are not just numbers on a page that he was quoting; those are people’s lives and livelihoods, and we have a job to do that.

As I prepared to wind up my service here after 16 years, I seek the indulgence of my friend here and our colleagues to make a few observations for the benefit of my constituents to whom I owe much.

When people call my office, we answer the phone, “Representative Rush Holt.” Mr. Speaker, here in the House, for each of us, Representative is our title and our job description. It is an honor to have that privilege granted to us to represent about three-quarters of a million people, to represent them here in the people’s House, this House, that is the focal point of the U.S. Government laid out in article I, section 1, of the Constitution, right at the beginning.

Despite all the well-publicized frustrations of this place, this House is the greatest instrument for justice and human welfare in the world. We are a central part of the most successful experiment in human advancement in history. We must not forget that.

Speaking of not forgetting, we would all do well to develop a stronger sense of history, a sense among ourselves and our country. It is a sense of history that we realize what progress we have made as a country.

In this time of frustration and cynicism, we should take note: the success of America economically, culturally, socially, has not been an accident, and it was not destined. Our success derives from our chosen system of governing ourselves. Without a sense of history, one cannot recognize progress, and humans need a sense of progress.

When I was first elected to Congress 16 years ago, some people asked me: “Why would a scientist leave a good research institution to get into the muck of politics?” The simple answer was that it was too important not to.

Sure, it was satisfying to win an election in a district where many said it couldn’t be done, where no one of my party had been elected in almost anyone’s memory, but it was clear to me that this was not a game of politics; it was a fight to defend the soul of America.

I came here an optimist about our country, our people, and their government, and I leave an optimist. I have had the help of many people, volunteers, staff and colleagues, smart, inspiring, tireless. I think of many.

I will mention several by name: my wife, Margaret Lancefield; my chief and deputy chief, Chris Gaston and Sarah Steward; and looking back, I think of those who have died during my time here.

As I speak here in glowing terms about our government, successes of this ingenious system of balancing competing interests, I would be obtuse not to recognize that many are discouraged about their government. Some politicians even foster distrust in government, taking people beyond the traditional healthy American skepticism to real destructive cynicism.

As we go forward, there have been naysayers: “The government is broken, special interests rule, and all politicians are corrupt.” I know that is not true.
I am reminded daily that through diligent and committed service to the people that a Representative can ensure that each person knows that she or he has a part in our democracy, a direct connection to his or her government, and that cooperative action, yes, governance, becomes them.

We must continually show our constituents that we are committed to always improving the mechanisms of good democratic government: voting, legislation, and addressing grievances.

After eight terms, I look back with satisfaction at some things accomplished: preserving land and bits of history; improving educational opportunities; supporting education in science and foreign languages; expanding access to excellent health care, especially mental health care for our military veterans; protecting families’ economic security in their nonwage-earning years; protecting postal workers when they are exposed to anthrax; enhancing the accessibility and auditability of voting; strengthening civil protections of Muslim Americans and other minority groups; strengthening fairness in the workplace for LGBT workers; and increasing support for scientific research.

Through it all, our primary job, I would say, has been to beat back the cynicism about our ability as Americans to govern ourselves. Of course, we understand that passing laws and appropriating money is only part of a Representative’s work. I have taken opportunities to speak out about injustice, to extol people and programs that work well, to voice support for people who need a kind word and more, a little help. I present a vision for a government—not a government that vanishes, but a government that works for its citizens.

Of course, not all problems can be fixed by government, but it can be reassuring and uplifting to people to know that other people have their backs and can help; yes, that is government.

I continue to speak against intrusive surveillance by government that treats people as suspects first and citizens second. I have joined with others here to preserve our national legacies, our land and resources, a clean environment and to preserve memories of where we come from, and with my science background, I always try to present arguments based on evidence and open review.

On many issues and in many votes, I have found myself outvoted and in a minority, but it helps to recall the words of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg who has spoken about the satisfaction in crafting a strong dissenting opinion with the hope or expectation that it will become the prevailing majority opinion.

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I am reminded of many shortcomings and work unfinished. Others may succeed in reviving the Office of Technology Assessment to provide Congress with badly needed assistance. Others remaining in Congress may move our country appreciably toward more sustainable practices. My colleagues here may yet reform the intelligence community. And acting with the recognition that peace is the best security, others may work to move our Nation away from militaristic responses to so many problems.

Again, this work over 16 years has been an honor and a great satisfaction. I thank my family and my staff. Especially, I thank the people of central New Jersey for this opportunity to serve.

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

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 83, INSULAR AREAS AND FEDERALLY ASSOCIATED STATES ENERGY DEVELOPMENT; WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. COLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113-655) on the resolution (H.R. 83) to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions; and for other purposes.

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

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

8203. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Corporation’s annual financial audit and management report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801a(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8204. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Process for Estimating Rates Charged for AMS Services (Document Number: AMS-LPS-13-0066; AD-186) received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801a(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8205. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Indian Veterinary Act, transmitting the Department’s Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report on the Regional Defense Nonproliferation Fellowship Program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2294c; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8206. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Avocados Grown in South Florida and Imported Avocados; Clarification of the Avocado Grade Requirements (Doc. No.: AMS-FV-13-0061; FV-14-945-2 FR) received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801a(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8207. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report on the Regional Defense Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2294c; to the Committee on Armed Services.

8208. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule — High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (Docket No. APHIS-2012-0059; AC36) received December 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801a(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

8209. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Inspector General’s semiannual report to Congress for the reporting period ending September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.


8211. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Public Information, Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Regulations (Docket No. : 14022707-4811-02 (RIN: 0605-AA33) received December 4, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801a(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8212. A letter from the Administrator, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Corporation’s annual financial audit and management report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, in accordance with OMB Circular A-136; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.
8213. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act, to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8214. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Supplemental Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Department of the Treasury received November 25, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.


8216. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration’s final rule — Incorporation by Reference [Docket Number: OFR-2013-0001 (RIN: 3095-AB78)] received December 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8217. A letter from the Acting Chairman, National Commission on Civil Disorders, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Board’s Report on Fiscal Year 2014 Competitive Sourcing Efforts; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.


8220. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board’s Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2014, including the Office of Inspector General’s Auditor’s Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

8221. A letter from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the semiannual report to Congress on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); Public Law 95-452, section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.


8223. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries/Alaska Region, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s temporary rule — closure — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 13092586-4174-02 (RIN: 0648-XD610)] received December 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8224. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries/Greater Atlantic Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Macrine and Thunnus; Notification of Butterfly Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 130963775-4276-02 (RIN: 0648-XD603)] received December 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8225. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries/Alaska Region, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s temporary inseason rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 130952586-4174-02 (RIN: 0648-XD626)] received December 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8226. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries/Alaska Region, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s temporary inseason closure rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 130121768-4158-02 (RIN: 0648-XD625)] received December 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8227. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries/Alaska Region, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Seaward Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 130203775-4158-02 (RIN: 0648-XD624)] received December 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8228. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries/Greater Atlantic Region, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 140121458-4482-02 (RIN: 0648-XD684)] received December 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8229. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries/West Coast Region, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s temporary rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No.: 120816338-2711-02 (RIN: 0648-HE259)] received December 3, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8230. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries/Alaska Region, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration’s temporary rule — Fishery for Distance Traveled Butterfish [Docket No.: 13092586-4174-02 (RIN: 0648-XD589)] received December 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

8231. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Report of the Department’s Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, covering the first and second quarters of FY 2014, from October 1, 2013, to March 31, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

8232. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 7(a) of the John M. McHugh Department of the Interior, Energy, and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2015-03 suspending the limitation on the obligation of the State Department Appropriations contained in Sections 3(b) and 7(b) of this Act for six months as well as the periodic report provided for under Section 6 of the Act, covering the period from June 5, 2014, to the present; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. COLE. Committee on Rules. House Resolution 776. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 83) to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to assess the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and for other purposes (Rept. 113-655). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 1. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for comprehensive tax reform; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. CAMP):

H.R. 5825. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent foreign diplomats from being eligible to receive health insurance premium tax credits and health insurance cost-sharing reductions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 5826. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Drinking Water State Block Grant Program and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
By Mr. McCaul (for himself, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Poe of Texas):
H.R. 5827. A bill to exclude "Choose and Cut" Christmas tree producers from the Christmas Tree Promotion and the Public Information Order; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. Cartwright (for himself and Mr. Ellison):
H.R. 5828. A bill to provide for USA Retirement Funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. Lipinski:
H.R. 5829. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exception for certain public-private research arrangements from the business use test for purposes of determining private activity bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. Johnson of Georgia (for himself, Mr. Ellison, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Green, Ms. Norton, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Clay, Ms. Lee of California, and Mr. Conyers):
H.R. 5830. A bill to provide that in the case of a law enforcement officer who uses deadly force against a person, and thereby causes the death of that person, a hearing shall be conducted before a judge to determine whether there is probable cause for the State to bring criminal charges against the law enforcement officer relating to the death of the person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Johnson of Georgia (for himself and Mr. Clay):
H.R. 5831. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a penalty for violent crimes by certain State or local law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. Walz, Mr. Rangel, Ms. Shea-Porter, Mr. Chabot, Mr. Rush, Mr. Marino, Mr. Amodei, Mr. Barletta, Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, and Mr. Petri):
H.R. 5832. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to modify the enhanced selective discharge authority currently available to the Secretary of a military department to permit a law enforcement officer in the Armed Forces who was appointed from the enlisted ranks and has at least 20 years of service, at least four years of which has been commissioned service, to retire in the officer's commissioned rank; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. Camp (for himself and Mr. Levin):
H.R. 5833. A bill to require upon request a probable cause hearing in connection with property seizures relating to certain monetary instruments and transactions; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. Foster (for himself and Mr. Cardenas):
H.R. 5834. A bill to include reasonable costs for high-speed Internet service in the utility allowances for families residing in public housing for residential purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. Gene Green of Texas:
H.R. 5835. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act with respect to making progress toward the goal of eliminating tuberculosis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. Grjivalja (for himself and Mr. Jones):
H.R. 5836. A bill to assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of extreme and rare species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. Hastings of Florida:
H.R. 5837. A bill to provide for the establishment of a global affairs strategy and assistance for persons of African descent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. Jackson Lee (for herself, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mr. Danny K. Davis of Illinois, Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, Mr. Cohen, and Mr. Nadler):
H.R. 5838. A bill to require non-Federal prisons and detention facilities holding Federal prisoners under a contract with the Federal Government to make available to the public the same information pertaining to facility operations and to prisoners held in such facilities that Federal prisons and detention facilities are required to make available; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Israel:
H.R. 5839. A bill to amend title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a Federal "Grow Your Own Teacher" program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. Israel (for himself, Mr. Rangel, and Mrs. Capito):
H.R. 5840. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to eligible entities to train elementary and secondary school nurses on how to respond to a chemical attack or an outbreak of pandemic influenza in a school building or on school grounds; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. Israel:
H.R. 5841. A bill to establish a grant program to provide States with funds to detect fraud, waste, and abuse in the State Medicaid programs under title XIX of the Social Security Act and to recover improper payments resulting from such fraud, waste, and abuse; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. Israel:
H.R. 5842. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to make funds available for a grant program for community colleges to train veterans for local jobs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. Langevin (for himself, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts, and Ms. Shea-Porter):
H.R. 5843. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to protect credit reports for minors and protect the credit of minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. pocan (for himself and Ms. Slsackowski):
H.R. 5844. A bill to ban hydraulic fracturing on land owned by the United States and leased to a third party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SensenBrenner (for himself, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Ryan of Ohio, Ms. Bass, Mr. Marino, and Mr. Joyce):
H.R. 5845. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use; to the Committee on the Judiciary; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Education and the Workforce, 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. Smith of New Jersey:
H.R. 5846. A bill to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to improve the ability of the United States to protect religious freedom globally through enhanced diplomatic, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance efforts, and through stronger and more timely and flexible political responses to religious freedom violations worldwide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. Stockman:
H.R. 5847. A bill to abolish civil asset forfeiture to the Federal Government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Rogers of Kentucky:
H.R. 5848. A joint resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 83; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. McKeon:
H. Con. Res. 123. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 3979; considered and agreed to, considered and agreed to.

By Mr. Crenshaw:
H. Con. Res. 124. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5771; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. Lowenthal (for himself, Mr. Carson of Indiana, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Cicilline, Mr. Corners, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Crenshaw, Mr.erry, Mr. Farr, Mr. Gutierrez, Ms. Hahn, Mr. Hinojosa, Mr. Honda, Mr. Jackson Lee, Ms.klon, Mr. Levin, Ms. Lowrey, Ms. McCollum, Mr. McDermott, Mr. McGovern, Mr. McNerney, Ms. Napolitano, Mr. Peters of California, Ms. Lowey, Mr. Sanchez of California, Mr. Sherman, and Ms. Speier):
H. Res. 771. A resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the celebration of "Human Rights Day"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. Schakowsky (for herself, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Duckworth, and Mr. Roe of Tennessee):
H. Res. 718. A resolution supporting the designation of a week as the National Federal Nurse Recognition Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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

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

By Mr. ROYCE:
H. R. 5825.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROYCE:
H. R. 5826.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. PASCRELL:
H. R. 5827.

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

Article 1, Sec. 8: The Congress shall have Power...to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:
H. R. 5828.

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

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

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:
H. R. 5829.

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

Article 1, Section 8 and the 16th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:
H. R. 5830.

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

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:
H. R. 5831.

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

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:
H. R. 5832.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution, which gives Congress the power to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

By Mr. CAMP:
H. R. 5833.

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

Clauses 1 and 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:
H. R. 5834.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution. By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:
H. R. 5835.

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

Clause 1 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:
H. R. 5836.

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


By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:
H. R. 5837.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution. By Mr. ISRAEL:
H. R. 5838.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution. By Mr. ISRAEL:
H. R. 5839.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ISRAEL:
H. R. 5840.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ISRAEL:
H. R. 5841.

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

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

By Mr. ISRAEL:
H. R. 5842.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LANGEVIN:
H. R. 5843.

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

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grant Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Mr. POCAN:
H. R. 5844.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. NADLER:
H. R. 5845.

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

Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:
H. R. 5846.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution. By Mr. STOCKMAN:
H. R. 5847.

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

Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:
H. J. Res. 130.

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

Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:
H. J. Res. 130.

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

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

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H. R. 383: Mr. GRAYSON.
H. R. 761: Mr. PETERSON.
H. R. 851: Mr. ISRAEL.
H. R. 930: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H. R. 1070: Mr. ENGEL and Mr. LEWIS.
H. R. 1179: Mr. REID.
H. R. 1312: Mr. NADLER.
H. R. 1426: Mr. NUGENT.
H. R. 1695: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. R. 1698: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. R. 1672: Ms. DELBENE.
H. R. 2618: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. R. 2638: Mr. STEWART and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H. R. 2767: Mr. YODER.
H. R. 2852: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. R. 3101: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H. R. 3118: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. COBLE.
H. R. 3454: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H. R. 3571: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. NADLER.
H. R. 3717: Mr. ROONEY.
H. R. 4084: Mr. HONDA.
H. R. 4161: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. R. 4305: Mr. SESSIONS.
H. R. 4612: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. YODER.
H. R. 4703: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. R. 4826: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. R. 4833: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. R. 4860: Ms. BASS.
H. R. 4930: Mr. PELLMUTTER, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H. R. 4965: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. R. 5022: Mr. HUFFMAN and Ms. KAPTUR.
H. R. 5101: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. R. 5159: Mr. GUTTIERREZ.
H. R. 5190: Mr. HIME.
H. R. 5226: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H. R. 5262: Mr. PETERS of California.
H. R. 5280: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. R. 5365: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H. R. 5382: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. R. 5443: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H. R. 5449: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H. R. 5522: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. R. 5533: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. PAYNE.
H. R. 5589: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. R. 5647: Mr. OLSON.
H. R. 5665: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. TONKO.
H. R. 5750: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H. R. 5765: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H. R. 5768: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H. R. S407: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H. R. 5813: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H. R. 5814: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. CONAWAY.
H. Con. Res. 91: Mr. ROYCE.
H. Res. 109: Mr. ISRAEL.
H. Res. 407: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. Res. 582: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. DEUTCH.
H. Res. 698: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SCHUADER, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H. Res. 711: Mr. GRAYSON.
H. Res. 735: Mr. SCHOCK.
H. Res. 755: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. Res. 772: Mr. LANCE and Mr. MCCINTOCK.
CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 130, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.
The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable Edward J. Markey, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the Author and Finisher of our faith, teach us to rejoice in the privileges You have strewn on our path to be used to bless others.

Lord, strengthen our lawmakers to resist the temptations that would seek to lure them from Your purposes. Give them clear sight that they may know what to do. Give them courage to embark upon the fulfillment of Your will as You provide them with the skills needed to find a way through all our Nation’s challenges. Empower them to persevere in doing what is right, enduring to the end. Help them to begin, to continue, and to end all things by trusting You.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

NOTICE

If the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 24, 2014, a final issue of the Congressional Record for the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, will be published on Wednesday, December 31, 2014, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT–59 or S–123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Tuesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Wednesday, December 31, 2014, and will be delivered on Monday, January 5, 2015.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the Congressional Record may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators’ statements should also be formatted according to the instructions at http://webster/secretary/cong_record.pdf, and submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at “Record@Sec.Senate.gov”.

Members of the House of Representatives’ statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at https://housenet.house.gov/legislative/research-and-reference/transcripts-and-records/electronic-congressional-record-inserts. The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT–59.

Members of Congress desiring to purchase reprints of material submitted for inclusion in the Congressional Record may do so by contacting the Office of Congressional Publishing Services, at the Government Printing Office, on 512–0224, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily.

By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, Chairman.
Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

Patrick J. Leahy, President pro tempore.

Mr. MR. M A R K E Y thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979, which is the Defense authorization bill—a very important piece of legislation.

I would hope that Senators would understand the quicker we get this done, the sooner we can get to the omnibus and the tax extenders and the other things we have to do before we leave.

I would note that it seems very likely we won't vote this weekend. Everyone should understand that. If we can work a way not to have them, we will not, but I want everybody on notice that if they are not here this weekend, they could miss votes.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY ERICKSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, when the Senate convened for the first time in April of 1789, there was a lot to do—and that is an understatement—not the least of which was to establish a system of rules to govern proceedings in the U.S. Senate. The first few weeks and months were going to be difficult, as they tried to sort out the structure and organization of this institution, but they had an idea. Two days after April of 1789, there was a lot to do—and that is an understatement—not the least of which was to establish a system of rules to govern proceedings in the U.S. Senate. The first few weeks and months were going to be difficult, as they tried to sort out the structure and organization of this institution, but they had an idea. Two days after

Nancy is a native of Brandon, SD. She majored in history and government at Augustana College in Sioux Falls. She moved to Washington, DC, in 1987. Her husband Tom is from Sioux Falls. John Thune used to purchase suits from Nancy's father-in-law.

Nancy's first job here in the Senate, as I have indicated, was for Senator Daschle. In her current office, Nancy has a collection of South Dakota maps hanging on the walls, one of the railroad tracks across South Dakota in 1886, one of Watertown, SD, and she has others. She even has a Rand McNally map of a long time ago that covers the entire State.

As I indicated, when Senator Daschle left the Senate, Nancy transitioned to the Senate Rules office where she worked as liaison to Democratic Senators and their offices. When I became leader and it was time for selecting a new secretary, I didn't look very far. I urged her to consider the position. I am glad she chose to take that decision, not for a second. She has proven herself to be an excellent manager.

Nancy has 26 departments and about 250 employees directly under her supervision, not to mention the other 6,500 Senate employees who depend on her and her office. She has been faced with some difficult times during her tenure as Secretary of the Senate. There has been a lot of rolling—sequestration, a new headquarters building, of course, last year's shutdown. She has confronted each difficult obstacle with skill, composure, and that wonderful smile that she has.

Nancy's success as Secretary stems not only from her excellent abilities, but also from her character. She is a genuinely good person and she is very thorough, very thoughtful—I have already said that; very kind—I have already said that; very understanding—I have already said that; and something I haven't said, she is very fair.

Whether she walks the halls here or on the Senate floor, she always has a smile every place she goes. I have said that many times. That is her legacy, and it is a good legacy. I have never—never might be an exaggeration, but extremely rarely—heard her criticize anyone.

Nancy's time as Secretary of the Senate is coming to an end and she will be greatly missed. She has attended to the Senate's every need, day and night. She has earned a break, and I hope she takes one. I hope she gets to spend some time with her husband Tom, her daughter Drew, and I can still see in my mind's eye that picture she has of little Patrick—that little tiny boy. She had that on her desk forever, and he kept getting bigger and bigger and became an athlete. We had many conversations—and I try not to boast about a lot of things, but I am always anxious to boast about my youngest son, who was a stellar athlete and played on three national championship teams at the University of Virginia—so I have watched Patrick become a college soccer player.

There will never be another Nancy Erickson here in the Senate. People like her don't come along very often. But she leaves a legacy, and it is one that will endure through the history of this great body.

So thank you, Nancy, for your service to the country.

TRIBUTE TO SHEILA DWYER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, when Secretary Erickson steps down, so does the Assistant Secretary of the Senate Sheila Dwyer. Sheila has a long history in the U.S. Senate, but Sheila's time in the Senate is coming to an end and she will be greatly missed. She has attended to the Senate's every need, day and night. She has earned a break, and I hope she takes one. I hope she gets to spend some time with her husband Tom, her daughter Drew, and I can still see in my mind's eye that picture she has of little Patrick—that little tiny boy. She had that on her desk forever, and he kept getting bigger and bigger and became an athlete. We had many conversations—and I try not to boast about a lot of things, but I am always anxious to boast about my youngest son, who was a stellar athlete and played on three national championship teams at the University of Virginia—so I have watched Patrick become a college soccer player.

There will never be another Nancy Erickson here in the Senate. People like her don't come along very often. But she leaves a legacy, and it is one that will endure through the history of this great body.

So thank you, Nancy, for your service to the country.
should look like. He was a handsome man. I repeat, he had this great voice, and he was very tall, stood very erect. I was always very envious of how he could stand so tall, and he has such a sense of humor that is quite remarkable. Sheila is his friend. She visits him every once in a while. I think they hit it off in South Carolina now, and she has helped me keep in touch with Fritz Hollings.

Then she worked for me. I was so fortunate. I was looking for someone to do my fundraising during a very difficult election cycle. I needed someone, and Sheila did an incredible job doing my Senate business as a candidate. Doing Senate business is a tough job, but Sheila handled it with skill and with grace. That is why I hired her. We worked things out. And it wasn’t just because I offered her more money, it was because she wanted to work with me, and I am so happy that came to be.

For 14 years, she has been part of my team—and I mean part of my team. During that entire time, she has done an incredible job doing my Senate business as a candidate. Doing Senate business is a tough job, but Sheila handled it with skill and with grace. That is why I hired her. We worked things out. And it wasn’t just because I offered her more money, it was because she wanted to work with me, and I am so happy that came to be.

So after having worked for the Senators I have mentioned, including me, when the time came to fill the role of Assistant Secretary of the Senate, she was a natural choice. And in this position she has not disappointed me once.

Everyone who has ever worked with Sheila knows she is a meticulous planner. If you want something done—an event, a trip, a job—Sheila does it right—and she does it done right: help setting up the program, what the flowers are going to look like, what the food is going to be, what time it should start, what time it should end—and she is very, very precise on when it should start and when it should end—we learned that last night during a farewell for a number of Democratic Senators—she really spares no effort, leaves no detail unattended.

Her time here in the Secretary’s office has been remarkable. It is not easy to attend to the needs of 100 Senators—100 Senators—Democrats, Republicans, Independents, their families and staffs, but Sheila handles it with skill and with grace. That is why many call her the “Mayor of Capitol Hill,” and for good reason.

Whether she is escorting the President’s daughter to the inauguration podium in her bright pink coat, or planning a ceremonial dinner in Statuary Hall, Sheila does the job exceptionally well.

Just one example, 2 years ago the Senate hosted the screening of Steven Spielberg’s now legendary film, “Lincoln.” There were some real big-shots there. Spielberg, Daniel Day Lewis, the guy who wrote the script—they were all there. So there were, frankly, a lot of prima donnas there, including of course all the Senators. So it was an exceptionally difficult feat to pull off, coordinating attendance for 100 Senators who wanted to go to see these famous people.

She was preparing a panel discussion for the cast and crew, all while following strict Capitol protocols as to who could go where and what we could do in the places we went. But she had a secret weapon, and that was she. She didn’t know it, but that was the secret weapon. She took care of every possible problem and coordinated every single detail, having moved on to the next chapter of life, and I will do everything I can to help that chapter be a good one. I wish her the best.

I, along with the entire Senate, thank her for the steadfast diligent service she has rendered as Assistant Secretary for the last 8 years. Sheila has a dog she loves, little Ava, and I hope she takes that little dog on a trip to have a good time. I am sure she will.

On a personal note, I wish to say publicly how much she has meant to me. She has been really a part of my family the last 15 years. As most everyone knows, my wife was involved in a really bad accident. Who was there? Sheila. Battling, as she did for 1½ years, raving breast cancer, who was there? I would come home after having been unable to do the things around the house. I would have a refrigerator full of food. Not junk—it was wonderful food. She did that not once, not twice, but many, many times. She is my friend—my forever friend.

She interacts with my children as if they were her siblings. She knows everything about them. So even though I will not see her at work every day, as I have for 14 or 15 years, she will always be part of my life.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO SAXBY CHAMBLISS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about my friend and colleague, Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS.

SAXBY, as we all know, is the ultimate southern gentleman. He is a man of his word. He is blessed with the charm and the drawl only a Georgian could possess, and he is far too modest. He shouldn’t be. He has a lot to be proud of as he looks back at a storied career here in Congress.

We are talking about one of our Nation’s top experts on intelligence and national security. We are talking about a standout champion for the men and women of our military. We are also talking about a Senator who became chair of the Agriculture Committee just 2 years into his first term. That is really quite an accomplishment. But once you get to know SAXBY, it isn’t all that surprising.

It wasn’t the only time SAXBY cheated death with the Vice President. Cheney and he lived to tell the tale. The senior Senator from South Carolina remembers the trip very well. He had to be persuaded by SAXBY to come. He still suspects that SAXBY’s real motive was to give Cheney a second target.

So SAXBY is a comedian. But he is also courageous. He is also persuasive. He is really good at getting his way. It is kind of what we would expect from a former door-to-door fruitcake salesman. After hawking loaves of spiced dough, there is not much SAXBY can’t sell at this point.

We know he was persuasive enough to convince Julianne to marry him. SAXBY and Julianne met at the University of Georgia. She was Sigma Chi’s pledge-class sweetheart—and she soon became SAXBY’s sweetheart. The Chamblisses have been inseparable ever since.

Now, just in case SAXBY ever becomes his own category on Jeopardy, here is an interesting piece of trivia. The president of the same pledge class became SAXBY’s Democrat challenger in 2008. The two fraternity brothers are still friendly. Here is how this gentleman remembered SAXBY from college. He said he “looked old.”
Well, Jananne fell for him anyway, and it is a good thing she did. This former schoolteacher is better than anyone at keeping him centered, and she has even taught students who would go on to serve on SAXBY’s staff. So I think really quite a partnership. SAXBY says that the most significant moment of his life is when he met Jananne.

That is really something when we consider how much he loves golf. Last year, SAXBY sank a hole in one squaring off against the leader of the world—that is, the President of the United States. He has a signed flag to prove it.

But golf is more than just a hobby for SAXBY. It is a way to get things done. More than most people around here, he understands the value of relationships. He is good at whipping votes and picking up intel from both ends of the Capitol. He works across the aisle, and he is unafraid to stand up when something needs to be said.

That is the thing about SAXBY. He doesn’t wait when he knows something needs to be said. But SAXBY is perfectly suited to it. He has always stood proudly in defense of our Nation.

We are going to miss his sharp wit, his integrity, and his judgment. I know SAXBY’s staff is going to miss him, too. Some of them have been with him since his days in the House. Well, the Senate’s loss is the Chambliss family’s gain.

I know SAXBY is looking forward to spending more time with Jananne. I know he can’t wait to trade the title of Senator for a new one—Big Daddy. It is what his grandkids call him. He can’t wait to see more of them. They are the reason he works so hard here—to build a better future for them, for the next generation.

SAXBY will have plenty of stories to share when he leaves, such as when he hit that hole in one, when he threw out the first pitch for the Braves, and when he made the cover of Peanut Patriot Magazine.

So SAXBY has obviously had a long and interesting career. He deserves some time to focus on his family. We thank him for his dedication to this body and to the people he represents, and we send him every wish for a retirement filled with joy and happiness.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the message to accompany H.R. 3979, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk reads as follows:

Motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3979, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Amendments to H.R. 3966, which volunters are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Pending:

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Reid amendment No. 3964 (to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 3985 (to amendment No. 3984), of a perfecting nature.

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with Reid amendment No. 3986, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 3987 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 3986), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 3988 (to amendment No. 3987), of a perfecting nature.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with Senator INHOFE, the ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, to bring to the floor H.R. 3979. This is the agreement between the Armed Services Committees of the Senate and House on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. The House of Representatives passed the bill last week by a vote of 300 to 119. If we succeed in the Senate, it will mark the 53rd year in a row that we have enacted this bill that is so essential to the defense of our Nation and to our men and women in uniform and their families.

I thank all the members of the staff of the Senate Armed Services Committee, especially our subcommittee chairs for the hard work they have done to get us to the finish line on this bill. I thank Senator INHOFE for his close partnership. Before this Congress I had been fortunate to serve with a series of Republican chairmen and ranking members, including John McCain, John Warner, and Strom Thurmond. They understood and appreciated the traditions of our committee and the importance of the legislation we enact every year for our men and women in uniform. That is what this is all about. Jim INHOFE, our ranking Republican in this Congress, has upheld that tradition.

I want to thank Senator Reid for his leadership and his effort to ensure that this important legislation through particularly challenging circumstances.

Our bill includes hundreds of important provisions to authorize the activities of the Department of Defense and to provide for the well-being of our men and women in uniform and their families. The bill will enable the military services to continue paying special pay and bonuses needed for recruitment and retention of key personnel. It strengthens survivor benefits for disabled children of servicemembers and retirees. It includes provisions addressing the employment of military spouses, job placement for veterans, and military child custody disputes. It addresses military hazing, military suicide, post-traumatic stress disorder, and mental health problems in the military. It provides continuing impact to support military families and local school districts.

The bill includes 20 provisions to continue to build on the progress we are starting to make in addressing the scourge of sexual assault in the military. It provides the so-called good soldier defense, give victims a voice in whether their case is prosecuted in military or civilian courts, gives victims the right to challenge court-martial rulings that violate their rights at terminial appeals, and would strengthen the psychotherapist-patient privilege. Last week we received the welcome news that the number of incidents of unwanted sexual contact in the military is down and that more incidents are being reported so victims can receive the care and assistance they need and perpetrators can be brought to justice.

With the enactment of the legislation before us and the commitment of military leaders, we hope to build on these trends.

The bill provides continued funding and authorities for ongoing operations in Afghanistan and for our forces conducting operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria called ISIS. As requested by the administration, it authorizes the Department of Defense to train and equip vetted members of the moderate Syrian opposition and to train and equip national and local forces who are actively fighting ISIS in Iraq. It establishes a counter-terrorism partnership fund that provides the administration new flexibility in addressing emerging terrorist threats around the world. In addition, the bill extends the Special Immigrant Visa Program, providing for 4,000 new visas, and addresses a legal glitch that precluded members of the tribal parties in Kurdistan from receiving visas under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The authority contained in this bill to train and equip local forces in Iraq and Syria to take on ISIS is particularly important because our military leaders and intelligence experts have uniformly told us air strikes alone will not be sufficient to defeat ISIS. American air power has changed the momentum on the ground somewhat and given moderates in the region an opportunity

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.

December 10, 2014
to regroup, but ISIS cannot be defeated without an opposing force to take the fight to it on the ground. To do that, our Arab and Muslim partners must be in the lead because the fight with ISIS is primarily a struggle within Islam for the souls of Muslims around the world. Training and equipping our moderate Muslim allies gives us a way to move beyond the use of air power to support them in this fight.

Our bill takes steps to respond to Russian aggression—transferring $1 billion for a European Reassurance Initiative to enhance the U.S. military presence in Europe and build partner capacity to respond to security threats, of which no less than $75 million will be committed for activities and assistance to support Ukraine by requiring a review of U.S. and NATO force posture, readiness and contingency plans in Europe and by expressing support for both nonproliferative defense military assistance—both lethal and nonlethal—to Ukraine.

The bill adds hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to improve the readiness of our Armed Forces across all branches—Active, Guard, and Reserve. It helps blunt some—and I emphasize some—of the negative effects of sequestration. It includes provisions increasing funding for science and technology, providing women-owned small businesses the same sole-source contracting authority that is already available to other categories of small businesses, expanding the No Contracting With the Enemy Act to all government agencies and requiring government-wide reform of information technology acquisition. Although we were unable to bring the Senate-reported bill to the floor for amendment, we established an informal clearing process pursuant to which we were able to clear 41 Senate amendments—roughly an equal number of Democratic and Republican amendments—and include them in the new bill which is before us.

I am pleased the bill also includes a half dozen provisions to address the growing cyber threat to critical information systems of the Department of Defense and the Nation. One provision which was added to the bill was the Levin-McCain amendment, which requires the President to identify nations that engage in economic or industrial espionage against the United States throughout and provides the authority to impose trade sanctions on persons determined to be knowingly engaged in such espionage.

A second provision which arose out of a committee investigation of cyber threats to the Department of Defense requires the Secretary of Defense to establish procedures for identifying contractors that are operationally critical to mobilization, deployment or sustainment of contingency operations and to ensure that such contractors report breaches and penetra...
who are detained there, and I am disappointed that the House leadership refused to consider this provision even with the Graham amendment.

Finally, our bill includes a lands package that Senator INHOFE and I agreed to include based on the bipartisan request of the committees of jurisdiction and the overwhelming support of our colleagues. The contents of the lands package were worked out by the House Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which will be managing that part of the bill on the Senate floor. We have been assured that all provisions have been cleared and that the package has been cleared by the chairmen and ranking minority members of the relevant committees.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a full list of the names of our majority and minority staff members, who have given so much of themselves and their families, be printed in the RECORD at this time.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Peter K. Levine, Staff Director, John A. Bonsell, Minority Staff Director, Daniel C. Adams, Minority Associate Counsel, Adam J. Barker, Professional Staff Member, Steven M. Barney, Minority Counsel, June M. Borawski, Printing and Documents Clerk, Leah Bowles, Professional Staff Member, William E. Castle, Hearing Clerk, William S. Castle, Minority General Counsel, John D. Cewe, Professional Staff Member, Samantha L. Clark, Minority Associate Counsel, Robert D. Clark, Counsel, Allen M. Edwards, Professional Staff Member, Jonathan S. Epstein, Counsel, Richard W. Fieldhouse, Professional Staff Member, Lauren M. Gillis, Staff Assistant, Thomas W. Goffus, Professional Staff Member, Creighton Greene, Professional Staff Member, Oge Guzelis, Counsel, Daniel J. Harder, Staff Assistant, Matthew A. Hartley, Staff Assistant, Ambrose R. Hock, Professional Staff Member, Gary J. Howard, Systems Administrator.

Michael J. Kuiken, Professional Staff Member, Mary J. Kyle, Legislative Clerk, Anthony J. Lazarski, Professional Staff Member, Gerald J. Lee, General Counsel, Daniel J. Lerner, Professional Staff Member, Steven L. Maroney, Counsel, Thomas K. McConnell, Professional Staff Member, Mariah K. McNamara, Special Assistant to the Staff Director, William G. Monahan, Counsel, Natalie M. Nicolas, Minority Research Analyst, Michael J. Noblet, Professional Staff Member, Cindy Pearson, Assistant Chief Clerk and Secretary, Robert M. Soofer, Professional Staff Member, William K. Sutey, Professional Staff Member, Robert T. Waisanen, Staff Assistant, Barry C. Walker, Security Officer.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, first, I have to say what a joy it is to work with Senator LEVIN. I know the public thinks that no Republicans like any Democrats and vice versa—at least those are the flames they try to fan—and that is not true.

I can only think of two issues on which Senator LEVIN and I disagreed with each other. He has been through 14 of the NDAAs as either chairman or ranking member, I am sure that is some kind of a record. But to work with someone who you know will be totally honest with you even when you have a difference of opinion is really a joy. I hope we can be an example for those on some of the other committees that don't have that much joy when they are working on an issue.

The long history he has had here and the integrity he has expressed will be sorely missed. I have to say to my good friend Senator LEVIN.

As Senator LEVIN said, we will have to get to the bill before we leave. This bill has passed for 52 consecutive years, and that really says something. But each year there is always a problem. The comment that was made on the land package—I think the process is wrong regardless of the merits of the bill. As was pointed out by Senator LEVIN, it was supported in a bipartisan way by all the appropriate committees; however, that is them. The process should not allow others to come in on this bill, so I think it is flawed. I don't think it will happen again. I really don't.

I talked to the people who will be involved in next year's NDAA, which, by the way, we will start working on in February of next year.

I will go over a couple of other reasons why we have to get this bill done. As I said, we have done this for 52 consecutive years, and I am sure we are going to be able to get this done.

We passed this bill out to the floor from our committee—the committee chaired by Senator LEVIN—on May 23, the day after it was done in the House. We were ready to do that way back in May, and the problem was we could not get it on the floor.

I can remember coming down to the floor with Senator LEVIN and begging people to bring amendments to us. We have to have amendments down here because we can't expect the leader to bring this to the floor unless we know people will work with us on amendments. So eventually did bring amendments, and we responded. We had many amendments, and I don't remember exactly how many amendments were put forth, but I do remember we considered and put 47 amendments into this package—we did it through the big four method, which was the only thing left for us to do—47 amendments divided almost equally between Republicans and Democrats. We considered those amendments and put them in as a part of the bill.

Of course, despite pushing for months that the NDAA be considered under regular order, which we should have done, we find ourselves in the unfortunate situation we are in today. It is reminiscent of last year. Last year we went all the way up to December 26 before we finally passed it.

It would really be a disaster if we didn't pass it. People don't realize that if we don't pass this bill—our last chance is this week because the House will be out of town. We can't have the House or the Senate do another bill because we have run out of time. It will not happen unless it happens with this bill. I know a lot of people would prefer to have something else, although I know this bill is going to pass by a large margin. It is a good bill.

People wonder what would happen if we didn't pass this bill. It would be a disaster. Enlistment bonuses—a lot of the things we are giving to those who are giving up their lives, and they have been told they will have certain things, and one of them is the bonuses. Well, all of a sudden, on December 31, if we don't have a bill, those expire and those kids will not have enlistment or reenlistment bonuses.

The incentives are important in order to keep troops with critical skills. We hear a lot about the SEALs and the great work they do. These critical skills incentives will go away on December 31.

There is also incentive pay for pilots. I have researched this because there is a lot of competition out there for our pilots and pilots for the SEALs, as well as strike fighters. Right now there is a competition with the airlines. Everyone wants to hire these guys, so there is competition out there. All of a sudden the flight pay would come out of the bonus. It would be a $25,000-a-year bonus for these guys over a 10-year period, so it is $250,000. However, for each one who decides not to come back—to rejoin the military—on an F-22 would cost about $17 million. We are looking at bonuses that might be $25,000, but the alternative, if we don't get this done by December 31, would cost $17 million for each pilot who needs to be trained. So that is very significant. We have skill incentive pay and proficiency bonuses for all of those. So that singularly would be enough reason to say we have to have it; we just can't do without it. Stop all military construction, which would be on December 31.

One of the areas where the chairman and I disagree is on Gitmo. We have had a friendly and honest difference of opinion on that. I look at Gitmo as one of the few resources we have that is a good deal for government. We have had it since 1904 and it only costs us $4,000 and half the time Cuba forgets to charge us, so it is a pretty good deal. There is no place else we can put, in my opinion. The people who say bring them back to the United States. The problem is if we intermingle prisoners at Gitmo with the
prison population—these people at Gitmo are not criminals, they are people who teach terrorists. So there are a lot of arguments against bringing Gitmo prisoners to the United States. That in itself would be a 2-hour speech, so I will not get into it now.

There are some areas where the chairman and I disagree and there were a lot of compromises because we knew we had to have the bill. If we don’t pass this bill, there will be no European Reassurance Initiative. We cannot just stand up against Russian aggression. I shouldn’t have done this because I was on the ballot this year for reelection, but for the week prior to our election, I went over to see what was happening in Ukraine because Ukraine was having their elections the week before we had our elections. Not many people are aware that in Ukraine, Poroshenko—what happened in their election in Ukraine, a political party cannot have a seat in Parliament unless they get 5 percent. The vote is to take place 1 week before our vote. This will be the first time in 96 years that the Communist Party will not have one seat in Parliament. That is amazing. We have to understand what is happening with this.

I also went to Lithuania and Estonia and Latvia and those areas in the Baltics. That is another problem we have. They want to give us the assurance that it is not just Putin in Ukraine, but the entire rampaging aggressive. I coined the term for what Putin is trying to do, “de-Reaganize” Europe, to try to take out all the freedoms that were there and try to put a coalition together. That is a huge issue, and it is addressed in this bill in a very aggressive way with the reassurance initiative.

Also, if we don’t pass this bill, we would not have the Counterterrorism Partnership Fund, which I think we are all aware of. We had the land package. I wish to again thank my good friend Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, first let me thank Senator INHOFE for his friendship, most importantly, but also for the great part that he has always been involved in. I admired were given information that wasn’t quite as accurate as it should have been.

Right now, if we can think of no other single major reason to pass this bill, it is to take care of those individuals who are in the field right now who are fighting. We have the exact count, to make sure we use accurate figures. As of today, 1,779,343 troops in the field or enlisted personnel. These are the ones who can be affected, 1.2 million of them. We would be reneging on the commitments we have made to them.

We have heard criticism that we are somehow cutting their benefits to put in a land package. That just isn't true. We don’t need to talk about this because that is not our committee. That is the committee referred to by the chairman in his remarks—the Energy and Natural Resources Committees of the House and the Senate. But it is a budget-neutral package for that period, and the CBO says it is budget neutral. So there is no legitimate argument that we are using any of the funds that would otherwise go to the military on the land package.

I have to say the process was wrong. We have done this in the past and we are not going to do it again. We shouldn’t have had a land package come in that has nothing to do with defense, but nonetheless it is there. I was offended by the process. Frankly—I have to have a soul, I guess—I thought after reading it, it was a pretty good bill. If it would have been brought up outside of this bill, I would have still voted for it. But the process is wrong, and I think we all understand that. We did the best we could.

We have these things that are going on right now, and I think we can’t take that on not having or, for the first time in 53 years, not passing an NDAA bill by the end of the year. It would be a crisis. The system could be criticized for the way it happened. Considering that we passed our bill out of the committee on May 23, we should have had it on the floor. We should have had it done in regular order. We will do everything we can in the future to try to make that happen. For two consecutive years now we have not been able to do that. We have had to go through the system of what they call the Big Four—the chairman and ranking member of the House and the chairman and ranking member of the Senate—to pass this bill. I think in this case we have come up with a good bill. We have been able to incorporate 47 of the amendments that have come from those that were filed to be added on the floor. So we have done the best we can. There is no other alternative now when we consider what will happen if for some unknown reason this would be the first year in 53 years that we don’t have an NDAA bill.

I will just repeat what I started off with; that is, what a joy it has been to work with CARL LEVIN over these years for the committee, either the chairman or the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He will be sorely missed. Oddly enough, we also have the same situation happening over on the House side with Buck McKeon. I served with him when I served in the House. He is going to be retiring after this year as well. So we have two retiring chairmen of what I consider to be the most significant committees in Washington.

We are going to continue to work together for the rest of the bill. We have a good bill, and we are going to uphold our obligation to the 1,779,343 enlisted personnel in the field. We are not going to let them down.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, first let me thank Senator INHOFE for his friendship, most importantly, but also for all the great work that he has always been involved in. It has been a real pleasure working with the Senator from Oklahoma. I should perhaps also say we are confident our successors will carry on this tradition as well. Senator MCCAIN, the new chairman, and Senator JACK RZEDZIEN will be the new ranking member and they will be carrying on this tradition that we have done everything we know how to do to maintain.

I wish to again thank my good friend Jim Inhofe and his staff who worked so hard on this side. We talk about this side of the aisle and that side of the aisle. In this bill obviously there will be differences—very rarely,
by the way, on a partisan basis, even when there are differences. But the aisle sort of disappears when it comes to the Defense authorization bill, and that is the way it should be. I yield the floor.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, let me reclaim my time just to make one other comment. The two people who are sitting here, Peter Levine on your side and John Bonsell on our side, their compatibility in working together is also unprecedented. It doesn’t happen very often. I can’t speak for the Senator from Michigan, but I can speak for myself, to say that without these two working together I sure could not have participated in a meaningful way. So I thank them as well.

Mr. LEVIN. The Senator from Oklahoma is speaking for both of us. I can assure him, with his comments and so many other comments he made. I will yield to the Senator from Colorado, and I wish to thank him for the great contribution he has made to our committee. I think he is planning on speaking on a different subject. He has played a major role on the Intelligence Committee. I look forward to reading, if not hearing, his remarks on the subject on which I know he has spent a good deal of time. Although he has had perhaps more visibility in terms of the Intelligence Committee, he has been a major contributor on the Armed Services Committee. I can’t say we will miss him, I will not be here, but they will miss the Senator from Colorado.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HITTEN). The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, before I start my remarks on the historic day which was yesterday—when it comes to the publication of our long-in-the-making report on the CIA’s torture program—I wish to thank the chairman for his leadership, his mentorship, and his friendship. I also am proud obviously to be a part of the Armed Services Committee and to have chaired the Strategic Forces Subcommittee. Again, I extend my thanks to the good men and women in uniform, as did my good friend from Oklahoma. The NDAA bill is a crucial task in front of us. I look forward to one of my last votes as a Senator from the great State of Colorado, and I look forward to a vote in favor of the Defense authorization bill.

Again, I wish to thank my two friends who have mentored me and who have led our committee with great elan and intelligence.

SCCI STUDY OF THE CIA’S DETENTION AND INTERROGATION PROGRAM

Yesterday was a historic day. Almost 6 years after the Senate Intelligence Committee voted to conduct a study of the CIA’s detention and interrogation program and nearly 2 years after approving the report, the American people will finally know the truth about a very dark chapter in our Nation’s history.

My goal from the start has been twofold. First, I have been committed to correcting the public record on the CIA’s multiple misrepresentations to the American people, to other agencies in the executive branch, the White House, and to Congress. Second, my colleagues and I believe the full truth comes out about this grim time in the history of the CIA and of our Nation so that neither the CIA nor any future administration repeats the grievous mistakes this important oversight work reveals.

The process of compiling, drafting, redacting, and now releasing this report has been much harder than it needed to be. It brings no one joy to discuss the CIA’s brutal and appalling use of torture or the unprecedented actions that some in the intelligence community and administration have taken in order to cover up the truth.

A number of my colleagues who have come to the floor over the past 24 hours have discussed the Chairman’s tenacity and determination. I, too, will never forget the fear, the pain, and the anger we all felt on that day and in the days that followed. Americans were demanding action from our government to keep us safe. Even as we discussed this report, we were determined to go to the ends of the Earth to hunt down the terrorists who attacked our Nation and to make every effort to prevent another attack. Although we all shared that goal, this report reveals the toll it took on our country to a place where we violated our moral and legal obligations in the name of keeping us safe. As we know now, this was a false choice. Torture didn’t keep us safer after all. By releasing the Intelligence Committee’s landmark report, we reaffirm we are a nation that does not hide from its past but must learn from it and that an honest examination of our shortcomings is not a sign of weakness but the strength of our great Republic.

From the heavily redacted version of the executive summary first delivered to the committee by the CIA in August, we made significant progress in clearing away the thick, obfuscating fog these redactions represented.

As Chairwoman Feinstein has said, our committee chipped away at over 400 areas of disagreement with the administration on redactions down to just a few. We didn’t make all the progress we wanted to and the redaction process itself is filled with unwarranted and completely unnecessary obstacles. Unfortunately, at the end of the day, what began as a bipartisan effort on the committee did not end as such, even after my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were repeatedly urged to participate with us as partners.

As my friends in the Senate know, I am a legislator who goes out of his way to form bipartisan consensus. However, it became not possible here and that is regrettable.

But all told, after reviewing this final version of the committee’s study, I believe it accomplishes the goals I laid out and it tells the story that needs to be told.

It also represents a significant and essential step for restoring faith in the cruel role of Congress to conduct oversight. Congress that is important to all of government’s activities, but it is especially important for those parts of the government that operate in secret, as the Church Committee discovered decades ago. The challenge the Church Committee discovered are still with us today: how to ensure that secret government actions are conducted within the confines of the law. The release of this executive summary is testament to the power of oversight and the determination of Chairwoman Feinstein and the members of this committee to doggedly beat back obstacle after obstacle in order to reveal the truth.

There are a number of thank-yous that are in order. I start by thanking the Chairman for his persistence. I also thank the committee staff director, David Grannis; the staff lead for the study, Dan Jones; and his core study team, Evan Gottesman and Chad Tanner. They toiled for nearly 6 years to complete this report. They then shepherded it through the redaction process, all the while giving up their nights, weekends, vacations, and precious time with family and friends in an effort to get to the truth of this secret program for the members of the committee, the Senate, and the American people.

They have been assisted by other dedicated staff, including my designee on the committee, Jennifer Barrett. We would not be where we are today without them. I am grateful, beyond words, for their service and dedication. I want them to know our country is grateful too.

Let me turn to the study itself. Much has been written about the significance of the study. This is the study. It is a summary of the CIA’s detention and interrogation program. I want to start by saying I believe the vast majority of CIA officers welcome oversight and believe in the checks and balances that form the very core of our Constitution. I believe many rank-and-file CIA officers have fought internally for and supported the release of this report. Unfortunately, again and again, these hardworking public servants have been poorly served by the CIA’s leadership.

Too many CIA leaders and senior officials have fought to bury the truth while using a redaction pen to further hide this dark chapter of the Agency’s history.

The document we released yesterday is the definitive, official history of what happened in the CIA’s detention and interrogation program. It is based on more than 6 million pages of CIA and other documents, emails, cables, and interviews. This 500-page study, this document, encapsulates the facts drawn from the 6,700-page report, which is backed up by 38,000 footnotes.
This is a documentary that tells of the program’s history based on the CIA’s own internal records. Its prose is dry and sparse, as you will soon see for yourself. It was put together methodically, without exaggeration or embellishment. This study — by 6-year struggle — in a Democratic administration no less — to get this study out. Why has it been so hard for this document to finally see the light of day? Why have we had to fight tooth and nail every step of the way? The answer is simple: Because the study says things that former and current CIA and other government officials don’t want the American public to know. For a while I worried that this administration would succeed in keeping this study entirely under wraps.

While the study clearly shows that the CIA’s detention and interrogation program itself was deeply flawed, the deeper, more endemic problem lies in the CIA itself. The study’s conclusion is that the CIA, assisted by a White House that continues to try to cover up the truth. It is this deeper problem that illustrates the challenge we face today: reforming an agency that refuses to even acknowledge what it has done. This is a continuing challenge that the CIA’s oversight committees need to take on in a bipartisan way. Those who criticize the committee’s study for overly focusing on the past should understand that its findings directly relate to how the CIA operates today.

For an example of how the CIA has repeated its same past mistakes in more recent years, look at the section of the executive summary released yesterday that deals with the intelligence on the courier that led to Osama bin Laden. That operation took place under this administration in May of 2011. After it was over, the CIA coordinated to provide misinformation to the White House and its oversight committees suggesting the CIA torture program was the tipoff information for the courier. That is 100 percent wrong and signifies the Agency leadership’s persistent and entrenched culture of misrepresenting the truth to Congress and the American people. This example also illustrates again the dangers of not reckoning with the past. So while I agree with my colleagues on the committee who argue that doing oversight in real time is critical, I believe we cannot turn a blind eye to the past when the same mistakes are being made.

In Chairman Feinstein’s landmark floor speech earlier this year, she laid out how the CIA pushed back on our committee’s oversight efforts. Thanks to her speech, we know about the history of the CIA’s destruction of interrogation videotapes and about what motivated her and her colleagues to begin the broader committee study in 2009. We know about the CIA’s insistence on providing documents to the committee in a CIA-leased facility and the millions of dollars the CIA spent on contractors hired to read, multiple times, each of the 6 million pages of documents produced before providing them to the committee staff. We know about the nearly 1,000 documents that the CIA electronically removed from our committee’s database on two occasions in 2010, which the CIA claimed its personnel did at the direction of the White House. Of course we know about the Panetta review.

I turn to the Panetta review. I have provided more information on the techniques that led up to the revelation included in the Panetta review in a set of additional views that I submitted for the committee’s executive summary, but I will summarize them.

From the beginning of his term as CIA Director, John Brennan was openly hostile toward and dismissive of the committee’s oversight and its efforts to review the detention and interrogation program. During his confirmation hearing, I obtained a promise from President Obama that he would cooperate with the committee staff on the study once confirmed. After his confirmation, he changed his mind.

In December 2012, when the classified study was approved in a bipartisan way, the committee asked the White House to coordinate any executive branch comments prior to declassification. The White House provided no comment. Instead, the CIA responded for the executive branch nearly 7 months later, on June 27, 2013.

The CIA’s formal response to the study under Director Brennan clings to false narratives about the CIA’s effectiveness when it comes to the CIA’s detention and interrogation program. It includes many factual inaccuracies, defends the use of torture, and attacks the committee’s oversight and findings. I believe its flippant and dismissive tone represents the CIA’s approach to oversight — and the White House is willing to let the CIA do whatever it likes — even if its efforts are armed at actively undermining the President’s stated policies.

It would be a significant disservice to the American people learn the truth about the wrongs of the past and ensure the administration is leading the efforts to right the wrongs of the past and ensure the American people learn the truth about the CIA’s torture program. Not so.

In fact, torture breaks down dangerous terrorists.

Techniques on only the most hardened and persistent and entrenched culture of misinformation to the court of the CIA’s destruction of interrogation videotapes and about what motivated her and her colleagues to begin the broader committee study in 2009. We know about the CIA’s insistence on providing documents to the committee in a CIA-leased facility and the millions of dollars the CIA spent on contractors hired to read, multiple times, each of the 6 million pages of documents produced before providing them to the committee staff. We know about the nearly 1,000 documents that the CIA electronically removed from our committee’s database on two occasions in 2010, which the CIA claimed its personnel did at the direction of the White House. Of course we know about the Panetta review.

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The CIA’s formal response to the study under Director Brennan clings to false narratives about the CIA’s effectiveness when it comes to the CIA’s detention and interrogation program. It includes many factual inaccuracies, defends the use of torture, and attacks the committee’s oversight and findings. I believe its flippant and dismissive tone represents the CIA’s approach to oversight — and the White House is willing to let the CIA do whatever it likes — even if its efforts are armed at actively undermining the President’s stated policies.
torture program. There were also other CIA officers willing to document the truth. In March 2009, then-CIA Director Leon Panetta announced the formation of a Director's review group to look at the agency's detention and interrogation program. At that time, "the American people depend on our ability to learn lessons from the past while staying focused on the threats of today and tomorrow."

The Director's review group looked at documents that were not being provided to our committee. They produced a series of documents that became the Panetta review. As I discussed in late 2013, the Panetta review corroborates many of the significant findings of the committee's study. Moreover, the Panetta review frankly acknowledges significant problems and errors made in the CIA's detention and interrogation program. Many of these same errors are denied or minimized in the Brennan response.

So when the committee received the Brennan response, I expected a recognition of errors and a clear plan to ensure that the mistakes identified would not be repeated again. Instead—this is a crucial point—instead, the CIA continued not only to defend the program and deny any wrongdoing but also to deny its own conclusions to the contrary found in the Panetta review.

In light of those clear factual disparities between the Brennan response and the Panetta review, committee staff grew concerned that the CIA was knowingly providing inaccurate information to the committee in the present day, which is a serious offense, and a deeply troubling matter for the present day, which is a serious offense, in light of the fact that the Panetta review directly refutes information to the Congress, the President, and the public on the efficacy of its coercive techniques. The Brennan response, in contrast, continues to insist that the CIA's interrogations produced unique intelligence that saved lives. So when the committee identified dozens of documents that include inaccurate information used to justify the use of torture and indicates that the inaccuracies it identifies do not represent an exhaustive list. The Panetta review further describes how detainees provided intelligence prior to the use of torture against them.

It describes how the CIA, contrary to its own representations, often tortured detainees before any other approach. It describes how the CIA tortured detainees, even when less coercive methods were yielding intelligence. The Panetta review further identifies cases in which the CIA used false positives. The committee had no basis for determining whether a detainee had critical intelligence at all.

In other words, CIA personnel tortured detainees to confirm they did not have intelligence, not because they thought they did. The CIA's inaccurate characterization relative to the detention interrogation program, the Panetta review is refreshingly free of excuses, qualifications, or caveats.

The Panetta review found that the CIA repeatedly provided inaccurate information to Congress, and instead the CIA still refuses to answer the committee's questions about the search. Director Brennan and the CIA today are continuing to willfully provide inaccurate information and misrepresent the efficacy of torture. In other words, the CIA is lying. This is not a problem of the past but a problem that needs to be dealt with today.

Let me turn to the search of the Intelligence Committee's computers. Clearly the present leadership of the CIA agrees with me that the Panetta review is a smoking gun. That is the only explanation for the CIA's unauthorized search of the committee's dedicated computers in January. The CIA's illegal search was conducted out of concern that information that staff was provided with the Panetta review.

It demonstrates how far the CIA will go to keep its secrets safe. Instead of asking the committee if it had access to the Panetta review, the CIA searched without any notification, the committee computers that the agency had agreed were off limits.

In so doing, the agency might have violated multiple provisions of the Constitution as well as Federal criminal statutes and Executive Order 12333.

More troubling, despite admitting behind closed doors to the committee that the CIA conducted the search, Director Brennan publically referred to these allegations as "actions that are wholly unsupported by the facts."

He even said such allegations of computer hacking were beyond "the scope of reason." The CIA then made a criminal referral to the Department of Justice against the committee staff who were working on the study. Chairman FEINSTEIN believed these actions were an effort to intimidate the committee staff, the very staff charged with CIA oversight. I strongly agree with her point of view.

The CIA's inspector general subsequently opened an investigation into the CIA's unauthorized search and found, contrary to Director Brennan's public protestations, that a number of CIA employees did, in fact, improperly access the committee's dedicated computers. The investigation found no basis for the criminal referral on the committee staff. The IG also found that the CIA personnel involved demonstrated "lack of candor" about their activities to the inspector general.

However, only a 1-page unclassified summary of the IG's report is publicly available. The longer classified version was only provided briefly to Members when it was first released. I had to push hard to get the CIA to provide a copy for the committee to keep in its own records. Even the copy in committee records is restricted to committee members and only two staff members, not including my staff member.

After having reviewed the IG report myself again recently, I believe even more strongly that the full report should be declassified and publicly released, in part because Director Brennan still refuses to answer the committee's questions about the search.

In March, the committee voted unanimously to request responses from Director Brennan about the committee search. The chairman and vice chairman wrote a letter to Director Brennan, who promised a thorough response.
to their questions after the Justice Department and CIA IG reviews were complete. The Chair and Vice Chair then wrote two more letters, to no avail. The Director has refused to answer any questions on this topic and has again deferred his answers, this time to an oversight board review. The documents that were withheld from the committee layng out protections of the committee’s dedicated computer system. He has refused to say whether the computers were searched more than once, whether the CIA monitored committee staff at the CIA-leased facility, whether the agency ever entered the committee’s secure room at the facility, and who at the CIA knew about the search both before and after it occurred.

I want to turn at this point to the White House. Despite the facts presented, there has been no accountability for the CIA’s actions or for Director Brennan’s failure of leadership. Despite the facts presented, the President has expressed full confidence in Director Brennan and demonstrated some trust by making no effort to all to rein him in. The President stated it was not appropriate for him to weigh into these issues that exist between the committee and the CIA. As I said at the time, the committee should be able to do its oversight work consistent with our constitutional principle of the separation of powers, without the CIA posing impediments or obstacles as it has and as it continues to do today. For the White House not to have recognized this and the gravity of the CIA’s actions deeply troubles me today and continues to trouble me.

Far from being a disinterested observer in the committee-CIA battles, the White House has played a central role from the start. If former CIA Director Panetta’s memoir is to be believed, the President was unhappy about Director Panetta’s initial agreement in 2009 to allow staff access to operation cables and other sensitive documents about the torture program. Assuming its accuracy, Mr. Panetta’s account describes then-Counterterrorism Adviser John Brennan and current Chief of Staff Denis McDonough—both of whom have been deeply involved in the study redaction process—as also deeply unhappy about this expanded oversight.

There are more questions that need answers about the role of the White House in the committee’s study. For example, there are the 9,400 documents that were withheld from the committee by the White House in the course of the review of the millions of documents, despite the fact that these documents are directly responsive to the committee’s document request. The White House has never made a formal claim of executive privilege over the documents, yet it has failed to respond to the chairman’s request to the Oversight and Intelligence committees’ proposals she has offered to review a summary listing of them. When I asked CIA General Counsel Stephen Preston about the documents, he noted that “the Agency” has “relied on the White House and has not been substantially involved in subsequent discussions about the disposition of these documents.”

If the documents are privileged, the White House should assert that claim. But if they are not, White House officials need to explain why they pulled back documents that the CIA believed were relevant to the committee’s investigation and responsive to our direct request.

The White House has not led on this issue in the manner we expected when we heard the President’s campaign speeches in 2008 and read the Executive order he issued in January 2009. To CIA employees in April 2009, President Obama said:

“What makes the United States special, and what makes you special, is precisely the fact that we are willing to uphold our values and ideals even when it’s hard—not just when it’s easy; even when we are afraid and under threat—not just when it’s expedient to do so. That’s what makes us different. This tough, principled talk set an important tone from the beginning of his Presidency. However, let’s fast forward to this year, after so much has come to light about the CIA’s barbaric programs, and President Obama’s response was that we “crossed a line” as a nation and that “hopefully, we don’t do it again in the future.”

That is not good enough. We need to be better than that. There can be no coverup. There can be no excuses. If there were, we heard them from the White House helping the public to understand that the CIA’s torture program wasn’t necessary and didn’t save lives or disrupt terrorist plots, then what is to stop the next White House and CIA Director from supporting torture?

Finally, the White House has not led on transparency, as then Senator Obama promised in 2007. He said then this:

“We’ll protect sources and methods, but we won’t use sources and methods as pretexts to hide the truth. Our history doesn’t belong to Washington, it belongs to America.”

In 2009 consistent with this promise, President Obama issued Executive Order 13526, which clarified that information should be classified to protect sources and methods but not to obscure key facts or cover up embarrassing or illegal acts.

But actions speak louder than words. This administration, like so many before, has released information only when forced to by a leak or by a court order or by an oversight committee.

The redactions to the committee’s executive summary on the CIA’s detention and interrogation program have been a case study in its refusal to be open. Despite requests that both the chairman and I made for the White House alone to lead the declassification process and conclude that the White House to the CIA—the same Agency that is the focus of this report. Predictably, the redacted version that came back to the committee in August obscured key facts and undermined key findings and conclusions.

The CIA also included unnecessary redactions to previously acknowledged and otherwise unclassified information. Why? Presumably, to make it more difficult for the public to understand the study’s findings. Content that the CIA has attempted to redact includes information in the official, declassified report of the Senate Armed Services Committee, other executive branch declassified official documents, and public reports delivered by former CIA officers who were approved by the CIA’s Publication Review Board, news articles, and other public reports.

It is true that through negotiations between the committee, the CIA, and the White House, many of these issues were resolved. However, at the end of the day, the White House and CIA would not agree to include any pseudonyms in the study to disguise the CIA personnel involved in the program. The CIA and the committee had agreed to use CIA-provided pseudonyms for CIA officials, but in the summary’s final version, the CIA insisted that even the pseudonyms should be redacted.

For an agency concerned about morale, this is the wrong approach to take, in my view. By making it less possible to follow a narrative threat throughout the summary, this approach effectively throws many CIA employees in a no-man’s land, forcing them to demand—and the White House alone to lead the declassification process and conclude that the CIA personnel under the bus. It tars all of the CIA writ large as responsible for developing, implementing, and representing the truth about the CIA’s detention and interrogation program. In fact, a small number of CIA officers were largely responsible.

Further, there is no question that the identities of undercover agents must be protected, but it is unprecedented for the CIA to demand—and the White House to agree—that every CIA official mentioned by pseudonym in the classified report of the Senate Armed Services Committee, other executive branch declassified official documents, public reports delivered by former CIA officers who were approved by the CIA’s Publication Review Board, news articles, and other public reports.

We asked the CIA to identify any influences in the summary wherein a CIA official mentioned by pseudonym would result in the outing of any CIA undercover officer, and they could not provide any such examples.

Why do I focus on this? The CIA’s insistence on blacking out even the fake
names of its officers is problematic because the study is less readable and has lost some of its narrative thread.

But as the chairman has said, we will find ways to bridge that gap. The tougher problem to solve is how to ensure that this and future administrations follow President Obama’s pledge not to use sources and methods as pretexsts to hide the truth.

What needs to be done? Chairman Feinstein predicted in March—at the height of the frenzy over the CIA’s spying on its oversight committee—that “our oversight will prevail,” and generally speaking, it has. Much of the truth is out, thanks to the chairman’s persistence and the dedicated staff involved in this effort. It is, indeed, a historic event.

But there is still no accountability, and despite Director Brennan’s pledges to me in January 2013, there is still no correction of the public record of the inaccurate information the CIA has spread for years and continues to stand behind. The CIA has lied to its overseers and the public, destroyed and tried to hold back evidence, spied on the Senate, made false charges against our staff, and lied about torture and the mortality of torture. And no one has been held to account.

Torture just didn’t happen, after all. Contrary to the President’s recent statement, “we” didn’t torture some folks. Real actual people engaged in torture. Some of these people are still employed by the CIA and the U.S. Government. There are, right now, people serving in high-level positions at the Agency who approved, directed or committed acts related to the CIA’s detention and interrogation program. It is bad enough not to prosecute these officials, but to reward or promote them and risk the integrity of the U.S. Government to protect them is incomprehensible.

The President needs to purge his administration of high-level officials who were instrumental to the development and running of this program. He needs to force a cultural change at the CIA.

The President also should support legislation limiting interrogation to noncoercive techniques—to ensure that his own Executive order is codified and to prevent a future administration from developing its own torture program.

The President must ensure the Petraeus review is declassified and publicly released.

The full 6,800-page study of the CIA’s detention and interrogation program should be declassified and released.

There is a need to be accountable for the CIA spying on its oversight committee, and the CIA inspector general’s report needs to be declassified and released to the public.

A key lesson I have learned from my experience with the study is the importance of the role of Congress in overseeing the intelligence community. It is always easier to accept what we are told at face value than it is to ask tough questions. If we rely on others to tell us what is behind their own curtain instead of taking a look for ourselves, we can’t know for certain what is there.

This isn’t at all to say that what the committee found in its study is a culture and behavior we should ascribe to all employees of the CIA or to the intelligence community. The intelligence community is made up of thousands of hard-working patriotic Americans. These women and men are consummate professionals who live every day to keep us safe and to provide the best assessments regardless of political and policy considerations.

But it is incumbent on government leaders—it is incumbent on us—to live up to the dedication of these employees and to make them proud of the institutions they work for. It gives me no pleasure to say this, but as I have said before, for Director Brennan that means resigning. For the next CIA director it means immediately correcting the false record and instituting the necessary reforms to restore the CIA’s reputation for integrity and analytical rigor.

The CIA cannot not be its best until it faces its mistakes and grievous mistakes of the detention and interrogation program. For President Obama, that means taking real action to live up to the pledges he made early in his Presidency.

Serving on the Senate Intelligence Committee for the past 4 years opened my eyes and gave me a much deeper appreciation of the importance of our role in the balancing of power in our great government. It also helped me understand that all Members of Congress, not only Intelligence Committee members, have an opportunity and an obligation to exercise their oversight powers.

Members who do not serve on the Intelligence Committee can ask to read classified documents, call for classified briefings, and submit classified questions. This is my challenge today to the American people. Urge your Member of Congress to be engaged, to get classified briefings, and to help keep the intelligence community accountable. This is the only way that secret government and democracy can coexist.

We have so much to be proud of in our democracy, and one of those matters of pride is our commitment to admit mistakes, correct past actions, and move forward knowing that we are made stronger when we refuse to be bound by the past.

We have always been a forward-looking Nation, but to be so we must be mindful of our own history. That is what this study is all about. So I have no doubt that we will emerge from a dark episode with our democracy strengthened and our future made brighter.

It has been an honor to serve on this committee, and I will miss doing its important work more than I can say.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. WALSH. Madam President, I rise today to speak to this body and my fellow Montanans about service. In preparing to leave the Senate, I add my voice to the voices of many other departing Members who have called for a return to civility in Washington, D.C. Politics today is too full of petty personal attacks. Public service is not made as well as those elected to serve in the next Congress—should set the standard with better words and better actions, but we should also lead from the front. I am not saying anything that hasn’t already been said, but more of us need to say it. If we are lucky, which we are, we are even blessed to stand in this room and do what we do on behalf of our fellow citizens.

Everyone in this Chamber has a unique story about their roots and their path to public service. Mine began in Butte, MT. I was the son of a union pipefitter in a struggling blue-collar town, and my path led to the military. I enlisted out of high school in the Montana National Guard and soon found a career serving my neighbors and family.

The National Guard—the great citizen wing of our Armed Forces—was a home for me. Leading my fellow soldiers into combat in Iraq in 2004–2005 was a defining experience in my life. Overseeing two successful elections for the Iraqis added a new perspective to my view on democracy. Fighting insurgents drove home how fortunate we are to live in the United States of America and to enjoy the freedoms we often take for granted.

The men of Task Force GRIZ who unfortunately didn’t come home with me and the men and women who came back with visible and invisible wounds have truly defined for me, and they remind me every single day of the cost of public servants getting it wrong when it comes to our national defense. I have devoted much of my professional life since returning home to accounting for the true cost of war.

Today, from my perspective, the debts are stacked against the democratic process in America in many ways. There is too much money, too much noise, and too little commitment to finding common ground. Anonymous money masquerading as free speech can poison campaigns. It silences the voices of the majority of American citizens. The concentration of wealth in fewer hands is bad for our society, just as the ability for a handful of the wealthy to carry the loudest megaphones in our elections is bad for our democracy. Elections are starting to look much like auctions. Dark money and circus politics shouldn’t prevent the U.S. Senate from honorably living up to the power we have been given.

Growing up in a little house that shook twice a day from the dynamite
blasts at the copper mine nearby, I never thought I would be involved in public service. I aspired to have a decent job. I aspired to get an education. I aspired to having the time to fish the lakes and streams I fished with my father. Just the normal stuff. And that normal stuff—this must be something bigger than myself. After only a small taste, I discovered that I loved public service. I loved being devoted to something bigger than myself.

We should all remember that Congress can always and must continue to fight for the voices of those who serve our country. It is fitting that in the last days of December 10, 2014, the Department of Commerce in its sister programs. Small county governments, schools, and roads depend on them. These same rural communities need better management of our national forests—something Congress and the Forest Service need to focus on.

We need an honest conversation and urgent solutions to the incredible challenge posed by climate change. As I said earlier from this same podium, we cannot put our heads in the sand and continue with business as usual.

Members of Congress should be taking responsibility for holding the oaths we all swore. We should agree with science—climate change is a clear enemy, and Congress must take steps to stop it.

The next Congress should be thoughtful about women and families—from health care decisions to paycheck fairness.

Finally, I implore all of Congress, all of you, to redouble your attention to the crisis of suicide among our veterans. Yesterday, Representatives passed the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act. That bill now sits before this body, and we have an opportunity to act. We have an opportunity to pass it. I mentioned the invisible wounds of war already, but if this country were losing 22 servicemembers a day on the battlefield, Americans would be on the streets protesting. Congress would be demanding action. But that is exactly the invisible wounds dealt by suicide each and every day from across our country. Veteran suicide is an urgent crisis facing our communities, and congressional action is long overdue.

I believe extending the eligibility for combat veterans at the VA is one essential way to address delayed-onset PTSD and reduce the suicide rate among our veterans. This simple fix and other solutions that improve access to mental health for veterans should continue to be a top priority for the next Congress.

It is fitting that in the last days of the 113th Congress, the Senate is sending the President a bill that carries on the public lands legacy of Senators Lee Metcalf and Max Baucus and the thousands of Montanans who worked together to find common ground.

In the words of Randolph Jennings, Senator Rockefeller’s predecessor from West Virginia, Lee “was a tireless champion of preserving and protecting our nation’s natural heritage for succeeding generations to use and enjoy.” After Lee’s death, Max and the rest of the Montana delegation carried on his legacy by passing wilderness designations for the Absaroka-Beartooth, Great Bear, and the Lee Metcalf wilderness areas. In the same spirit, I am honored to join Senator Jon Tester and Senator-elect Steve Daines in carrying their legacy forward with the North Fork Watershed Protection Act and the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act. We took a page from Montanans. We sat down together, and we worked out an agreement that protected 70% of what the Crown of the Continent. This is how democracy should work.

Forty-two years after the first citizen-driven wilderness, this week Congress is expanding the Scapegoat and Bob Marshall Wilderness areas in Montana. Thirty-eight years after the Flathead River was protected from schemes to dam it and divert it, this week Congress is protecting the Flathead and Glacier National Park forever from exploitation. If you believe in it, Montanans came together. Farmers, ranchers, small business owners, conservationists, hunters, anglers—all worked together to find common ground. Montanans went there first, and their representatives in Congress followed.

When Congress rewards the work of citizens who collaborate, when we finally reach the critical mass in this Chamber to be responsive, that is the day we earn the title of “public servant.” Montanans can be hopeful today that government by them and for them still works. They can still effect change. The Senate still listens and serves.

When President Eisenhower left office in 1961, Congress passed legislation at his request that restored his military title. He wanted to be remembered as a career soldier rather than the Commander in Chief. My 33 years in uniform defined my life. I will always be a soldier. As a soldier, as a husband to my wonderful wife Janet, who has been my partner for 31 years, and as the proud dad of Michael and Taylor, as the father-in-law to my wonderful daughter-in-law April, and as the grandfather of a little girl named Kennedy, who will inherit this great Nation, I will return to civilian life with great hope for the United States Senate and for the United States of America.

I, along with millions of others, will be watching closely and imploring Members in this Chamber to check politics at the door and instead focus on the future. Honor veterans and their families who sacrifice so much. Honor seniors who have heard promises from you. Honor the most vulnerable amongst us. They are who we always should fight for.

Madam President, I am forever grateful to have served the people of Montana in this building standing side by side with each and every one of you. God bless each and every one of you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

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. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the question be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2015 AND 2016

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I am about to ask for unanimous consent to pass a substitute amendment to the Coast Guard bill. Senator VITTER and I hope to get into a bit of a colloquy over it, but first I want to explain what we are doing here.

The Coast Guard bill includes the text of S. 2963, a bill that I introduced to permanently eliminate the requirement that small fishing boats obtain a permit for discharging bilge water identical to normal operation.

This is really important for our small boat fishermen. The bill has 14 cosponsors. I am very happy that Senator MURKOWSKI, a cosponsor of that important legislation.

This substitute that is at the desk includes that permanent fix so that never again do small fishermen have to worry about being subjected to these permits. It covers the commercial vessels less than 79 feet from having to get this discharge permit.

We first enacted a moratorium on permits in 2008. We have extended it twice. The current moratorium expires next week. If we don’t act, these small vessels will require a permit for the first time. So instead of kicking the can down the road again with these moratoria, I think it is time to say, once and for all, these small vessels do not and will never need a permit. I think it is time to permanently eliminate the moratoria.

They are different from large ships that discharge ballast water and introduce harmful invasive species into our coastal waters. That is why a broad array of groups, including the American Sport Fishing Association, Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, Marine Retailers Association of America, American Sportfishing Association, and many others, support this permanent exemption for our small boats.

I hope colleagues will support this, but I understand there is another proposal coming forward.

I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2444; the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the substitute amendment containing a permanent exemption for discharges from small commercial vessels and fishing vessels—and that is at the desk—he agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read three times and passed; the title amendment be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

I appreciate the comments of the Senator from California and want to work with her toward a common goal. In that spirit, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator modify her request and agree to the substitute amendment, which is also at the desk, which includes a 3-year extension of the vessel discharge moratorium.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator from California so modify her request?

Mrs. BOXER. I reserve the right to object, but I do not intend to object. I wish to say I am going to agree to this 3-year moratorium but I am a little stunned as to why we are doing this again. We could give these small boats a permanent exemption. It is an important economic issue.

I don’t like this approach, but it is the best we can do. I want the American people and the fishermen to know we tried so hard to get this fixed permanently. But I am glad we have a 3-year moratorium. It is better than nothing, and I will therefore agree to the modification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request, as modified? Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

The amendment (No. 3997) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The amendment (in today’s Record under “Text of Amendments.”) was agreed to, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The title amendment (No. 3998) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title.)

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I wish to weigh in on this issue. I wish to say I am going to agree to this 3-year moratorium but I am a little stunned as to why we are doing this again. We could give these small boats a permanent exemption.

The Sensor from California for all coastal States, or for my State—for all coastal States, or any State that has commercial fishermen, as my colleague from California and as my colleague from Louisiana know.

I appreciate the fact that we have come to a place where we are going to save these small fishermen from the potential burden of reporting to EPA for any incidental discharge from their vessels for the next 3 years.

I need to acknowledge the good work of my colleague from California. She has recognized that we began this years ago, back in 2008, when we had to work together at that time to get a short-term extension to ensure that our small-vessel owners would not be subjected to these EPA requirements that most people would say: What is this reporting all about?

For those who need a little more give me a detail as to what we are talking about, when you take a commercial fishing vessel out, a 45-foot commercial fishing vessel, and you have a good day fishing, there are some salmon guts on the deck, a little bit of slime, and you have to hose it off. That would be an essential discharge that would be reportable to the EPA. And if you fail to report, you could be subject to civil penalties. That is not what we are talking about here.

I think it is important to note that we have two leaders here in the Senate who perhaps approach some of the EPA issues from a different angle. Senator BOXER has been a staunch advocate for making sure that when we are talking about clean air and clean water, we are complying with those regulations. Senator VITTER has also been a staunch advocate for making sure our small businesses, our jobs, and our economic opportunities aren’t stymied by these regulations.

So the fact that we have two Members coming together to acknowledge we have to do something to ensure these regulations do not impede the ability of our small fishermen, of our commercial operators in the water—those vessels below 79 feet—that we are not harming them.

In my home State of Alaska, we are talking about 8,500 commercial fishermen who were most anxious that 8 days from now they were going to be put in a position where they were effectively violating EPA regulations, subject to civil penalties, for the simple act of runoff off of their decks.

So I concur with Senator BOXER, this is something we don’t need to be going from year to year to year to address. We don’t need to inject this uncertainty into our small commercial fishing facilities. We need to have a permanent solution. I want to work with that permanent solution. Senator VITTER has clearly indicated he is willing to help us with that. Senator THUNE in Commerce has made that clear. We know we have to address the ballast issues. We will do that. And I am looking forward to being engaged with that in the 114th Congress.

But for now, I think it is critically important that common sense has been reached. I acknowledge the good work of both the Senator from Louisiana and the Senator from California, and Senator THUNE, for getting us to this point where we can take the pressure off of our small commercial operators and ensure that they can do what they do so very well.

I look forward to the next Congress where we are making this permanent and, again, where we are dealing with so many of the other issues. But I thank my colleagues today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.
Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I want to make sure I thank Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator BEGICH. When I started this, Senator BEGICH was my first cosponsor and Senator MURKOWSKI made this bipartisan. I think the important thing was that we could get Republicans to sign on this issue; Senator THUNE, who I think will be very good in the new Senate, run by—In the case of the Senate. I hope we will work together as we move forward in this new Senate, run by—In the case of the committee I proudly chair—Senator INHOFE, who I think will be very good on this issue; Senator THUNE, who we know is good on this issue. So we have the pieces in place. And whatever objections there were, I don’t think they are really objections to the permanency, they are political objections to try and use this to get some other bad stuff attached to it. I am not going to let that happen, let me tell you right now, no way, no how. So whatever someone has in their mind that they are going to connect to this little baby, it isn’t going to happen, because we can’t do that. We can’t take one good thing and destroy it. I am not going to let that happen.

Right now we have a 3-year deal put in place. We can breathe easy. If I am someone contemplating buying a small boat, this is one less worry I have. If I could have had it permanently; I have it for 3 years. It is too bad, but at least I have it, and that is good.

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AND COMMUNICATIONS INTEGRATION CENTER ACT OF 2014

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 526, S. 2519.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate proceeded to consider S. 2519, the Presiding Officer, without objection. Mr. THUNE moves the Clark amendment; the Senate proceeded to consider the same, the amendment printed in italic.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AND COMMUNICATIONS INTEGRATION CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 210G. OPERATIONS CENTER.

“(a) FUNCTION.—There is in the Department an operations center, which may carry out the responsibilities of the Under Secretary appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H) with respect to security and resilience, including by—

“(1) serving as a Federal civilian information sharing interface for cybersecurity;

“(2) providing situational awareness to enable real-time, integrated, and operational actions across the Federal Government;

“(3) sharing cybersecurity threat, vulnerability, impact, and incident information and analysis by and among Federal, State, and local government entities and private sector entities;

“(4) coordinating cybersecurity information sharing throughout the Federal Government;

“(5) conducting analysis of cybersecurity risks and incidents;

“(6) upon request, providing timely technical assistance to Federal and non-Federal entities with respect to cybersecurity threats and attribution, vulnerability mitigation, and incident response and remediation; and

“(7) providing recommendations on security and resilience measures to Federal and non-Federal entities.

“(b) COMPOSITION.—The operations center shall be composed of—

“(1) personnel or other representatives of Federal agencies, including civilian and law enforcement agencies and elements of the intelligence community, as such term is defined under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)); and

“(2) representatives from State and local governments and other non-Federal entities, including—

“(A) representatives from information sharing and analysis organizations; and

“(B) private sector owners and operators of critical information systems.

“(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the operations center, which shall include—

“(1) an analysis of the performance of the operations center in carrying out the functions under subsection (a);

“(2) information on the composition of the center, including—

“(A) the number of representatives from non-Federal entities that are participating in the operations center, including the number of representatives from States, nonprofit organizations, and private sector entities, respectively; and

“(B) the number of requests from non-Federal entities to participate in the operations center and the response to such requests, including—

“(i) the average length of time to fulfill such identified requests by the Federal agency responsible for fulfilling such requests; and

“(ii) a description of any obstacles or challenges to fulfilling such requests; and

“(c) the policies established by the operations center to safeguard privacy and civil liberties.

“(d) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center Act of 2014, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the effectiveness of the operations center.

“(e) No Right or Benefit.—The provision of assistance or information to, and inclusion in, the operations center of, governmental or private entities under this section shall be at the discretion of the Under Secretary appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H). The provision of certain assistance or information to, or inclusion in, the operations center of, one governmental or private entity pursuant to this section shall not create a federal, subfederal or nonfederal, to similar assistance or information for any other governmental or private entity.”.

“(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 note) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 210F the following:

“Sec. 210G. Operations center.”.”

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “critical infrastructure” means the following:


(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to grant the Secretary of Homeland Security any authority to promulgate regulations or set standards relating to the cybersecurity of private sector critical infrastructure that was not in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn; the Carper substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time; and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 3999) in the nature of a substitute of the amendment agreed to on June 30, 2014, is withdrawn. (The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?

The bill (S. 2519), as amended, was passed.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROTECTING AND SECURING CHEMICAL FACILITIES FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS ACT OF 2014

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the
This Act may be cited as the “Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014.”

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

(a) In General.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE XXI—CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

“(a) In General.—In this title—

“(1) the term ‘CFATS regulation’ means—

“(A) an existing CFATS regulation; and

“(B) any regulation or amendment to an existing CFATS regulation issued pursuant to the authority under section 2107;

“(2) the term ‘chemical facility of interest’ means a chemical facility that—

“(A) holds, or that the Secretary has a reasonable basis to believe holds, a chemical of interest, as designated under Appendix A to part 27 of title 6, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto, at a threshold quantity set pursuant to relevant risk-related security principles; and

“(B) is not an excluded facility;

“(3) the term ‘covered chemical facility’ means a facility that—

“(A) the Secretary—

“(i) identifies as a chemical facility of interest; and

“(ii) based upon review of the facility’s Top-Screen, determines meets the risk criteria developed under section 2164(b)

“(A) and

“(B) is not an excluded facility;

“(4) the term ‘excluded facility’ means—

“(A) a facility regulated under the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–295; 116 Stat. 2964);

“(B) a public water system, as that term is defined in section 1411 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f);

“(C) a Treatment Works, as that term is defined in section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1292);

“(D) a facility that is not regulated by the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy, or

“(E) a facility subject to regulation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or by a State that has entered into an agreement with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission under section 274 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1944 (42 U.S.C. 2021(b)) to protect against unauthorized access of any material, activity, or structure licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission;

“(5) the term ‘existing CFATS regulation’ means—

“(A) a regulation promulgated under section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 that is in effect on the date before the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014;

“(B) a regulation promulgated under section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 that is in effect on the date before the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014;

“(6) the term ‘expedited approval facility’ means a covered chemical facility for which the owner or operator elects to submit a site security plan under section 2102(c)(4)(B); and

“(7) the term ‘facially deficient’, relating to a site security plan, means a site security plan that does not support a certification that the security measures in the plan address the security vulnerability assessment and the risk-based performance standards for security for the facility, based on a vulnerability assessment.

“(A) the facility’s site security plan;

“(B) the facility’s Top-Screen;

“(C) the facility’s security vulnerability assessment;

“(D) any other information that—

“(i) the facility submits to the Department; or

“(ii) the Department obtains from a public source or other source;

“(8) the term ‘guidance for expedited approval facilities’ means the guidance issued under section 2102(c)(4)(B); and

“(9) the term ‘risk assessment’ means the Secretary’s application of relevant risk criteria identified in section 2102(c)(2)(B);

“(10) the term ‘screening database’ means the terrorist screening database maintained by the Federal Government Terrorist Screening Center or its successor;

“(11) the term ‘Top-Screen’ means the term ‘screening database’ defined in section 27.105 of title 6, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto;

“(12) the term ‘terrorist screening database’ means the procedure by which the Secretary assigns a tier to each covered chemical facility based on the risk assessment for that covered chemical facility.

“(13) the term ‘Top-Screen’ has the meaning given in the term 27.105 of title 6, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto; and

“(14) the term ‘vulnerability assessment’ means the identification of weaknesses in the security of a chemical facility of interest.

SEC. 202. CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—There is in the Department a Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program, the Secretary shall—

“(1) a site security plan in conformance with a template authorized under subparagraph (H),

“(ii) GUIDANCE FOR EXPEDITED APPROVAL FACILITIES.—

“(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall issue guidance for expedited approval facilities that identifies specific security measures that are sufficient to meet the risk-based performance standards.

“(ii) MATERIAL DEVIATION FROM GUIDANCE.—

“(A) If a security measure in the site security plan of an expedited approval facility material deviates from a security measure in the guidance for expedited approval facilities, the site security plan shall include an explanation of how such security measure meets the risk-based performance standards.

“(iii) PROCESS.—In developing and issuing, or amending, the guidance for expedited approval facilities under this subparagraph and in collecting information from expedited approval facilities, the Secretary—

“(B) BASES FOR DISAPPROVAL.—The Secretary—

“(i) may not disapprove a site security plan based on the presence or absence of a particular security measure; and

“(ii) shall disapprove a site security plan if the plan fails to satisfy the risk-based performance standards established pursuant to subparagraph (C).

“(3) ALTERNATIVE SECURITY PROGRAMS.—

“(A) AUTHORITY TO APPROVE.—

“(i) In General.—The Secretary may approve an alternative security program established by a private sector entity or a Federal, State, or local authority or under other applicable laws, if the Secretary determines that the requirements of the program meet the requirements under this section.

“(ii) ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES.—If the requirements of an alternative security program do not meet the requirements under this section, the Secretary may recommend additional security measures to the program that will enable the Secretary to approve the program.

“(B) SATISFACTION OF SITE SECURITY PLAN REQUIREMENT.—A covered chemical facility may satisfy the site security plan requirement under subsection (a) by adopting an alternative security program that the Secretary has—

“(i) reviewed and approved under subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) determined to be appropriate for the operations and security concerns of the covered chemical facility.

“(C) SITE SECURITY PLAN ASSESSMENTS.—

“(A) RISK ASSESSMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—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.

“(B) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PLANS.—In the case of a covered chemical facility for which the Secretary previously approved a site security plan before the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary may not require the facility to resubmit the site security plan solely by reason of the enactment of this title.

“(D) EXPEDITED APPROVAL PROGRAM.—

“(a) In General.—A covered chemical facility assigned to tier 3 or 4 may meet the requirement to develop and submit a site security plan under subsection (a)(2)(B) by developing and submitting to the Secretary—

“(ii) an alternative security program established by a private sector entity or a Federal, State, or local authority; and

“(B) shall employ the risk assessment policies and procedures developed under this title.

“(2) ALTERNATIVE SECURITY PROGRAMS.—

“(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall—

“(A) identify—

“(i) chemical facilities of interest; and

“(ii) covered chemical facilities;

“(B) require each chemical facility of interest to submit a Top-Screen and any other information that—

“(i) the Secretary determines necessary to enable the Department to assess the security risks associated with the facility;

“(ii) establish risk-based performance standards designed to address high levels of security risk at covered chemical facilities; and

“(iii) require each covered chemical facility to—

“(A) submit a security vulnerability assessment; and

“(B) develop, submit, and implement a site security plan.

“(C) SECURITY MEASURES.—A facility, in developing a site security plan as required under subsection (a), shall include security measures that, in combination, appropriately address the security vulnerability assessment and the risk-based performance standards for security for the facility.

“(1) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF SITE SECURITY PLANS.—

“(1) In General.—

“(A) REVIEW.—Except as provided in paragraph (4), the Secretary shall review and (a) approve or disapprove each site security plan submitted pursuant to subsection (a).
“(aa) except as provided in subparagraph (G), may not disapprove the site security plan; and  

(b) may audit and inspect the expedited approval facility under subsection (d) to verify compliance with the site security plan or other applicable requirement of this title.

(ii) NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary determines that an expedited approval facility is not in compliance with the site security plan or is otherwise in violation of this title, the Secretary may enforce compliance in accordance with section 2104.

(1) AMENDMENT TO SITE SECURITY PLAN.

(i) REQUIREMENT.

(II) IN GENERAL.—If the owner or operator of an expedited approval facility is assigned to tier 3 or 4 under existing CFATS regulations before the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the date that is 210 days after the date of enactment of that title.

(iii) ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES.—If the Secretary determines that a new or modified site security plan under subclause (I) is not in compliance with this title.

(b) the facility shall no longer be eligible to certify a site security plan under this paragraph.

(2) FACILITATION OF COMPLIANCE.

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may develop prescriptive site security plan templates with specific security measures to meet the risk-based performance standards under subsection (a) of this section.

(ii) FILING OF SITE SECURITY PLAN.

(II) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—For purposes of this clause, an amendment to a site security plan includes any technical amendment to the site security plan.

(ii) AMENDMENT REQUIRED.—If the owner or operator of an expedited approval facility shall amend the site security plan if—

(D) DEADLINE.—

(III) the owner or operator receives notice from the Secretary of a change in tiering under subsection (e)(3).

(h) a certification, signed under penalty of perjury, that—

(i) IN GENERAL.—For an expedited approval facility assigned to tier 3 or 4 under existing CFATS regulations before the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the date that is 210 days after the date of enactment of that title.

(ii) NOTIFICATION.—Upon receiving notice of the requirement for additional security measures or suspending a certification under subparagraph (A), the facility shall no longer be eligible to certify a site security plan under this paragraph.

(iii) DEADLINE.—An amended site security plan and certification shall be submitted under clause (i).

(II) IN GENERAL.—If the owner or operator of an expedited approval facility does not agree to implementing the specific security measures to meet the risk-based performance standards under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary may recommend specific additional security measures recommended by the Secretary under subclause (I) to the facility.

(bb) the facility shall no longer be eligible to certify a site security plan under this paragraph.

(bb) may audit and inspect the expedited approval facility under subsection (d) to verify compliance with the site security plan or other applicable requirement of this title.

(bb) suspend the certification of the facility.

(bb) the Secretary may enforce compliance in accordance with section 2104.

(bb) the Secretary may enforce compliance in accordance with section 2104.

(b) the facility shall no longer be eligible to certify a site security plan under this paragraph.

(iii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prevent a covered chemical facility from developing and certifying its own site security plan in accordance with subparagraph (A).
“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall take any appropriate action for a full examination of the expedited approval program authorized under this paragraph, including conducting an appropriate number of inspections, as authorized under subsection (d), of expedited approval facilities.

“(ii) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Security of the House of Representatives a report that contains—

“(1) any costs and efficiencies associated with the expedited approval program authorized under this paragraph;

“(2) the impact of the expedited approval program on the backlog for site security plan approval and authorization inspections;

“(3) an assessment of the ability of expedited approval facilities to submit facially sufficient site security plans;

“(4) tiering of any impact of the expedited approval program on the security of chemical facilities; and

“(5) recommendations by the Secretary on the frequency of compliance inspections that may be required for expedited approval facilities.

“(d) COMPLIANCE.—

“(1) AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

“(i) the term ‘nongovernmental’ includes any individuals, including law enforcement officials and first responders, that the owner or operator needs to comply with the training and retraining of each individual used by the Department as an auditor or inspector, including each individual employed by the Department and all nondepartmental or nongovernmental personnel approved by the Secretary, including—

“(I) minimum training requirements for new auditors and 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 proper certification or certifications necessary to have chemical-terrorist vulnerability information (as defined in section 27.105 of title 6, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto);

“(VI) the adequacy of any non-compliance with this section to the Secretary within 24 hours; and

“(VII) any additional qualifications for fitness of duty as the Secretary may require.

“(B) AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS.—The Secretary shall conduct audits or inspections under this subparagraph (B) to be carried out by a nongovernmental entity, the Secretary shall—

“(i) prescribe standards for the qualification of the individual conducting such audits and inspections that are commensurate with the standards for similar Government auditors or inspectors; and

“(ii) ensure that any duties carried out by a nongovernmental entity are not inherently governmental functions.

“(C) PERSONNEL SURETY PROGRAM.—For purposes of this title, the Secretary shall establish and carry out a Personnel Surety Program that—

“(I) does not require an owner or operator of a covered chemical facility that voluntarily participates in the program to submit information about an individual based on vetting the individual against the terrorist screening database, to the extent that such feedback is necessary for the facility to be in compliance with regulations promulgated under this title; and

“(II) provides a participating owner or operator of a covered chemical facility with relevant information about an individual more than one time;

“(III) requires that the application for use in the Personnel Surety Program be similar to an application for use in the Surety Program established under subparagraph (A); and

“(IV) the average number of covered chemical facilities inspected; and

“(V) the number of covered chemical facilities inspected.

“(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

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

“(2) RISK ASSESSMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this title, the Secretary shall develop a security risk assessment approach and corresponding methodology for covered chemical facilities that incorporates the relevant elements of risk, including threat, vulnerability, and consequence.

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall document the basis for the risk assessment and the methodology for covered chemical facilities.

“(C) EMERGENCY RESPONSE.—The Secretary shall identify, develop, and carry out an emergency response plan for covered chemical facilities.

“(D) ANY OTHER INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall identify any other information that is necessary for the Secretary to carry out this title.

“(f) SEMIANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTING.—

“(1) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, and not less frequently than once every 6 months thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report that describes, for the period covered by the report—

“(A) the number of covered chemical facilities in the United States;

“(B) the average number of days spent reviewing site security or an alternative security program for a covered chemical facility prior to approval;

“(C) the number of covered chemical facilities inspected;

“(D) the average number of covered chemical facilities inspected per inspector; and

“(E) any other information that the Secretary determines will be helpful to Congress in evaluating the performance of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

“SEC. 2103. PROTECTION AND SHARING OF INFORMATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, information developed under this title, including vulnerability assessments, site security plans, and other security related information, records, and documents shall be shared for the purposes of this title with the Department and all nondepartmental or nongovernmental personnel approved by the Secretary, including—

“(i) members of the National Intelligence Community and all other appropriate intelligence agencies;

“(ii) State, local, and regional fusion centers and public and private labor organizations to identify all chemical facilities of interest.

“(3) CHANGES IN TIERING.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall preserve the expedited approval program and take any appropriate action to determine whether the expedited approval program is effective for future audits or inspections.

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report that describes, for the period covered by the report—

“(A) the number of covered chemical facilities in the United States;

“(B) the average number of days spent reviewing site security or an alternative security program for a covered chemical facility prior to approval;

“(C) the number of covered chemical facilities inspected;

“(D) the average number of covered chemical facilities inspected per inspector; and

“(E) any other information that the Secretary determines will be helpful to Congress in evaluating the performance of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

“(5) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the sharing of information developed under this title, as the Secretary determines appropriate, with State and local government officials possessing a need to know and the necessary security clearances, individual law enforcement officials and first responders, for the purpose of carrying out this title.

“(6) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH FIRST RESPONDERS.—

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide to State, local, and regional fusion centers
(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'small covered chemical facility' means a covered chemical facility that—

(1) has fewer than 100 employees employed at the covered chemical facility; and

(2) is owned and operated by a small business concern (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)).

(b) ASSISTANCE TO FACILITIES.—The Secretary may provide guidance and, as appropriate, tools, methodologies, or computer software, to assist small covered chemical facilities in developing the physical security, cybersecurity, recordkeeping, and reporting procedures required under this title.

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

SEC. 2109. SMALL COVERED CHEMICAL FACILITIES OF INTEREST.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary shall establish an outreach implementation plan, in coordination with the heads of other appropriate Federal and State agencies, relevant business associations, and public and private labor organizations, to—

(1) identify chemical facilities of interest; and

(2) make available compliance assistance materials and information on education and training.”.
The bill (H.R. 4007), as amended, was passed.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion 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.

CIRDA ACT OF 2014

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2852 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2852) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws relating to the advancement of security technologies for critical infrastructure protection, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask unanimous consent that the Carper substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4001) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “Cybersecurity Category” means a position’s or incumbent’s primary work function involving cybersecurity, as recognized by the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education’s National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework report; and

(2) the term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

The amendment (No. 4000) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4000) was agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4001) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4000) was agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4001) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4000) was agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4001) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)
The title amendment (No. 4002) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: "To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess the cybersecurity workforce of the Department of Homeland Security and develop a comprehensive workforce strategy, and for other purposes."

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014—Continued

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION

Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I will be brief, but I want to thank both Senators on the floor, Senators BOXER and VITTER, for working on this issue. It was critical for Alaska's fishermen and really for fishermen across the country. More importantly this will resolve the issue with the Coast Guard bill, which is critical to get done for many other reasons.

First, on the discharge issue, as stated earlier, this is an important waiver for our fishermen in Alaska. This will ensure that a regulation that wasn't going to have any positive impact with regards to what they were attempting to do but was having a negative impact with regards to our fisheries—giving them a 3-year waiver is exceptional because every year we would have a 1-year waiver. So a 3-year waiver is fantastic, but I agree with Senator BOXER that this should be permanent. I would like to watch from the outside in to see how this develops over the years.

The Coast Guard authorization bill was critical to get done. This has many important provisions. As the chair of the committee that dealt with the Coast Guard bill, not only this year but 2 years ago, we have been successful now at least since I have been chair to ensure the bill passed by unanimous consent and not to have big fights over working out the differences. Again, I want to thank Senator VITTER for his effort, making sure we move forward on this piece of legislation.

The issue I want to highlight—and then I will close—is that the Coast Guard bill is not only important for our fishermen, the 79 feet and under ships, but also many other things. It ensures additional resources for the Arctic and Antarctic and ensures ice-breaking capabilities, including extending the service life of the currently idled Polar Sea. It enhances vessel safety information regarding ice and weather conditions and improves the oil spill prevention and response capabilities. It also ensures availability of quality childcare for our Coast Guard personnel. We require the Coast Guard to go all over this country. Part of it is that their families are obviously with them and making sure they have quality of life aspects that are important for us to continue to recruit and get the best of the best. It also creates educational and portable career opportunities for Active-Duty Coast Guard spouses and eases the transition for Coast Guard personnel into postservice life. It provides initial and regular training for funding levels for something very important to us in Alaska, the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Committee. This group of citizens is involved in ensuring that the community at Cook Inlet—there is a lot of oil activity and fishing activity and other types of activities that are in that region—and citizens are engaged in their input. It is not just industry, but it is industry and citizens working together. This ensures that their funding continues and is inflation adjusted for the future. That is important.

Lastly, a small item, but it allows the Commandant to issue leases on tidelands and submerged lands. That is important because there are parcels of property that the Federal Government controls that are adjacent to communities, and we need to make sure that there is flexibility for them to do the work they need to do. This piece of legislation was cosponsored by Senator HARKEN, Senator BAY HUME, Senator KENNEDY, Senator RUBIO, Maria Cantwell and many others. This truly is a bipartisan piece of legislation and an example of what we do best when we work together.

Imagine a piece of legislation such as this, an authorization legislation for one of our large agencies, the Coast Guard, now the second time happening without a big fight on the floor, without this back and forth between the House and Senate, but actually getting the work done so our Coast Guard personnel know they have a budget that improves upon their quality of life issues and in my case in Alaska, making sure the Arctic is taken care of. We also increased and made sure the Coast Guard ongoing replacement programs and funding continues, with $1.5 billion to continue to increase and improve the Coast Guard programs for our country, which is also very important.

Again, I want to thank the body, thank the folks on both sides of the aisle. As chair of the committee, it was my honor to be able to move this forward, but also I want to give a special thanks to all my staff members who worked on this because without the Senate staff who participated in this work, we could not have gotten the work done. I appreciate that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Thank you, Madam President. I rise today to express strong concern and opposition to President Obama’s Executive amnesty, which I think is clearly, flat-out illegal and unconstitutional.

I am not voting ‘no’ on the confirmation of Loretta Lynch to become Attorney General—because she would directly
People are frustrated with Congress and part of the reason, of course, is gridlock, but mostly it is because they see a Congress that works just fine for the big guys, but it won’t lift a finger to help them. If big companies can deploy armies of lobbyists and lawyers to Congress, the Congress will act to benefit themselves, then we simply confirm the view of the American people that the system is rigged.

Now the House of Representatives is about to show us that the government for the rich and powerful. The House is about to vote on a budget deal—a deal negotiated behind closed doors—that slips in a provision that would let derivative traders on Wall Street gamble with taxpayer money and get bailed out by the government when their risky bets threaten to blow up our financial system. These are the same banks that nearly broke the economy in 2008 and destroyed millions of jobs, the same banks that got bailed out by taxpayers and are now raking in record profits, the same banks that are spending a whole lot of time and money trying to influence Congress to bend the rules in their favor.

You will hear a lot of folks say that the bank bailout was the right thing to do, that it was the only way to save the financial system. People will point to reports like the New York Times or the financial system is “rigged,” the system is “rigged” because of Wall Street and the banks. People will point to Wall Street’s record profits, the same banks that got bailed out by taxpayers and are now raking in record profits, the same banks that are spending a whole lot of time and money trying to influence Congress to bend the rules in their favor.

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simple—it is about money and power. Because while this legal change could pose serious risks to our entire economy, it will also make a lot of money for Wall Street banks.

According to Americans for Financial Reform, the change the bill will be a huge boon to a handful of our biggest banks—Citigroup, J.P. Morgan, and Bank of America.

Wall Street spent a lot of time and money to convince Public Citizens and the Center for Responsive Politics that in the runup to Dodd-Frank, the financial services sector employed 1,447 former Federal employees to carry out their lobbying efforts, including 73 former Members of Congress.

According to a report by the Institute for America’s Future, by 2010, the six biggest banks and their trade associations employed 243 lobbyists who only worked for the Federal government, including 33 who worked as chiefs of staff for Members of Congress and 54 who worked as staffers for the banking oversight committees in the House and Senate. That is a lot of former Federal employees serving as senators and Congressmen pandering on Congress to make sure that the big banks get their way.

It is no surprise that the financial industry spent more than $1 million a day lobbying Congress on financial reform, and that is a lot of money that went to former elected officials and government employees. Now we see the fruits of those investments.

This is all about goosing the profits of the big banks. Wall Street is not subtle about this one. According to documents reviewed by the New York Times, the original bill that is being incorporated into the House spending legislation today was literally written by Citigroup lobbyists who “redrafted” the legislation, “striking out certain phrases and inserting others.”

It has been opposed by current and former leaders of the FDIC, including Sheila Bair, a Republican who formerly chaired the agency, and Thaddeus Hoehnig, the current vice chairman of the agency. For those who are keeping score, this is the agency that will be responsible for bailing out Wall Street when their risky bets go south.

I know that House and Senate negotiators from both parties have worked long and hard to come to an agreement on the omnibus spending legislation, and Senate leaders deserve great credit for passing the House from carrying out some of their more aggressive fantasies about dismantling even more pieces of financial reform, but this provision goes too far. Citigroup is large and powerful, but it is a single, private company that should not get to hold the entire government hostage to threaten a government shutdown in order to roll back important protections that keep our economy safe. This is a democracy, and the American people didn’t elect us to steer a company, they elected us to stand up for all the people.

I urge my colleagues in the House—particularly my Democratic colleagues whose votes are essential to moving this package forward—to withhold support from it until this risky giveaway is removed from the legislation. We all need to stand and fight this giveaway to the most powerful banks in this country.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

MR. BOGACZ. Madam President, I rise today to discuss an issue that I believe should be discussed and worked on so much more in Congress. It demands an urgency of action, a dedication, and a focus to address our shortcomings as a nation to live up to our ideals, liberty and justice for all. Equal justice under the law is written on the Supreme Court, and is a theme of our Nation.

It is the source of anguish that I believe is driving protests all over our country right now. From Ferguson to Staten Island, from New Jersey to Oakland, citizens of all races and all backgrounds—Americans are joining together to call for change and to have this idea that our legal system really should be a justice system.

Now this is an anguish that is not simply the result and the reaction to specific incidents. Yes, there is much discussion about those specific incidents in places such as Staten Island, but it is a reflection of a deeper anguish, an unfinished American business that has lasted for decades.

I feel in my personal life this sense of gratitude for my unique upbringing. As a young man in 1969, my parents literally had to get a white couple to pose as them to buy the house I grew up in in New Jersey. They literally had to go through the indignity of trying to break barriers of race to move into a town that was all white at the time.

I stand here to tell you I grew up in the greatest place. The citizens of Haddonfield, New Jersey, are standing here right now. The love and caring that exists in my State is remarkable. I am also here today because of a city that is a majority Black city, Newark, NJ, that embraced me as a young professional, and where I eventually became mayor.

Through my unique position, I have to say I am able to understand all corners of this country. In an intimate way, I speak of this with so many of my friends and colleagues. I heard it here in the Senate. I have had security guards pull me aside to talk to me about their anguish and frustrations about the criminal justice system. I have had the people who do the work in this body—those who clean our floors or tend to the needs of our Senators—and they feel this frustration about an American legal system that is failing short of American ideals and is not a justice system.

I saw it with my own parents who, with agony and pain, talked to me about not having a margin of error when it comes to dealing with police officers. They would coach me on how I should speak and talk and what I should do with my hands because of the fears they had of the treatment I might have that would be different than other Americans.

I stand today because this cannot simply be reduced to a racial issue. This is the larger questions of justice in our country. This calls to the conscience of all Americans, and it is sourced by the realities we face in this country where we lead the globe in areas that no American who believes in freedom and liberty should want to lead.

We have had over the last decades of my lifetime an explosion in incarceration that belies the truth of who we are. This Nation has seen this country have a 800 percent increase in the Federal prison population over the last 30 years. Think about that—an 800 percent increase. We are very ignominious distinction on the globe for leading the planet Earth in a country that incarcerates its own citizens. In fact, America is just 5 percent of the globe’s population, but we have 25 percent of the world’s people, and I tell you that is not because Americans have a greater proclivity for criminality, it is because our legal system is not a justice system.

This overincarceration and over-criminalization means that the American justice system, aggravates divisions, undermines freedom and liberty and costs taxpayers so much more money. It is an unnecessary burden and expense that is a self-inflicted wound in this Nation that undermines our prosperity and our success. We spend $7 trillion a year locking people up, and the majority of those people are nonviolent offenders.

In fact, over the last decade, right now in America there are more people in prison for drug offenses than all of the people in prison in the 1970s. It is an extraordinary fact. Whether you are Black or White, if you get arrested and charged with a felony crime for doing some things that the last three Presidents of the United States admitted to doing, and then tried and convicted—I say “tried” with hesitancy because the majority of them are plea bargains. As the President knows, if you get convicted of that felony offense, the nondrug violent offense, the collateral consequences to your life are horrendous.

We now live in a nation where the collateral consequences are profound. We now know that time behind bars, even for these nonviolent offenders, reduces people’s hourly wages by 11 percent, their annual employment by 9 weeks, their annual earnings by 40 percent. It has a powerful economic impact.

If an American is convicted for possession of Controlled substances use, they become ineligible for so many benefits that we would often think we would want these very people to have. They
can’t get Federal education grants such as a Pell grant. They can’t get loans or work assistance. They become ineligible for business licenses, outrageously so. A person convicted of a felony will be denied public housing, even the ability to visit their family in prison. They could be kicked out of their current housing arrangements. Former inmates can’t get jobs, shelter, or loans. They often feel that no option exists other than going back to that slippery slope toward more crimes and more cases—cases that would put the people within the criminal system.

But what is anguishing so many is the clear and undeniable applications of this criminal justice system and the applications of this legal system in unequal ways to different portions of our population.

In my life I have seen that first-hand—how the usage of drugs in different communities where there is no difference between Blacks and Whites is treated differently based upon their race or their socioeconomic status.

Let me be clear. These issues are American issues, not simply race issues. They affect us all because we are a nation with a profound declaration of liberty and justice for all. The urgency of our country speaks also to an interdependence. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. I point out these facts to let you understand why we have to have such an urgency toward African Americans—into them is treated differently based upon their race or their socioeconomic status.

In fact, between 2007 and 2009, drug sentences for African-American men were 13.1 percent longer than those for White men. Usage has no difference, but arrest rates are dramatically higher for African-American men. In fact, for drug offenses, when you start breaking the actual data down, you see patterns of discriminatory impact that are unacceptable in a nation this great.

Even for police violence, we have to understand that today nearly 2.5 times more Whites are arrested than Blacks for crimes that are violent and non-violent—2.5 times more arrests for Whites than Blacks, but somehow African Americans are 21 more times more likely to be shot dead by a police officer.

This is data that should not shock us along racial lines but shock us along American lines. We are the Nation of liberty and justice for all. We are the country of equal protection under the law. African Americans make up just 11 percent of the population but 40 percent of the prison population.

In New Jersey, African Americans are 13.7 percent of New Jersey’s population but 62 percent of New Jersey’s prison population. Much of that, as clearly the data shows, has come about through the persecution of the American drug policy that is applied to different groups and different effects. The reality for minorities is punishing. By the age of 23, 44 percent of Latino youth will be arrested. We know the sad reality that 1 in 3 black males born in America today can expect, if we make no changes, to be incarcerated at some point in their lives compared to 1 in 12 white males. I am 1 in 12 Blacks is. I struggled with these issues my whole life. As a mayor of a city constantly working to fight to protect citizens, I know how complicated these problems are. In my department, ourselves, we dug into the data. We saw that our practices had to be changed, that we had to find better ways of keeping our community safe, but we also knew something deeper. I will never forget when I sat with the head of the FBI in Newark, and I asked him about the violent crime problem: How are we going to solve this problem?

He looked at me and said: You don’t understand, Mayor: We—meaning law enforcement—are not going to solve this problem. What has to be done are changes greater than this.

I watched how young kids get arrested for breaking the law, for smoking marijuana or being caught with ten or fourteen. Teenagers find themselves—because they have marijuana on them of a certain amount and weight so the charges increase, to being in a school zone which is every place in America. During the 90s, mandatory minimums of upwards of 5 years. These teenagers are scared, afraid, knowing they broke the law, but other folks like the last three Presidents have gotten away with it. They get offered it by the prosecutor, overworked, trying hard to serve the public and keep people safe. The prosecutor doesn’t give them the mandatory minimum, they give them a deal: Just take time served or a month or 6 months, but they find themselves with a felony conviction. They find themselves in a world where they think they have no options. They can’t get jobs. They can’t get education grants. They can’t get hope.

Hopelessness is a toxic state of being, and those kids then often get caught up again into the underground economy, back into the world of drugs.

What we saw in my time as mayor is that so many of the people who ultimately end up being violent criminals started as kids who felt all their options closed in on them because they got caught up in this world of drugs.

One of the worst collateral consequences of the way we are going about prosecuting our criminal legal system is the violence we are seeing from people who think they have no options but to do what they are doing.

I say this all to simply say we must find a way out. If we are America, a system of liberty and justice for all, we must keep in mind the idea of liberty and freedom and deplore this concept that government should take people’s liberty for no good means, we have to do something about this issue.

We who believe in freedom, who tell the world to look at our light and our torch and our promise, should evidence something better than leading the globe in incarcerating our own citizens. We, the country that the Constitution after generation has conquered discrimination against Irish, has conquered discrimination against Italians, has beat back discrimination against Catholics, has stood up to discrimination against Jews, has stood up to Jim Crow and slavery; advancing not toward Black ideals or Jewish ideals or Irish ideals, but the common ideals that bind us as brothers and sisters of justice, of freedom, of equality—we have to do better than lead the globe in incarceration, to have a legal system that subjects more of its people and minorities toward search and scrutiny than seizure and arrest. This we cannot tolerate.

Let’s stand so confidently with a faith in my Nation that we can do better does not just stem from this hallowed history. It also stems from the President. Right now in America there are States doing incredible things, incredible things, to change away this reality.

I am proud of my State. We have gone far but not far enough. In New Jersey, between 1999 and 2012, we reduced our prison population 26 percent. In New York it’s 21. Over that same time, New Jersey saw a 30-percent reduction in violent crime. We showed to America that we are better than this. We can give more liberty to people, lowering our prison population, having a disproportionate effect on minorities, and actually drive down crime as well.

We are not the only State. New York’s prison population is down 24 percent from the late 1990s. This is due almost entirely to reforms of the Rockefeller drug law that sent thousands of people to prison often serving sentences for low-level crimes. Over that same period, New York reduced its crime by more than half, lowering prison populations, disproportionately affecting African Americans and Latinos and lowering crimes.

Texas reduced its prison population in 2013 dramatically and has seen decreases in both crime and recidivism rates. All of these States can do more, but why has the Federal Government done little to nothing to follow suit?

I am proud of what is going on in the Senate with many of my colleagues. I came and joined this body when people pulled together to begin legislation such as the Smart Justice, Smart Solutions Act or, more recently, the REDEEM Act I did in partnership with RAND PAUL.

I am so proud that this issue cuts across political sides, that we have Democrats and Republicans, red States and blue States, all beginning to say: We have to do better, because we can and we should. I have been so pleased the way you can do better. I am here today to end my remarks with that call to the consciousness of our country. If we
have an injustice in our midst with a legal system that is so far away from the justice system to which we should aspire, we have to do better.

I was raised to believe that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. In the words of Langston Hughes: ‘’There’s a dream in this land with its back against the wall; to save the dream for one, we must save the dream for all.’’

I know in my heart that with anguish of millions of Americans being punished by a legal system that has gone way out of control, affecting Blacks and Whites, young people of all backgrounds, a legal system that patentely has a discriminatory impact on minorities, a legal system that steals the people’s liberty, we can do better than this. We can save taxpayer money. We can lower our prison incarceration rates. We can create the promise of so many now denied their promise, and we can celebrate our American ideals. We need to lead this globe, not in incarceration, by telling the truth of who we are; that America is a land of freedom, of justice, where there truly is liberty and justice for all.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

EPA REGULATIONS

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I want to talk a little bit about regulation today. We end this Congress failing once again for the Congress to take more responsibility for regulation. Items such as the REINS Act, which I have sponsored now Senator White, my Senator White and others and which would require Members of Congress to vote on regulations that had significant economic impact did not get done.

A bill introduced with Senator King from Maine that would create a regulatory review process that got great reviews in every economic and many other papers and magazines did not get done. But what I am seeing in Missouri and the country is more and more concern that begins to focus on the Congress not doing what it needs to do to keep the regulators under control—legislation that would routinely put an end date on every regulation so that regulation has to be reviewed and regulation has to come up again and be looked at. Frankly, if you combined that with the requirement for the Senate and the House to vote on that regulation, it would be very unlikely regulations that no longer made sense would be presented another time—having to look at this in a way that makes sense for our economy.

One of the generally used estimates is that $2 trillion is spent every year in the United States complying with regulations. Well, let’s assume that maybe as much as half of that—it could be more—is either duplicative or simply unnecessary. What would happen in our economy? If we could pare $1 trillion cost of the future rather than trying to needlessly comply with things that no longer make sense.

We have to take more responsibility for that because frankly there is no other way to get our hands on the regulators. The regulators are often out of control and almost always unaccountable. Frankly, they are more unaccountable than the Attorney General of the United States, than the President than they are in the first term because nobody in the chain of command ever has to go back and answer to the people we work for about the cost of these regulations.

I know that in my state of Missouri, people are really concerned about a couple of regulations out there now that are dealing with energy policy and water policy, regulations the EPA has imposed that really do not make sense when you look at the cost of those regulations versus what would be gained by the regulations if they were even possible to comply with.

I think a clear message was sent in November to the next Congress that people want the government to—when you have a cost-benefit analysis of something the government has done, make it a realistic analysis, make it an analysis that would stand the straight-face test, when you look at the emotional cost of worrying about some societal problem that you really cannot quite define, this is what it really costs American families in terms of, for instance, that unpronounceable word—

We look at these regulations that frankly go beyond the capacity of the regulators. I am not suggesting that the Congress is the right place to draft most regulations. I would say that the process of passing a law and saying that we want this agency to figure out how to implement the law is, in fact, the right way to do that. But I would also suggest that then that agency has to come back to the Congress and say: Here is the regulation that we think is beyond the capacity of this law or the capacity of the regulators in how to implement the law as intended, so that the Congress—which now cannot go to court and say that we want a third party to step in right now and define this principle—could go to court and say: Now that you have what is called MACT Standards—and reduce it or the 75 standard that we have not achieved. We have made great strides in the right direction, but looking at where we are now on this rule and mercury in the air and the quality of the air, we would have to vote yes or no. This regulation is the way to go forward with this law.

I think often the regulators now are well beyond what the law allows them to do. There is a case in point I am going to talk about in a minute, the water rule that is out there, where a navigable water was used as a definition of where the EPA had some jurisdiction. Well, I think their view right now is well beyond “navigable.” So that we have to take a look at. That was the case. There is the ENFORCE the Law Act that I introduced in the Senate and that the House passed months ago with a bipartisan vote, where the Congress would have standing in court to be able to go to court if either House of the Congress thought the President was not enforcing the law as intended, so that the Congress—which now cannot go to court and say that we want a third party to step in right now and define this principle—could go to court and say: Oh, here we want to talk about the next rule, even though we just now told you how to begin to think about complying with the last rule. Even though there are nonattainment areas all over the country, we want to move right beyond that and go to the next rule.

That is the kind of thing that should not be allowed to happen. People are still looking for good-paying jobs. They are still looking at a utility bill they want to make sense of. I hope the Congress can be a part of that. The EPA has another rule they have been asking
for comment on, the so-called clean powerplant. Well now, who is opposed to that? Nobody. There is nobody who does not want clean power. In fact, the standards for utility powerplants have moved in a very positive direction in the last 10 years.

We have made great gains. The question is, are the next gains worth the economic cost? If the next gains are worth people having utility bills they cannot afford, then the next gains are worth people not having jobs they would otherwise have. That is a discussion we need to have. You know, the wrong utility policies produce an absolute lose-lose. A utility bill goes up, we lose jobs that we would otherwise have, and they go to places that care a whole lot less about what comes out of the smokestack than we do.

So the problem gets better, we lose jobs, and the country that has made the most coal-dependent in the last years is the country that pays the price for rules that no longer make sense. The rule that is out now—our State is largely coal-dependent. We are the fifth most coal-dependent State. We are about 82-percent coal-dependent. Of the 1 million comments that have been made on the rule, 305,000 of them came from Missouri families.

There are 1 million comments of people talking about why this rule does not make sense for them. We need to be sure that we do the things that not only meet the legal standard but also meet the commonsense standard as we move forward. The Wall Street Journal recently published an editorial piece—by Harvard Professor Laurence Tribe, who happened to be the cosponsor of that bill—which is in favor of the rule. The EPA was given the authority under the Clean Water Act, as I said earlier, to have some authority over navigable waters. Navigable water, beginning in the 1890s, was used in Federal law as a constitutional explanation of why the Federal Government would be involved in water policy, because the Federal Government under the Constitution is involved in commerce. Navigable and commerce come together. Navigable actually means you can navigate with some sort of vessel that can carry a commercial load. Well, the EPA has now decided, or is in the process of proposing, at least, that navigable waters mean any water that can run into any water that could run into any water that can be navigable. I am confident that is not what the Congress intended.

One other rule I want to talk about, as my time comes to a conclusion here, is the so-called clean coal rule, the so-called clean coal rules. There is a big difference if you have a rule that talks about what you do in the future for the utility companies than regulating what people have previously decided to do under the old rules. There is a bill out there that I am a cosponsor of that really tries to use the great resource we have through coal in a most effective way. We do not produce any coal in Missouri any more, but we do not have any coal mines left in our State. But we have coal-powered power plants. It is not really a war on coal as far as Missourians are concerned; it is a war on coal-fired plants.

If you built a plant under the old rules and, in fact, it has better air quality than any powerplant has ever had up until this time, as all of our recent plants have had, and you still have life in that plant, but the EPA comes in and says that now you have to meet a new standard with the plant you just built or you built 5 years ago, somebody has to pay that bill.

There is this mythical view that well, it is big industry or it is manufacturing. The most laughable of all is that somehow the utility companies are going to pay the bill. The utility companies do not pay the bill. People that get a utility bill pay the bill. The people that benefit from that are the people who are having a hard time paying their utility bill now. These are bad policies. I am committed that as a Congress we should do more than just thinking of accepting responsibility for these agencies we fund, for some overall law, that no matter how much they are abusing it by stretching it beyond what the Congress intended, the Congress would have passed—nobody is out there issuing a rule and saying: By the way, we do not have any legal authority to do this. So defining that authority, being sure the rules make sense is important.

On the power rule, on December 2 I filed comments urging that this rule be withdrawn and we think more carefully about the impact it has on jobs that have good take-home pay and about families who have a hard time paying their utility bill now—our retired individuals, our retired folks who have a hard time paying their utility bill now. We need to continue to look at that.

One other rule I want to talk about, as my time comes to a conclusion here, is the so-called clean coal rules. There is a big difference if you have a rule that talks about what you do in the future for the utility companies than regulating what people have previously decided to do under the old rules.

There is a bill out there that I am a cosponsor of that really tries to use the great resource we have through coal in a most effective way. We do not produce any coal in Missouri any more, but we do not have any coal mines left in our State. But we have coal-fired power plants. It is not really a war on coal as far as Missourians are concerned; it is a war on coal-fired plants.

If you built a plant under the old rules and, in fact, it has better air quality than any powerplant has ever had up until this time, as all of our recent plants have had, and you still have life in that plant, but the EPA comes in and says that now you have to meet a new standard with the plant you just built or you built 5 years ago, somebody has to pay that bill.
special pays for our men and women in uniform.

It includes numerous provisions that build on the reforms we passed last year to further strengthen and improve sexual assault prevention and response programs. It is unacceptable that this is completely antithetical to the ethic of the military that anyone in uniform would be a predator. To be a soldier, to be a marine, to be a sailor, to be an airman—it is about your subordinates, your comrades, helping them and sacrificing for them. So we can do more, and we must do more, but I am pleased to see that we have taken important steps and we are following through on these steps.

The legislation in general improves the ability of the Armed Forces to counter emerging and nontraditional threats, particularly cyber warfare. This is a new dimension of warfare. It is one we are coping with, but I don’t think anyone should feel we have the technology, the techniques, the organizational skills, and the insights to feel fully competent. This legislation will help us move in that direction.

The legislation also authorizes the full request of $4.1 billion for the Afghan Forces Fund to sustain the Afghan National Security Forces as the U.S. and coalition forces shift our mission to training, advising, and assisting these forces, letting them take the lead in combat operations. It is very important.

It also authorizes several train-and-equip programs to assist foreign military forces conducting counterterrorism and counter narcotics operations. Of particular note are programs and resources that will go to Iraq and Syria, where we face serious challenges, where we have to provide the kind of support that is indicated in this legislation.

This year I once again had the honor of serving as the chairman of the Seapower Subcommittee alongside Senator John McCain, the ranking member. Our subcommittee focused on the needs of the Navy, Marine Corps, and strategic mobility forces. We put particular emphasis on supporting Marine and Navy forces engaged in combat operations, improving efficiencies, and applying the savings to higher priority programs. Specifically, the bill includes the required funding for two Virginia-class submarines, the decommissioned ship and approves other major shipbuilding programs, including funding for two DDG-51 destroyers, the aircraft carrier replacement program, and three littoral combat ship vessels, and it permits incremental funding for another amphibious transport dock ship.

I am particularly pleased about the funding for the Virginia-class submarines and the DDG-1000 destroyers. So many Rhode Islanders build them, design them, and they are an incredible part of our national security. So we are reinforcing shipbuilding programs that are not only under budget and ahead of schedule but are vitally important to the security of the United States.

Along these same lines, I am pleased to note that the bill establishes the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund to provide resources and to manage the constructive replacement ballistic missile submarine program. According to testimony provided to the Armed Services Committee, the Ohio-class replacement is the Navy’s highest priority program. We are currently constructing attack submarines. That is important. We want to go on to deliver an increment that will go to other submarines, to deliver special operations troops, and to conduct fire missions from the sea.

The Ohio class will replace our ballistic missile submarines, which are part of our deterrence forces. These submarines have nuclear weapons and are part of our triad, our architecture to deter the use of nuclear weapons; we have to replace them. It cannot be done just with Navy resources because it is not just a Navy program; it is a national security program embracing our nuclear deterrence. This fund is a good starting point for that process, and I am very pleased to see it in the legislation.

Working together with Senator McCain, particularly following Senator McCain’s lead, this bill increases accountability for the taxpayers’ dollars spent on several major Navy programs. For example, the bill includes a provision for the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation to submit a report of the current LCS test and evaluation master plan for seaframes and mission modules. The report would provide an assessment of whether completion of the test and evaluation master plan will demonstrate operational effectiveness and operational suitability for both seaframes and each mission module.

This is a very important program. We want to make sure we get it right. We want to make sure we build in efficiencies where we can, and the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation will help us do that.

The bill also includes language that will continue support of and advance planning for the refueling of the USS George Washington aircraft carrier and preclude the Navy from spending any funds to inactivate this ship. Again, this goes to the congressional mandate of the House Armed Services Committee to require the director of Operational Test and Evaluation to submit an assessment of whether completing the refueling of the Washington, we will not meet that legislative mandate. So we hope we will go forward this year and provide the requisite funding to complete the refueling, but at least we are moving in the right direction. I think that is important.

I particularly want to voice my thanks to Senator McCain and other members of the Seapower Subcommittee for their diligence, for their leadership, for their assistance in not only giving what our Navy and Marines need, but also making sure that the taxpayers are protected as best we can.

And, frankly, we have to do more with respect to efficiencies, economies, and being wise in our allocation of resources.

Before I conclude with my remarks regarding the traditional defense programs, I want to touch on two other areas of legislation, particularly with respect to the Defense Act. I am pleased that it includes the HAVEN Act. This is bipartisan legislation that I introduced with Senator JOHANNES to help more veterans with critical repairs and modifications for their homes so they are safer and more accessible.

This program is directed at our disabled and low income veterans. They find themselves out of the service, they have benefits, but they have needs to fix their homes and this program will help them do that. It establishes a competitive pilot program allowing nonprofit organizations throughout the country to apply for grants administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to help make key improvements for key veterans with disabilities, or low-income veterans.

It is fitting we take this step to give back to those who have made a personal sacrifice for our Nation, and I am particularly delighted I was able to work with Senator JOHANNES. As I noted in my remarks yesterday, he is retiring, but his decency, integrity, intelligence, and commitment to his constituents and also to the men and women of the Armed Forces will be missed here.

I am also glad that, on a topic not usually found in the defense authorization bill, we reached a bipartisan agreement on a package of public land bills, including two longstanding priorities for my State. I have supported the preservation and renewed development of the Blackstone River Valley and have led the effort to designate parts of that area as a national park, which the bill before us will finally establish.

In 1793, Samuel Slater began the American industrial revolution in Rhode Island when he built his historic mill on the Blackstone River—really the first industrial-scale operation in the United States—and from that, much has ensued. Today, the mills and villages throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts stand as witness to this important era of our history.

Much credit has to go to Senator John H. Chafee, who picked up the ball from those who preceded him. In fact, I was told last weekend that this attempt to get recognition goes back as far as a letter to Lady Bird Johnson in the 1960s, asking if she could help get the Blackstone Valley preserved. So it has been a long and winding road, and John Chafee was a key person in that process.
Creating a national historic park within the existing corridor would preserve the industrial, natural, and cultural heritage of the Blackstone Valley for future generations. It will improve the use and enjoyment of the natural resources, including outdoor education for youth, and will assist local communities while providing economic development opportunities; and it will increase the protection of the most important and nationally significant cultural and natural resource of the Blackstone Valley.

I can recall last year inviting Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to Rhode Island, and we kayaked along the Blackstone River. When I was young, in the 1950s and 1960s, the idea of going into the Blackstone River, which was then frankly an industrial waste zone, would have been ridiculous.

Today, we not only use the Blackstone River for recreation but, with this national park designation, we will be able to do so much more.

The public lands package also includes legislation to authorize the National Park Service to look at another river system in Rhode Island and adjacent Connecticut—specifically rivers within the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed—for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. These rivers are, again, so important to Rhode Island.

One of the things you discover as you go around Rhode Island, particularly after a storm when you can see the true power of the rivers, is that development during the industrial revolution was centered around rivers because water was a source of energy. As a result, many of our communities are clustered around the rivers and have great historic, cultural, recreational, and economic value.

So let me thank not only my colleagues here but in the House, Congressman DAVID CICILLINE and JIM LANGRIN, for their great effort; also the Members of the Massachusetts delegation, because the Blackstone runs into Massachusetts; and I particularly want to thank SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a stalwart when it comes to all these issues—anything to do with the environment, particularly Rhode Island’s environment. His leadership and his support were absolutely critical in getting this measure today included in this bill. I would also like to thank the countless number of stakeholders in Rhode Island and Massachusetts who have tirelessly advocated for the preservation of the Blackstone River Valley all these years.

We have a good national defense authorization bill before the Senate, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it. I look forward to being able to witness, even remotely, the signing of the Levin-McKeon national defense authorization.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, earlier today the former Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, said there was a way to fix ObamACare. She said: Change the name. She said: Change the name. That was her solution.

Now that is not something she just told a friend. It is something she told many, as she was participating in Politico’s “Lessons From Leaders” panel. Her solution has become the failure of a bad product on a name. You can blame it on a lot of things, but the name is not it. After all, the President said he was fond of the name ObamACare. Apparently, Kathleen Sebelius is taking a page from the playbook of Professor Gruber about underestimating the intelligence of the American people.

This law isn’t unpopular because it was named after the President. The law is unpopular because it doesn’t work. It doesn’t deliver on what the President promised the American people it would. So Democrats can rename this health care system whatever they want and people all across the country are still going to know that the law hasn’t delivered.

People have been hit by higher costs—higher copays, higher premiums, higher deductibles. Many of them can’t continue to see the doctor who treated them in the past. So no matter what the Democrats and Kathleen Sebelius want to call it, the law remains very unpopular because it is unworkable and it is unaffordable.

As we head into the middle of December, next week, December 15, is the deadline for people to sign up on Healthcare.gov if they want to have their health insurance coverage starting next January—January 1—just a few weeks from now.

That is for people living in the 37 States that have chosen the Federal health care exchange. A lot of people still haven’t signed up, and they may learn over the next few days if they do go to the Web site to sign up that their health care and their insurance premiums are actually more expensive next year than they were this year. That is what people continue to see: Health care rates going up in spite of the President’s promise.

When President Obama was selling his health care law to the American people, he promised them they would save money. He actually went so far as to say people would save $2,500 per year, per family, under his plan. And NANCY PELOSI, the former Speaker of the House, actually went on “Meet the Press” and at one point said: Everybody’s rates would go down. Everybody’s rates, she said, would go down.

Well, that didn’t happen. Now the Obama administration finally admits that people are paying more, not less. Americans are paying more, and insurance through the Federal exchange will see their premiums go up and the administration finally admits it. And that is according to a new report by the Department of Health and Human Services which came out last Thursday.

Democrats said prices would go down, the President promised they would go down, and NANCY PELOSI said they would go down for everyone. Instead, the prices keep going up.

Here is what one person in Syracuse, NY, wrote to his local newspaper last week. Lawrence Petty wrote to the Syracuse Post-Standard last Monday, December 1.

He wrote: I have a health plan he bought through the State ObamACare exchange. This year, the cost was about $664 a month for the couple. Next year, going on the exchange, the rate for the same plan—the same plan, because the President said if you like your plan you can keep it—the same plan is going up from $664 a month to $773 a month. That is over $1,300 extra per year. Mr. Petty asked the newspaper in Syracuse, NY: “So what gives?”

Maybe his question has something to do with what the senior Senator from New York said a couple of weeks ago at the National Press Club, when he admitted that the health care law, in his words, “wasn’t the change we were hired to make.”

It is not just premiums. They are not the only problem here. The health care law has added so many Washington mandates, so many things people didn’t want, can’t afford, aren’t interested in, don’t need, that other costs have gone up as well. That includes the money people have to pay out of pocket for things such as copays, their deductibles. Some people have actually had to delay their medical care because of all these additional expenses. According to a new Gallup poll last month, 33 percent of Americans say the prices keep going up.

Gallup has been asking this same question all the way since 2001, well before the health care law was passed. And this year it is the highest number ever. This is after the President’s health care law has been signed into law and has taken effect and the exchanges are in effect—the highest number ever of people not getting care because of the cost.

Two-thirds of these people say they have put off treatment for a serious condition. One of them is a woman
named Patricia Wanderlich. She is 61 years old, and she works part time at a landscaping company outside of Chicago, in the President’s home State. She told the New York Times that she has a small brain aneurysm that needs monitoring.

She tells her story in an article the New York Times published on October 17 under the headline “Unable to Meet the Deductible Or the Doctor.” Patricia has a health insurance plan through ObamaCare that has an annual deductible. so she has to pay for most of her medical expenses up to that amount. Because of that, she says she is skipping this year’s brain scan and hoping for the best. She says: “A $6,000 deductible—that’s just staggering.”

This is the kind of person ObamaCare was supposed to help. And changing the name of ObamaCare, as Kathleen Sebelius has recommended today, isn’t going to solve the problems for this patient. She has a $6,000 deductible. She got the insurance, she got the coverage, but she still cannot get care, and that is a fundamental problem with this health care law.

The other thing this New York Times article points out is that people can’t meet their deductibles, and they also can’t meet their doctor. Patricia told the newspaper that if she switches to a policy with a lower deductible next year, she will get a smaller network of doctors, which means she will lose access to the specialists taking care of her.

A lot of people are finding that they are in the same situation—losing access to their doctors. Sometimes it is because the insurance has these narrow networks of health care providers. Sometimes it is just because the doctors are so overburdened that you can’t get an appointment.

There was an Associated Press report that talked about the unavailability of doctors. The title was: “Health Law Impacts Primary Care Doc Shortage.” We already knew there was a shortage of primary care doctors in the country, also a shortage of specialists, also a shortage of nurses. The President’s health care law has made it worse.

The Associated Press article quoted an insurance agent in California named Anthony Halby, who says he has clients tell him that their ObamaCare plan made it extremely difficult for them to find the $6,000 deductible. He got the insurance, he got the coverage, but she still cannot get care, and that is a fundamental problem with this health care law.

"The Department of Health and Human Services says: Don’t worry about that. What did the inspector general say the other day? What did the New York Times: “Half of Doctors Listed as Serving Medicaid Patients Are Unavailable, Investigation Finds.”

"Who did the investigation? The inspector general of the Department of Health and Human Services."

So even though Health and Human Services says all of these doctors are available to take care of Medicaid patients, their own inspector general of the Department says not true—not true. Only half of the doctors listed as serving Medicaid patients are available.

This is what we are dealing with. That is why Republicans are going to vote to repeal the entire health care law. Meanwhile, we will also vote to strip away the worst and most destructive parts of the law: things such as the arbitrary 30-hour workweek which has been damaging to part-time workers across the country; things such as the unfair media bias that soils American jobs overseas, threatens livesaving innovation.

The Republicans are going to talk about finally giving people choices. That is what people want with health care. They want choices. They want availability. They want affordability. That is what they are looking for—available, affordable care and choices, not more Washington mandates—and, finally, giving access to the health care people wanted all along.

Kathleen Sebelius may come out and give a lecture on lessons of leadership. Changing the name of this health care law from ObamaCare to anything else isn’t going to make it any better for the people across this country who are finding out that the President’s promises were empty promises; that they have been intentionally deceived as to the way this health care law was presented and passed; and now they find out their insurance is less affordable, their costs of care are going up, the availability of that care is going down, and they have lost their choices.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEE. Madam President, the bill before the Senate today at once represents the best of our Nation and some of the worst of Washington. On the one hand, the primary purpose of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), represents the best of America. In past years it has been one of the few very consistently bipartisan pieces of legislation considered by the Senate, and it usually has been afforded lengthy debate and open and transparent amendment process on the floor. That is because it is one of the most important and solemn duties of Congress to provide for our national defense.

The United States of America has the best armed services the world has ever seen, not just because of what they do, but because of who they are: honest, courageous, selfless patriots who love our country and have dedicated themselves to protecting and defending our way of life.

Of all the bills that come before Congress, the NDAA deserves to be treated with the kind of integrity and respect with which our military personnel approach their jobs. And yet the process that has unfolded this year in connection with the NDAA has fallen short of the standard that our armed personnel have set forth. Congress has waited until the last minute to conduct our most important business, using the holidays to fabricate a false sense of urgency. The Senate majority leader has refused to allow an open and transparent debate, shutting down our ability to offer amendments on the Senate floor to this important piece of legislation.

Finally, only a privileged few Members of Congress have a hand in drafting this bill, which was cobbled together with numerous extraneous provisions behind closed doors.

What used to be an exception to the typical legislative process, the typical legislative sausage making for which Washington has become famous, has been subsumed by the status quo, and it is exactly what is wrong with Washington today.

Each one of us as Members of Congress is here for just one reason: We
have been elected to represent and serve the American people. Unfortunately, the twisted, tainted process that has produced this bill prevents all of us from carrying out this responsibility, and it threatens our obligation to do what is right for our men and women in uniform.

As the title suggests, the National Defense Authorization Act is supposed to be a relatively straightforward, largely noncontroversial bill. It is the primary legislative instrument for Congress to exercise its constitutional power granted in article 1, section 8 of the Constitution which is to provide for the common defense. But that is not what we are voting on today; that is not what we are considering in connection with this bill.

This bill, the NDAA for fiscal year 2015, is a legislative hodgepodge that includes those straightforward noncontroversial items that almost all of us support, but also numerous other provisions that are entirely unrelated to national defense.

Most egregiously, the drafters secretly added 68 unrelated bills pertaining to the use of Federal lands—the so-called lands package portion of this bill. Into this bill were塞 out any opportunity for debate or for a vote on any of those 68 independent bills. None of these bills were included in the version of the NDAA that the Senate Armed Services Committee debated on Tuesday. Any of these bills, because had any Member tried to include them in the normal process of our committee, they clearly would have been ruled out of the committee’s jurisdiction.

Another outlier in this legislative grab bag is a provision authorizing a Defense Department program to train and equip “moderate” Syrian rebels for the next 2 years.

Now we have testimony from some of America’s top military leaders warning us of the immense risks involved in this program. They have told us there is no way to guarantee these efforts won’t backfire, further embroiling the U.S. military in volatile and unpredictable parts of the world—in the Middle East, in conflicts in part that of the world. Yet here we are, forced to reauthorize this risky program in order to provide for our troops and the Defense Department.

The authority for this program was first added to the NDAA in the closed committee markup process in May and then later attached to the must-pass spending bill in September, giving Senators the all-or-nothing choice of either approving this controversial program or voting against all other government spending. This is not how Congress is supposed to work.

Congress is supposed to evaluate, debate, and amend individual pieces of legislation based on their own merits, with enough time to inform and educate the American people about what their representatives are doing. Instead, it is politics as usual in Washing-
the report. What happened was the Central Intelligence Agency destroyed videotapes of the interrogation of prisoners. After it was discovered that they destroyed them, the Senate Intelligence Committee asked: Why did you destroy these videotapes? They said: Because Congress never asked for them. The Intelligence Committee said: We didn’t know they existed.

At that point the Central Intelligence Agency said to the Senate Intelligence Committee: We did nothing wrong, and we invite you, through your staff and members of the committee, to review the cables and emails within the Central Intelligence Agency which prove our case. It proves we did nothing wrong.

I think the CIA was surprised and shocked when the Senate Intelligence Committee took up their invitation. It meant, I understand, 5 years of work. They reviewed some 6 million pages of information. Two staffers from the Senate Committee sat in what they call the cave day after day, poring through emails and cables to try to reconstruct what happened after 9/11 when the Central Intelligence Agency was interrogating prisoners. It wasn’t an easy task. It was made even more difficult when we came to learn that the Central Intelligence Agency hacked into the computers of the Senate Intelligence Committee. It was a tough confrontation between two branches of government, and it is one that resulted, I think, in the right ending when Senator Feinstein, and the Senate Intelligence Committee, following the lead of Senator Rockefeller, stepped forward and produced this report.

I will reflect for a minute on how we reached this point, but first I will tell you that this report concluded that the CIA repeatedly misled senior officials in the Bush and Obama White Houses about detention and interrogation programs. The report said the CIA falsely told the Justice Department that techniques such as waterboarding helped to obtain lifesaving information that kept our country safe.

The report said the CIA detained more individuals and subjected more individuals to abusive interrogation techniques than it ever disclosed to Congress or the President. The CIA did not disclose the use of brutal interrogation techniques that went beyond what even the torture memo of the previous administration had authorized.

It is worth noting what brought us to this point, and of course, it was the tragic, horrible events of September 11. After that occurrence, the Bush administration unilaterally decided to set aside treaties and laws that have served us in the past. President Bush’s then-White House counsel, Alberto Gonzales, recommended to President Bush that the administration disregard the requirements of the Geneva Conventions. The Geneva Conventions were treaties that grew out of World War II and established rules of warfare to protect soldiers and civilians. These treaties were ratified by the United States of America. They are and were the law of the land.

Colin Powell, who was Secretary of State at the time, objected to Alberto Gonzales’s recommendation. He argued that we could comply with the Geneva Conventions, fight terrorism, and still keep America safe.

Here is what Secretary Powell said at the time about the Geneva Conventions. This “will reverse over a century of U.S. policy and practice to undermine the protections of the law of war for our own troops. . . . It will undermine public support among critical allies, making military cooperation more difficult to maintain.”

Today, Secretary Powell’s words seem prophetic. Unfortunately, President Bush rejected Secretary Powell’s advice and instead followed Alberto Gonzales’s recommendations to set aside the Geneva Conventions. Then in August 2002, the Department of Justice issued the infamous torture memo. The memo said abuse only rises to the level of torture if it causes pain equivalent to organ failure or death. The Washington Post said that testimony “an gross distortion of the law” and cited it as a key reason for opposing the Gonzales nomination to be Attorney General.

After this revelation, Senator McCain asked me if he could take the lead on legislation that I had written to ban cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. I agreed. There was no better person than John McCain, who in service to the United States of America was a prisoner of war in Vietnam for more than 5 years. He had been subjected to torture because of his service on behalf of our Nation. It became known as the McCain torture amendment. Despite a veto threat from President Bush, the McCain torture amendment passed in conference negotiations.

I offered my legislation as an amendment to the defense authorization bill. I expected it to be noncontroversial. It was adopted unanimously here in the Senate; however, the Bush administration had it removed in conference. So after the fall of 2004, I tried again. I offered the same amendment in the 9/11 commission intelligence reform legislation. Again, my amendment was adopted unanimously by the Senate, and again in conference negotiations the Bush administration removed it. I didn’t understand their opposition to my amendment because the United States ratified the torture convention, a treaty that prohibits cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, the same thing my amendment said.

A few months later, in the Haman decision, the Supreme Court held that the administration was required to follow the Geneva Conventions in its treatment of detainees. The Court took the same position as Secretary Colin Powell had argued years before that administration believed they had legal authority to subject detainees to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. That was the first time that a Bush administration official had acknowledged this legal requirement. The Washington Post called that testimony “a gross distortion of the law” and cited it as a key reason for opposing the Gonzales nomination to be Attorney General.

In June 2006, in the Haman decision, the Supreme Court held that the administration was required to follow the Geneva Conventions in its treatment of detainees. The Court took the same position as Secretary Colin Powell had argued years before that administration believed they had legal authority to subject detainees to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. That was the first time that a Bush administration official had acknowledged this legal requirement. The Washington Post called that testimony “a gross distortion of the law” and cited it as a key reason for opposing the Gonzales nomination to be Attorney General.

In September 2006 President Bush publicly acknowledged the CIA detention and interrogation program for the very first time.

In July 2007 President Bush signed an Executive order stating the CIA’s detention and interrogation program “fully complies with the obligations of the United States” under the Geneva Conventions and authorizing the use of certain interrogation techniques. Again, the administration twisted the law to justify the use of abusive tactics.
based on false information provided by the CIA.

In October 2007 the Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings on the nomination of Michael Mukasey to be Attorney General. The hearings were going smoothly until I asked Mr. Mukasey to condemn waterboarding as torture. He refused. That became the focal point of the debate on his confirmation.

On December 6, 2007, the New York Times reported that in November 2005 the CIA had destroyed videotapes showing the CIA’s use of abusive interrogation techniques. The next day I sent a letter to Attorney General Mukasey asking the Justice Department to open a criminal investigation into the destruction of CIA interrogation video evidence. I was the only Member of Congress to call for that investigation. In January the Attorney General opened the investigation. The CIA’s destruction of these videotapes is what led to this Intelligence Committee report.

Then-CIA Director Hayden suggested that the Intelligence Committee staff review the operational cables and emails. The Intelligence Committee study was authorized by an overwhelming 14-to-1 bipartisan vote after the SSCI, the Select Committee on Intelligence, found that the cables detailed detention conditions and interrogations far worse than what the CIA had previously described to the committee.

The investigation led to the production of a report that is more than 6,700 pages long, including nearly 38,000 footnotes. It is based on a review of more than 6 million pages of CIA records. In December 2012 the Intelligence Committee approved this report with a 9-to-6 bipartisan vote. Two months later, in February 2013, I received a briefing on this report before it was declassified so as to be distributed by an overwhelming 14-to-1 bipartisan vote after the SSCI, the Select Committee on Intelligence, found that the cables detailed detention conditions and interrogations far worse than what the CIA had previously described to the committee.

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Tom Harkin has been a champion of working men and women in this country—and of their constitutionally protected right to organize and bargain for decent pay and safe working conditions.

Tom Harkin has been a leader in safeguarding Medicare and Social Security, and moving people from welfare to work.

The senior Senator from Iowa and I were both very lucky. We are first-generation Americans. Senator Harkin's mother came to this country from Slovenia; my mother came from Lithuania.

He knows from his own family's experience the love and gratitude that so many immigrants feel for the freedoms and opportunities America has given them and their children. So he has fought for immigration laws that protect America's security at the same time they honor our heritage as a nation of immigrants.

I want to know that we will continue our efforts to pass such laws until we succeed—just as we will continue to push for adoption by this Senate of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities until we pass that important treaty.

As so many others, Tom Harkin was inspired to public service by the example of President John Kennedy. After working his way through college, Senator Harkin spent 5 years as a Navy pilot in the 1960s. He had applied to become a pilot for a commercial airline when he received a more compelling offer. In 1969, an Iowa Congressman invited Tom Harkin to join his Washington, DC staff. He said yes. He also used his GI Bill benefits to earn a law degree from Catholic University.

Tom went back home to Iowa—and then he returned to Washington in 1974, not as a staffer, but as a Member of the House of Representatives. A decade later, Iowa voters elected him to the U.S. Senate. And in 1990 he became the first Democrat ever to be re-elected to the U.S. Senate by Iowa voters. They must have thought that was a good idea because they re-elected him three more times after that.

Today, 40 years after his first election, Tom Harkin is grayer and wiser. But he has never forgotten where he came from. He is a proud Midwestern progressive who has never forgotten the hope and dignity that smart, compassionate government gave his family when they needed it. And he has never tired of working to make sure that other families have the same chances his family had.

I wish Tom and Ruth, their daughters and grandchildren all the best.

Tom Harkin leaves a legacy of achievement and compassion. I will miss his presence in this Senate but he and Ruth will always be a part of our Senate family.

Kay Hagan

Kay Hagan, my colleague from North Carolina, has done an amazing job. In her one term in the Senate, she really made a name for herself when it came to public service. She stepped up time and again and took tough votes. I know it because as whip I asked her to take on some important issues that would make this a better and stronger nation.

When Kay entered the Senate in those perilous days, America was in crisis. The economy was in freefall. Millions had lost their homes to foreclosure. America was fighting two wars—and though our military is the finest in the world, many of its members were exhausted from multiple deployments.

Six years later, we have made progress in all of these areas. Historians will record that Senator Kay Hagan helped to make America stronger and better.

Senator Kay Hagan comes from a family that knows a great deal about serving and sacrificing for America. Her maternal uncle, Lawton Chiles, was a Korean War veteran who represented Florida in the U.S. House and Senate and served as Florida's governor. Her father-in-law was a two-star Marine general, her brother and father both served in the Navy, and her husband is a Vietnam veteran who used the GI Bill to help pay for law school.

Senator Hagan first learned the ups-and-downs of Congress—literally—by operating the Senators-only elevator while interning for her uncle.

Senator Hagan is a former ballet dancer—a discipline that demands great discipline and hard work. As a Senator, she has used those same qualities to benefit her State and our Nation.

She served 10 years in the North Carolina State Senate and in those 10 years, she earned a reputation as a commonsense hard-worker interested in results, not partisan fighting. As co-chair of the State Budget Committee, she increased the State's "Rainy Day" fund about 100 percent. She also worked to make sure Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson remains strong and active.

There is something about Mark my colleagues may not know. In 2011 he was part of a four-man team in the Hotline’s live annual trivia contest. His teammates were three House members: Dennis Ross, Tom Davis, and Martin Frost. They were up against a formidable team that included Chuck Todd. As Senator Ted Stevens, one gave Mark’s team a prayer of winning. But once again, Mark Begich scored an upset victory. He is to DC political trivia what Ken Jennings is to Jeopardy: A memorable champion.

But the actions for which he will be remembered are very far from trivial. When Mark Begich and others in the Class of 2008 arrived in the Senate America’s economy was in freefall. Millions of families had lost their homes to foreclosure—the worst foreclosure crisis America since the Great Depression. America was fighting two wars. Our military is the finest in the world. Many of its members were

Mark Begich

I can’t imagine how the Senator from Alaska handles that debate back and forth, but he did it. I said the other day when we spoke about his service that many people don’t realize his father was a Congressman before him and he died in a plane crash with Hale Boggs when they were flying back to Alaska to appear at an event. That plane was lost and never recovered. When Mark Begich came from Alaska to serve the United States, he completed the journey his father never could complete. His 6 years of service to Alaska have been extraordinary.

Before he got into politics, though, Mark was a whiz kid entrepreneur. When he was just 16 years old, he got a business license and he and his brother started a business club for teens and a vending-machine operation. The business world’s loss was our gain.

Senator Begich started his political career working as an aide to then-Anchorage Mayor Tony Knowles. In 2006, he was elected to the Anchorage Assembly, or city council. And in 2003, he became the first native-born Alaskan to serve as mayor of Anchorage.

In 2008, he dared to take on an Alaska legend—Senator Ted Stevens. When the votes were counted, Mark had become the first Democrat since Mike Gravel in 1981 to represent Alaska in the U.S. Senate.

As a Senator, Mark Begich has been a voice for working families in Alaska and across America. He has diligently and doggedly pursued common-sense, bipartisan solutions to big challenges. In all things, Mark’s heart is always with Alaska. He has helped to protect Alaskans by promoted renewable energy development in the State, and made sure Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson remains strong and active.

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Mark Begich
exhausted from multiple deployments. On top of that, an outdated policy of “don’t ask, don’t tell” forced some servicemembers to lie about who they were in order to serve the Nation they love. Time after time, Senator Mark Begich took broad and principled votes that have made America better and stronger—militarily, economically, and socially.

This son of one of Alaska’s great families has well earned—and will always hold—a place in our Senate family.

**TIM JOHNSON**

TIM JOHNSON and I came to the Senate together, Tim from South Dakota. He eventually became chairman of the bankruptcy committee after he faced one of the toughest physical challenges any Senator has ever faced, a debilitating brain injury that left him physically limited but never limited in spirit and intelligence. Thank God, with Barb at his side, he continued in public service and served the State of South Dakota.

I am going to miss my great friend TIM JOHNSON.

He and I go back quite a ways. We served together in the House—and we came to the Senate together in 1996. That year, Tim Johnson was the only Senate candidate to defeat an incumbent U.S. Senator in a general election. He won that first Senate election the old-fashioned way—with dedication, hard work, and a lot of shoe leather. I think that he knocked on every door in South Dakota—twice. Dedication, humility, and unbelievable hard work—those are the values Tim learned as a fourth-generation South Dakotan. And they are the values that have exemplified his entire career.

In 1996, TIM JOHNSON was a semi-obscure state legislator from Vermillion, SD when he decided to run for his State’s only seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Tim might have been the only candidate who had a chance of winning that race, but he surprised people. He did win—and he has never lost an election since. Eight consecutive statewide victories and zero losses. That is quite an accomplishment.

Here is another interesting fact about TIM JOHNSON: During his first term in the House, he was responsible for passing more legislation than any of the other 50 first-term Members.

In public service, TIM JOHNSON has been a strong voice for family farmers and ranchers in South Dakota and across America. He is a longtime advocate of Federal support for renewable energy—especially ethanol and wind energy. He helped lead the effort to pass the Energy Policy Act of 2005—otherwise known as the ”Cool Act,” for short—to let consumers know if the meat they feed their families was raised in America.

Senator JOHNSON has been a leading advocate for Native Americans. He has fought especially hard for the members of the Lakota and Dakota tribes—descendants of the legendary Indian lead-ers Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse—who call South Dakota home.

TIM JOHNSON has fought for a livable minimum wage. He helped strengthen America’s health safety net by voting to create the Children’s Health Insurance Program, or Medicaid, to those who need it. He voted for the Affordable Care Act, which passed this Senate without a vote to spare. That was a difficult vote for many but I believe that history will show it was the right vote for America, and Tim Johnson was on the right side of history.

As chairman of the Senate Banking Committee these last 3 years, TIM JOHNSON has played an historic role in helping to implement the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform law and prevent a repeat of the kinds of abuses that nearly crashed our economy in 2008. He has moved forward despite intense opposition to reform from both inside and outside of Congress.

One of the most important of the Dodd-Frank reforms was the creation of a new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Chairman Johnson pressed successfully for Senate confirmation of Richard Cordray to head that new bureau so it would have a strong leader at the helm.

While he is justifiably proud of the legislative victories that bear his imprint, Tim Johnson may be even more proud of the constituent services he and his staff have given the people of South Dakota. Helping a veteran secure a proper disability rating or helping a senior citizen receive the Social Security and Medicare coverage he or she is due may not make headlines, but it makes a huge difference in the lives of individuals. Tim Johnson and his staff understand that.

I will never forget seeing Tim Johnson walk onto the Senate floor on September 5, 2007—less than a year after a brain hemorrhage nearly killed him. The courage and strength it took to come back from such a trauma is hard to imagine. Senator Mark Kirk, my partner from Illinois, told me that during his own recovery from a stroke, if he ever felt like giving up, he would ask himself: “What would Tim Johnson do?”

Dedication to public service is a family trait in the Johnson Family. Barb’s quiet, reasonable approach was a real asset not only to the Gang of Eight negotiations, but to the entire Senate. We will miss his calm demeanor and his good-faith efforts to find smart, fair solutions to tough challenges.

None of them is running for re-election so I can’t hurt them politically by saying that I regard each of these Senators as friends. The kind of political courage when partisanship would have been easier.

I wish them the best in all their future endeavors.

**CARL LEVIN**

Last night it was my honor to salute CARL LEVIN of Michigan for his 36 years of service in the U.S. Senate. He has done so many things so well. As chairman of the Armed Services Committee, he has produced this contentious and challenging bill year after year, both as ranking member and as chairman. As chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, he really raised that subcommittee to a new...
level. He tackled some of the most complex issues of our day, particularly when it came to corporate abuse. He spent the time to get the facts right. When he had a hearing, he made an extraordinary contribution to the public dialogue about reforming our law and making them the law.

When I was first elected to the Senate, people back home said to me: Well, now that you have been in the Senate a year or two, which Senators do you respect the most?

I said then, and I will repeat it today, if I had a tough, important decision, one I was wrestling over, an issue or a vote, and I could only reach out to a couple of Senators at the time, one would be Paul Sarbanes of Maryland, now retired, and the other is CARL LEVIN. That is still a fact.

Long before CARL LEVIN was elected to the U.S. Senate it was clear that he had a gift for politics. Picture this—true story: At Central High School in Detroit, 10 years after he was elected city manager, he won that race after, as he tells it, “running around with a piece of matzoh telling other students: ‘This is what happens to bread without LEVIN.’ ‘How’s that for a slogan?’

As much as I hate to think about it, soon we will have a United States Senator without LEVIN—for the first time in 36 years. Our only consolation is that CARL LEVIN leaves a legacy of good and important laws. He also leaves a powerful example of what can be achieved when we choose integrity over ideology . . . and our common good over confrontation.

A Jewish publication in Detroit wrote a while back that CARL LEVIN and his brother, Congressman Sandy Levin, both deserve “honorable menschen awards”—with the accent on “mensch”—for their historic service to our Nation. I agree wholeheartedly. Senator LEVIN’s keen intellect, honesty and uncommon civility—his decency and unifying civility—have earned him the respect of Senators on both sides of the aisle.

Many years ago I was an intern for a great Senator, Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois. Every year now, the University of Illinois presents a “Paul Douglas Ethics in Government Award” to an elected leader who shares Senator Douglas’ deep commitment to social and economic justice, and efficient government. The recipient of the Paul Douglas Ethics in Government Award in 2006 was Senator CARL LEVIN. Paul Douglas would have approved that choice heartily.

As was Paul Douglas, CARL LEVIN has been a foot soldier for justice. Paul Douglas was a leader in the effort to pass a strong Federal Civil Rights Act. In 1964, the year that law finally passed, CARL LEVIN was appointed the first general counsel for the Michigan Civil Rights Commission.

Paul Douglas believed in government and he hated government waste. He used to say: “You don’t have to be a wastrel to be a liberal.” CARL LEVIN reminded us that: “There are some things that only government can do, so we need government. But we don’t need an inefficient, wasteful, arrogant government.”

CARL LEVIN was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1978. Before that, he was active for 15 years in Detroit and Michigan State politics. He taught law before he entered politics. He also held some other interesting jobs—including driving a cab in Detroit and working on a DeSoto assembly line.

He showed up in Washington in 1979 driving a 1974 Dodge Dart with a hole in the floorboard. He was still driving that same car to the Capitol 10 years later. That tells us something about CARL LEVIN’s devotion to the US auto industry, its workers and unions.

When General Motors and Chrysler faced potential collapse in 2008, he pressed Congress and a new president to support the companies with billions of dollars in loans. Those loans have since been repaid and Chrysler and GM are now solvent, they are making a profit. The U.S. auto industry is in the midst of its fastest expansion since 1950.

CARL LEVIN is a champion as well of America’s military, military families and veterans. He has served on the Armed Services Committee since coming to the Senate 36 years ago. He is one of Congress’s most respected voices on national security and military issues.

Some years back he used his power on the Armed Services Committee to question the procurement practices of the military. He asked: Why was the Pentagon spending thousands of dollars apiece for things like toilet seats and hammers? He said: We need more money for soldiers and less wasteful spending. The world growing more volatile and complex and increasing pressure to reduce defense budgets, those are questions we must all be willing to ask.

As a ranking member and then chair of the Senate’s Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Senator LEVIN’s piercing intellect and his patient mastery of complex issues helped, over and over, to expose and correct serious wrongdoing.

As PSI chairman in 2002, he led a probe of the activities of Enron Corp; the investigation resulted in legislation to improve the accuracy and reliability of corporate disclosures.

For example, if you remember, to money laundering, abusive tax shelters, and gasoline and crude oil price-gouging, he has pursued the subjects of every investigation with nonpartisan vigor, seeking results, not spotlights.


The list goes on and on. Senator LEVIN voted: To repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”; to protect voting rights; and to limit the influence of private-interest money in elections.

He has voted to support American manufacturing—and stop giving tax breaks to corporations to ship American jobs overseas.

He supported my efforts to change bankruptcy laws to allow deserving homeowners to save their homes in foreclosures.

He voted to regulate tobacco as a drug—another issue that is personal for me.

I will always remember Senator LEVIN’s vote on the Iraq war resolution. For years before 9/11, he warned anyone who would listen that America was threatened by terrorism. When the horrific attacks came, he supported pursuing the attackers in Afghanistan. A year later, he did not have to argue just 23 Senators to vote against the Iraq War. He voted no, even though he was then chair of the Armed Services Committee. That took extraordinary courage and political judgment, and history has shown he was right.

CARL LEVIN is the longest-serving Senator in Michigan history, surpassing another Senate legend, Arthur Vandenberg. As he proved long ago when he was elected president of his high school council, he is a natural-born politician. But like Senator Vandenberg, he is more than a politician; he is a statesman.

I will miss his presence in this Senate and I wish him, and his wife Barbara, all the best in the future.

MARK UDALL

MARK UDALL, my friend from Colorado and the Presiding Officer’s colleague. As I said last night, I served with his dad. His dad may have been the funniest public servant I ever served with. What a wit, what a sense of humor. He once said: If you have politics in your bloodstream, only embalming fluid will keep you.

Thank goodness the Udalls have politics in their bloodstream. Mo Udall served in the House of Representatives, candidate for President; Mark Udall’s uncle, Stewart Udall, who was Secretary of Interior under President John Kennedy; Tom Udall, Mark’s cousin, the son of Stewart Udall, serves as Senator of New Mexico; Mark Udall himself, what a great person.

I can remember many things about his public service, but I remember, especially last night, when he lost his brother and came before our caucus lunch and talked about the love he had for that man and what that loss meant to him. It touched the heart of every one of us in the room. It gave us an insight into the heart of Mark Udall as a person.

He was committed to a number of causes. His wife Maggie and he have given so much time to the environment, including saving Yellowstone, but he also showed great courage when it came to his service on the Senate Intelligence Committee. Even as a new
member of that committee, he stepped up for principles and values, and I am glad he did, preserving our rights and liberties as American citizens and fully supporting the disclosure that Senator Feinstein made yesterday with her report.

Mark has fought to protect Americans’ privacy rights with thoughtful reforms of the NSA and the PATRIOT Act.

In keeping with his family’s tradition, he has made protecting our environment and our precious natural resources a top priority. He has been a leader in addressing climate change as a growing threat to our national security. He organized support in the Senate for legislation that would require reforms of the NSA and the PATRIOT Act.

In the 2013 Defense Authorization Act, Mark Udall led the effort to allow the Pentagon to continue to develop and use renewable energy.

During his one term, Mark Udall made more dauntless decisions and achieved more good for America than many Senators who have served far longer.

He supported a recovery act that helped turn the tide against the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. He voted for the most far-reaching financial reform since the Great Depression and he supported one of the biggest investments in college affordability that the GI Bill offered to Americans.

Billions of Americans are back at work and enjoying the credit for directing billions of dollars in relief and rebuilding money to their hometown and home State.

For Mark Udall, being a U.S. Senator has been about using that power to preserve our precious natural treasures and make life better for others.

Mark Udall would be proud of the U.S. Senator his son has become, and I am certainly proud to have worked with him.

I have been in the Senate now for 18 years, and I have seen many come and go. But we have lost, sadly, in this departure of these Members some of our best.

MARY LANDRIEU

I will close by mentioning the one whose fate was determined the last, and that was MARY LANDRIEU of Louisiana. She has been a great Senator for Louisiana. She worked harder and achieved more for that State than, obviously, the simple notion of that State nominalized. There wasn’t an issue that came before us that MARY didn’t stand up and say: Now let me tell you how that affects Louisiana, and usually make an objection, it is so ordered.

The famed explorer Edmund Hillary once said, “Human life is far more important than just getting to the top of a mountain.”

For Mark Udall, being a U.S. Senator has been about something more important than acquiring power. It has been using that power to preserve our precious natural treasures and make life better for others.

Mary Landrieu was offered by her mentor, Governor Bobby Jindal’s Secretary of Administration, the credit for directing billions of dollars in relief and rebuilding money to her hometown and home State.

Governor Bobby Jindal’s Secretary of Administration had this to say about MARY LANDRIEU: “She’s relentless; once she starts, she will not stop. And once she’s on your side, she’s on your side.”

This is what St. Tammany Parish Sheriff Jack Strain remembers about Katrina: “The very first federal representative we had on the ground after Katrina was MARY LANDRIEU . . . when water was still in our houses and neighborhoods. She spoke to my deputies and offered assistance to them.”

Perhaps the best description of MARY LANDRIEU as a mentor, is when Former Senator John Breaux, who calls her “a pit bull with Louisiana charm.”

In 2009, when Hurricane Katrina was just a dim, bad memory for some, Senator LANDRIEU made sure the stimulus bill included a provision that ended up allowing the Senate to rebuild Charity Hospital, the cornerstone of health care for many low-income New Orleans families.

Senator LANDRIEU has been a champion of the energy industry—so crucial to be soundly developed. She stood up for it, but thank goodness she put a big part of her life and her public life into standing up for the rights of adopted children and adoptive parents, encouraging more and more, so the kids would have a loving home as part of their lives. It was just one of the things that MARY worked on, but it is one thing that no one will ever forget. I am going to miss her and her service to the U.S. Senate.

MARY bleeds Louisiana. Her father is the legendary statesman Moon Landrieu, former New Orleans mayor, HUD Secretary under President Jimmy Carter, and Judge of Louisiana’s 4th Circuit Court. Her brother, Mitch, is the current Mayor of New Orleans.

MARY—the eldest of the eight siblings—learned important political lessons early. She was taunted in early grade school about her father’s pro civil rights stands in the 1960s. Those experiences taught her that taking the right position sometimes makes you unpopular—but you do it anyway.

MARY was only 23 when she entered the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1980. She went on to serve as a member of her State’s senate.

MARY is a formidable fighter for Louisiana. In her State’s darkest hours, during the months after Katrina and in the aftermath of that terrible catastrophe, she stood strong. She was exactly the right person for Louisiana. More than any other single official, she deserves the credit for directing billions of dollars in relief and rebuilding money to her hometown and home State.

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you can raise a family on. They deal with one of the biggest ongoing remnants of the great recession, which is the lack of real wage growth in our economy. So I am excited to see that manufacturing jobs continue to grow in our economy and to talk about the things we should do to help sustain this growth in manufacturing.

We have reason to be optimistic, but we cannot be complacent. As much as we built momentum over the last year since that recession, and especially this year, there’s no question the fiscal policy of this administration and those of our colleagues who will be leaving the Senate after the New Year. As someone who lives on Amtrak 16 hours a week, I am thrilled with the progress Amtrak has made early on here to team up with two Republican Senators, MIKE ENZI of Wyoming and P AT ROBERTS of Kansas, to speak about the laudable job of listening to each other, Chair, Senator MIKULSKI, and the Vice Chair, Senator SHELBY, have done a job well done. I am particularly relevant to manufacturing, because 1-year extensions have not yet grasped. There is unfinished work to be done. This week we will also almost certainly pass a 1-year extension. It is, I hope, a bipartisan bill here in the Senate, which I hope the Members of this body will study, consider, and move forward and adopt.

As we move to complete the business of the Senate and of the government, we would be remiss if we did not also take stock of the opportunities in front of us that we have not yet grasped. There is unfinished work to be done. This week we will also almost certainly pass a 1-year extension. It is, I hope, a bipartisan bill here in the Senate, which I hope the Members of this body will study, consider, and move forward and adopt.

I have worked hard with Democrats and Republicans alike to expand and make permanent the research and development tax credit, which is particularly relevant to manufacturing, because manufacturing is the most R&D-intensive sector in the American economy. Manufacturers invest more in R&D than any other part of the American landscape. This 1-year extension must not do much to give businesses the certainty they need to predict and plan for the future.

I was excited to have the opportunity early on here to team up with two Republican Senators, MIKE ENZI of Wyoming and PAT ROBERTS of Kansas, to find ways to make the R&D tax credit more accessible to early-stage and startup companies, companies with high growth potential, but because of the way the R&D tax credit has been structured, it is hard for them to do what they do.

The appropriations bills that were shepherded through the dozen subcommittees give us reason to be optimistic about the future because the Chair, Senator MIKULSKI, and the Vice Chair, Senator SHELBY, have done a job well done. I am particularly relevant to manufacturing, because the omnibus invests in innovation, in competitiveness, and in moving our economy forward. I am also grateful, in some ways most importantly, that it includes emergency funding to respond to Ebola, both at home and abroad. In helping stamp out this deadly virus at its origin in West Africa and in protecting Americans here at home and others around the world.

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Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of some of the public lands provisions that were included in this year’s National Defense Authorization Act. Before I do so, I wish to recognize the work Senators LEVIN and INOUYE have put into this bill and their dedication to an agreement with the House so that this bill could move forward on time, as it has done over the past 50 years.

As a member of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, I hear every day about the sacrifices our servicemembers make to protect our country. Passing the authorization bill that helps ensure they have the equipment they need and the resources required to meet the mission they are tasked with is very important. While I am pleased the Senate will be moving forward on this bill, I wish to note that the bill’s reduction in servicemembers’ benefits concerns me. I do believe Members should have had the chance and the right to debate and amend it, and I hope the Senate will have the opportunity to do so in the future.

This year the final Defense bill includes several Nevada public land priorities that will spur economic development and job creation in our State while enhancing U.S. national security. I have been working on many of these proposals since I was first elected to Congress in 2006. I thank incoming Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chair Lisa MURKOWSKI for her leadership and work on this public lands package. We have been working together for many years on many of the bills included in the package, and I am pleased to see they are finally getting across the finish line.

Let me first clarify that just because some of these bills are related to public lands does not mean they have a direct relationship to defense and protecting our national security. My Nevada Copper Act bill will protect domestic production of copper—the second most used mineral at the Department of Defense—as well as directly benefit two bases that are located in the State of Nevada.

As the Presiding Officer knows, roughly 85 percent of the land in Nevada is controlled by the Federal Government. This presents our local and State governments with many unique challenges. Our communities’ economies are directly tied to the way the Federal Government manages those lands. They often work closely with me to develop legislative solutions to their problems.

Whereas our East local governments can acquire land on their own to build public works projects, out West, unfortunately, we have to get the permission of Congress. That is why reducing the Federal estate and increasing access to our public lands has been one of my top priorities in Congress, and this package goes a long way toward accomplishing these goals. It resolves over 60 of these types of issues throughout the West. In total, over 110,000 acres of land will be removed from Federal ownership and utilized for mineral production, timber production, infrastructure projects, and other community development. In addition, it releases approximately 26,000 acres of currently withdrawn land, which unlocks lands to be used for multiple use. It is very important to discuss the eight Nevada provisions today to show my colleagues in the Senate the many steps leaders have worked to go through to take the same steps many eastern communities can accomplish in a single day.

The Lyon County Economic Development and Conservation Act is a jobs bill I first introduced while in the House, but it has been held up by the Senate for many years because of gridlock. This bill allows the city ofErring to partner with Nevada Copper to develop nearly 500 acres of land surrounding the Nevada Copper Pumpkin Hollow Project site to be used for mining activities, industrial and renewable energy development, and recreation. Senate passage is the final hurdle to more than 1,000 new jobs at an average wage of over $85,000 per year. The mine will contribute nearly $25 million in property and net proceeds taxes per year that would be distributed to the State, to Lyon County, their schools, the hospital, the hospital’s Mason Valley Fire Protection District.

In addition, Nevada Copper plans to invest $80 million in infrastructure for the mine and processing facilities that can be utilized to support other land uses and economic development. This bill will transform the local economy of one of the counties in our Nation that are struggling most during this recent economic downturn.

As I said before, copper is the second most used mineral in the Department of Defense and is considered an essential mineral for weapons production. Copper is also the primary mineral from which other strategic and critical metals, such as rhenium, are derived. A domestic supply of this important resource greatly benefits our national security.

Second, there is a provision in this package that will allow Naval Air Station Fallon to acquire over 400 acres of BLM land for the Fallon Renewable Energy Development Project. This legislation will give Fallon the opportunity to purchase up to 9,114 acres of land with the help of the 111th Congress as a Member of the House. The commonsense bill conveys parcels of BLM land to Elko County for a public motocross park. In addition, it provides 373 acres to the Elko Band of Te-Moak Tribe for housing and tribal economic development.

Outdoor recreation and tourism are some of our State’s most important priorities. Opening up this land will benefit the residents of northern Nevada for years to come.

Fifth, this land package includes the Las Vegas Valley Public Lands and Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument Act, which is the culmination of several years of effort to conserve the ancient Tule Springs fossil beds while providing job-creation opportunities and critical civilian and military infrastructure that will be necessary to meet the needs of the Las Vegas Valley.

After working with stakeholders at every level, I am pleased that we can navigate a path forward for southern Nevada.

While serving in the House, I also introduced legislation in both the 110th and 111th Congresses to convey parcels of BLM land to the Nellis Air Force Base to create an off-highway vehicle park in the Nellis Dunes and to convey land to the Nevada System of Higher Education to expand educational opportunities for southern Nevada residents. Those smaller bills were ultimately included in S. 973 in this Congress, so I am pleased to report that 6 years of work on this Tule Springs legislation will finally become a reality.

The final three Nevada bills included in the lands package are newer proposals but achieve long-term economic development objectives that the affected communities have long asked for.

The Fernley Economic Self-Determination Act provides Fernley the opportunity to purchase up to 9.11 acres of Federal land within the city boundary for the purpose of economic development. Fernley was incorporated in 2001. Since incorporation, the city has been
working with private business partners and State and Federal regional agencies to develop a long-term economic development plan. These parcels have significant potential for commercial and industrial development, agricultural activities, and the expansion of community economic development. Similarly, the Carlin Economic Self-Determination Act allows Carlin to purchase up to 1,329 acres of BLM lands. This city, located in Elko County, is completely landlocked by the Federal Government. Without this legislation, it would be impossible for their leaders to meet the demands for the expansion of their growing population needs.

Finally, the Storey County provision conveys over 1,700 acres of BLM lands to Virginia City. These properties have been occupied for decades by individuals who purchased them or acquired them legally; yet their continued residency is trespass, according to the Federal Government. It is a very burdensome oversight by the Federal Government that must be resolved for the sake of my constituents. They have struggled for years, haunted by this error that is the result of the Federal Government.

These small public lands proposals are going to make a major impact on Nevada’s economy. They have been developed at the local level and signed off on by communities. I understand my colleagues’ concerns that they would have liked the opportunity to debate and vote on more amendments to this bill. I, too, filed a number of amendments that I wished to see considered, and I will continue pushing those priorities next year. But right now Congress has a rare opportunity to pass this public lands package that enables important mining, energy development, ranching, and timber work to go forward, generating economic and employment opportunities for my State, other States, and local residents.

Let’s get the government off these Nevadans’ backs and allow them to do what they do best; that is, create jobs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The Senator from Maryland.

APPROPRIATIONS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I come to the floor today during the consideration of the national defense authorization to bring my colleagues up to date on the appropriations bill.

As we know, the continuing resolution expires on Thursday at midnight, but I am here to talk about some good news. The Appropriations Committee on both sides of the dome—the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate, working in a conference committee—has completed its work. This legislation is now as we speak heading to the Rules Committee and to the House for tomorrow, on to the Senate tomorrow night and into Friday. This means no government shutdown, no government on auto pilot, and we fund the government through the rest of the fiscal year for 2015, except Homeland Security, which will be a continuing resolution.

What we are talking about here is a monumental achievement. It is a monumental achievement showing how we can work together, we can govern, and we can get the job done.

Working on a bipartisan basis in the Senate, we worked in our subcommittees, and we held 60 hearings in 60 days and did a good bit of our markups. We were able to work on our Senate appropriations. Over in the House, they did the same thing. But then, alas, when we got to September, we had to go on a continuing resolution until December 11. I, as a rule, don’t like continuing resolutions. We have 12 subcommittees, and I had hoped, under the time I chaired the committee and held the gavel, that we could consider one bill at a time. But, alas, the Senate Appropriations Committee, working with our Senate colleagues, keep ourselves on track. Then we met in the conference committee, first our subcommittee chairs and then Chairman ROGERS, Senator SHELBY, Congresswoman LOWY, and myself. We worked together on a $1 trillion spending bill. That number is breathtaking, but we need to remember that over $550 billion is in national defense. The rest is in domestic discretionary. That means everything from veterans, to foreign aid, to school aid, and also funding innovation.

I will talk more explicitly about the bill when it comes to the Senate floor. But for today I wanted everyone to know we are keeping the process going. We have made the process work. We showed that we could govern. We worked across the aisle. We worked across the dome. We practiced civility. We argued. We debated. We fought. You know, sometimes you give a little, you take a little, but you stand for them all. And I want everyone to know we were able to concentrate and compromise what I call capitulation on principle.

So I wanted to say to my colleagues: Stay strong, stay strong. We expect that the House will pass its rule sometime after 3 o’clock today. That is the framework that enables them to go to the floor tomorrow. They will follow their own rule and hopefully that bill will pass. If it does pass, it will come to the Senate, and we will immediately take it up under the rules the two leaders will have worked on and established. So we look forward to completing the job on the Appropriations Committee within the next 72 hours.

I want to extend this update to my colleagues as they plan their schedule and wish to participate in the debate and in the discussion. But it is not whether it is of value to us, it is whether it is of value to the Nation. I think what the voters in the last election said was: We have lost confidence in your ability to govern.

I hope over the next 72 hours, by working together, bringing this bill to the floor, we will take a significant step in regaining that confidence and getting out of this whole game of government by crisis, government by artificially imposed deadlines, where all it is, is more drama than debate. Let’s get the government off auto pilot, and we fund the government through the rest of the fiscal year for 2015, except Homeland Security, which will be a continuing resolution.

I want to thank the Chair for his attention, and I yield the floor. I note the Senator from Arizona is on the floor so I will not ask for a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

TRIBUTE TO TOM COBURN

Mr. MCCAIN. Today, I would like to offer words of tribute to my departing colleague, Senator COBURN, whose service exemplifies standards of purposefulness, integrity, and decency, to which we should all aspire and whose example ought to inspire the service of new and returning Senators alike.

I will miss an awful lot our colleague from Oklahoma. I have always admired Tom for the strength of his convictions and the courage and candor with which he expresses them day after day. The No. 1 thing people should do in Congress, Tom said, “is stay true to their heart.” No one in the history of this institution has ever followed that injunction more faithfully than Tom Coburn has.

Tom Coburn has an unshakable faith in the goodness of America, and he has worked diligently with others when he could and alone, if necessary, to make sure government respects the people we serve—respects their hopes and aspirations, their concerns and sacrifices. He has never forgotten he is the people’s servant first and last, and they have never had a more genuine and determined champion.

I think Tom has often acted as the conscience of the Senate. He can be unmovable on matters of principle when to do otherwise would harm or do no good for the country. Tom Coburn is sometimes called “Dr. No,” affectionately most, if not all, of the time. He has held up more legislation that he thought ill served the public interest than any other Member of this body. He even placed a hold on one of his own bills that he thought no longer met his high standard of accountability after it was reported out of committee, I don’t think the American taxpayer has ever endured a greater defender than Tom Coburn.

I like to think I have taken a few principled stands when the situation has warranted it, and I have made myself an occasional nuisance in service to what I thought was a good cause. But I have never been so conscientious that I felt obliged to defeat my own legislation. That is a pretty high
standard of personal responsibility to meet and a character test of the first order. I am not sure many of us would pass it. I wouldn’t. But then, as all his colleagues can attest, Tom Coburn is a person of the very highest character. He possesses the highest virtues—courage, humility, compassion—in an abundance. It has been an honor to serve with him.

As principled as he is, as unwavering as he can be when he believes it necessary, he has also been a brave and determined proponent of compromise, when he believed it served the public interest, when it would help build a more prosperous and secure society with more opportunities for more people and brighter futures for our children.

We always have detractors. It comes with the job. Whether Tom was standing on principle or seeking a principled compromise, he stood up to criticism. He stood up to pressure. He stood up to threats and insults and whatever negative personal consequences he might suffer. He stood up to whatever came his way to do what was right for his country. He stood up for the American people, no matter how difficult it was. What other character can you say about a public servant?

Tom and I worked together on a lot of things. We fought together to end earmarks and opposed other forms of wasteful spending. We worked together on oversight projects for the stimulus bill and highway trust fund spending. We also fought for a long time to let veterans decide where they could best cut their own hair. We have shared happy times together. And I have important lessons that I learned from him.

Tom Coburn sees the innate goodness in the best part of you. I said earlier, Tom leaves me in awe, humbled, and inspired. He is a parent to other observers. In his colleagues, even when it isn’t apparent to other observers.

We have shared happy times together, Tom and I, but Tom has the instinct and the kindness to be the kind of friend who is there when you need him—and when you need him most, in moments that aren’t happy.

We all lead pretty good lives here. We get the chance to serve the greatest country in the world and, on occasion, to make history. We are honored and feted and praised more than we deserve, as all human beings do, we have moments of worry and doubt and disappointment. Tom always has the knack for showing up when I need cheering up. He has made the point over the years of being company when you need it.

Friendship is a virtue to Tom, and he means to live a virtuous life. You could be working on something with him or opposing each other on an issue, it doesn’t matter. If you need him, he will be there for you with a kind word, a piece of advice, a little encouragement or just good company. There are too few people like that in anyone’s life not to cherish the hell out of those who are. I am very happy to have worked with Tom Coburn, and I always will.

The Senate will be a poorer place without Tom Coburn to set an example of public service for the rest of us. But in gratitude to him for his leadership and example, I will try a little harder to live up to his standards, and I hope he will let me know when I fall short. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum be rescinded.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum be rescinded. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE TAX CODE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, there was an opportunity this session to work together in a bipartisan way to fix our tax code. Tax reform for families and farmers and businesses, at least for 2014 and 2015. There may still be a small window of opportunity to get things done. I certainly support doing that, if we can. But it is perhaps too late to do what he could do.

He stood up to pressure. He stood up to whatever negative personal consequences he might suffer. He stood up to whatever came his way to do what was right for his country. He stood up for the American people, no matter how difficult it was. What other character can you say about a public servant?

I go back to though the broader tax bill being sent as a 1-year renewal from the House of Representatives and, as I said, at most is a 3-week bill. By the time it is done, it may end up being a 2-week bill at this point in time. I can’t imagine at this time of year charitable giving, as we come up to the end of the year and people are making decisions about where to place their dollars, what kinds of causes and so on, that we couldn’t come together on a bipartisan bill to deal with donations to food banks and conservation easements that protect our land for the future, that make sure we are not pumping more carbon into the air right at the time we are trying to deal with climate issues—land protection, forestry protection for the future; dealing with investments in our research institutions, dealing with investments in our neighborhoods to be able to turn Detroit around. I believe we are going to be able to do that. I know we are going to be able to do that. But a major reason has been the foundations—the Kresge Foundation, the Kellogg Foundation. There are so many that have been there.

So we have an opportunity prior to going into a larger debate on tax reform to actually take a piece of this, which normally would be, on its substance, very bipartisan, and actually be able to get that done. I am hopeful we will be able to do that before the end of the year because of the important provisions in it.

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struggling from the recession in terms of their loan.

If we can renew this bill, it will spare families from having to pay income tax on the difference between their mortgage and the value of their home. So if in fact $20,000 is forgiven on the mortgage or $30,000 or $40,000—they don’t end up paying taxes on that as income, which is what will happen if we don’t.

But we are looking at the fact that these folks, going into 2015, at a time when they are trying to decide what to do on their homes—whether they can keep their mortgage—will be right back in the same situation of not knowing whether they are going to owe thousands of dollars’ worth of tax going into next year.

We are seeing a lot of folks trying to keep their homes, sometimes they had to cut corners in every which way—parents stopped paying toward their kids’ college fund or they put off buying new clothes or they canceled vacations or plans to visit their relatives while they are trying to figure out how to keep a roof over their head. Obviously there are many things that need to be done to support families, but one piece of tax policy that has given them some ability to plan has been this mortgage tax forgiveness.

What we are saying is: OK. For 2 weeks you can know that you can refinance with the bank—not next year. We kept you hanging for all of 2014, but for 2 weeks or 3 weeks we will give you some certainty.

So next year more families are going to be stuck with the same wrenching decisions they have this year if we can’t at least get a 2-year bill.

What we look at other areas where folks will be left hanging, we have a very important area of the economy creating jobs every day in wind energy. There is a huge supply chain—as the Presiding Officer knows, as someone who is about manufacturing—from the making of turbines to the installation in the field, to the operations, to the maintenance, all of these are connected to American jobs, good-paying jobs. In fact, one of the big turbines has 8,000 parts in it. Somebody is making those parts. I would suggest to everyone that we can make every one of those in Michigan. I am sure we can make them in other places as well, although I love to make them in Michigan. But what the industry doesn’t know is whether the production tax credit which they depend on will be renewed for more than 3 weeks at the end of the year.

In December the House did say: You have 3 weeks to make business decisions about hiring new people, growing your business, building more parts for the winter. You have 3 weeks. Go get them—in 3 weeks. So they can’t make business decisions, and they are going to have to cut.

In the meantime, that means layoffs, similar to the 30,000 workers who were laid off when Congress waited to the very last minute in 2012: 30,000 people were laid off when the same thing happened in 2012 when the production tax credit renewed at the last minute. Even if this bill passes, extending the production tax credit this week would be too late to keep 30,000 people, right before the holidays. Merry Christmas. Thirty thousand people not being able to have their job extended, people who could help us lead the world in clean energy, who could help us develop energy here to be less dependent on foreign oil, but because we don’t have the fortitude to extend this even after we had a bipartisan bill—the EXPIRE Act—come out of the Finance Committee last spring, they are looking at job losses.

So 30,000 families are putting holiday gifts on their credit card not knowing whether they are going to be able to make payments when the bills arrive.

So businesses—doubler Businesses—turbine manufacturers and the rest of the industry make investment decisions on what their taxes will be, similar to any other business, 5 years, 10 years, 15 years into the future.

There have been, by the way, tax breaks for Big Oil for almost 100 years; the first one in 1916 embedded in the Tax Code, never having to be renewed so long-term business decisions can be made. But for their competitors to create jobs and bring prices down through things such as wind or solar or biofuel, it is a slog every year, every 2 years to try to keep these industries going.

Is that fair? It is absolutely not fair. We ought to have the same kind of tax policy. If we are embedding the Tax Code provisions to support oil production, we should be doing the same for wind, the same for solar, the same for biofuels.

What Republicans are doing when they force us into a situation where it is only 3-week extension is they are basically telling Americans businesses: Don’t invest. Don’t hire people. We don’t want competition to bring prices down on gasoline or prices in electricity. We don’t want you to do that. We are unwilling to commit to something that will create jobs beyond somebody we have been fighting to protect for almost 100 years.

So this is a great concern to me. In the process, Americans deserve better. Our business competitors deserve better. We go out and say we want new innovation to create new kinds of jobs. That is happening. Then the doors are shut over and over again or it takes forever to pry open the door: You have 3 weeks, the door is open, and then it shuts.

Let me talk about another area I am deeply concerned about where people will be hurt if we do not pass the 2-year EXPIRE Act that we put together in the Finance Committee in a bipartisan way: that is, helping workers such as those at Delphi auto parts manufacturer—which used to be a part of General Motors. During the 2008 rescue of the auto industry, somehow the salaried workers slipped through the cracks in terms of losing portions of their pensions, their health care coverage, and their insurance, and it is not fair.

One woman who worked at Delphi for over 30 years lost nearly half her pension and all of her health care coverage, which she needed for her husband who suffers from chronic pain.

A manager who worked at a Delphi facility in Michigan was so devoted to the people he supervised that he volunteered to retire rather than lay off some workers. Then 4 months after his retirement, he found out he was losing 40 percent of his pension and all of his health care coverage. Most of what was left out of his pension will go toward paying the cost of his health care, and it was devastating to him and his family.

So we have in this extenders bill, this EXPIRE Act, the health coverage tax credit which was created for people such as these people. I am proud to be a coauthor with Senator Brown, who has been a real leader on this for people who have lost their benefits that were supposedly guaranteed to them. It does not restore their pension, but this credit it pays 72.5 percent of their health care premiums, making it possible for retirees to afford coverage similar to what they could have earned when they were working. It frankly helps people who want to be able to work in other ways, who fell through the cracks.

The credit expired at the end of 2013, and the bipartisan bill we passed in the spring, in April, renewed that credit. I was very pleased we were able to put this in the bill and thought we were on our way again to help people through this year who have been waiting and waiting.

Again, when we passed this in April it was filibustered on the floor by the Republicans. Now we are left with just 2 weeks left before the end of the year and what we get from the House is a bill that is retroactive for 2014, but it does not even include the health coverage tax credit. So even though this is retroactive for 2014, the people involved—the salaried workers who lost pensions who have been getting some help for their health care at least—will not even get that for this year. There are 20,000 Delphi retirees not only in Michigan, Ohio, but Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois, all who are watching right now this process in the Senate and the House to see what will happen, and are reaching out to their House Members and Senate Members—Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

To renew all the other tax provisions but cancel the HCTC is a cruel trick to play on families and certainly is underscored in terms of the holiday season we are getting into now. It is time for our colleagues across the aisle to stop forcing Americans to play a guessing game about their future taxes or their health care.
I regret that the clock has been ticking and running out and left us with no time at this point to get the fairness in the Tax Code that we need. There is still time if we wanted to to pass this EXPpIRE Act and send it back to the House for a vote. I know our chairman, Senator WYDEN, has been working night and day with colleagues across the aisle to try to make that happen. If it is too late for this year, if the clock runs out, shamefully, and we have a new year with our Republican colleagues in the majority, I would suggest a New Year’s resolution to stop doing retroactive extensions—stop doing retroactive extensions when it involves investments that people have to make that they are not going to be able to do retroactively or decisions about health care or decisions about a home. Start getting serious about making long-term economic decisions.

I know the Presiding Officer agrees with me on this and has spoken with me frequently on this.

Whether it is tax policy, health care policy, infrastructure policy, we need to make long-term decisions and support policies that businesses can make long-term decisions.

Finally, we need to deliver certainty for families, for small businesses, for manufacturers, for those in alternative energy, for all who are working hard to invest in America across this country. Stop doing retroactive extensions, start working seriously on long-term tax policy and deliver certainty for families and businesses across the country. I think there is still time, if we wanted, to at least give the certainty of next year. Shame on the Congress if that does not happen. But I hope that we will at least commit ourselves that this is the last time this is done in this way.

Thank you, Mr. President. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DECLINE OF THE MIDDLE CLASS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the American people must make some very fundamental decisions in the coming years. The most important of them is whether we continue the status quo of American society, and that is in terms of our economics and our politics which includes a 40-year decline of our middle class. Let me repeat that.

We are not just talking about what is happening today. We are not talking about the Wall Street crash of 2008. We are talking about a 40-year decline of the American middle class and an ongoing and growing gap between the very wealthy and everybody else. That is the reality of America now.

We can continue the same old, same old, or we can develop a bold economic agenda that begins the process of creating the millions of jobs we desperately need, an agenda which raises wages so that most of the new jobs being created are not low wage or part time, an agenda which protects our environment, an agenda which enables us to join the rest of the industrialized world and guarantee health care to all people as a right. That is the issue of our time. Do we continue the status quo, continue the disappearance of the middle class, continue the growing gap between the very rich and everybody else, or do we have the courage to come up with an agenda that stands for working families and raises wages and provides for our kids and our seniors?

As part of that decision in my view is the reality that we cannot go forward unless we deal with another very important question, and that is, do we as a nation have the courage to take on the immense economic and political power of the billionaire class? I know many of my colleagues don’t like to talk about it. We talk about this and we talk about that, but most Americans in their gut understand that our economic and political life are controlled by a small number of very wealthy people and institutions, including but not limited to Wall Street, the oil companies, the insurance companies, the drug companies, the military-industrial complex, et cetera, and the list goes on and on. Capitol Hill—trying to get this or that provision in tax bills and everywhere—and, of course, their power in terms of campaign contributions, and especially since this disastrous Supreme Court Citizens United decision. It means the billionaire class can put unlimited sums of money into electing candidates who represent their interests.

Those are the most important questions of our time. Do we have the courage to take on the political power of the billionaire class and special interests who wield so much economic and political power? Do we have the will to push forward an economic agenda that works for working families and not just for the very wealthy?

The long-term deterioration of the middle class, accelerated by the Wall Street crash of 2008, has not been a pretty sight. Today we have more wealth and income inequality than any major country on Earth and the gap between the very rich and everybody else is growing wider. The top 1 percent now owns about 41 percent of the financial wealth of our country, while the bottom 60 percent owns all of 1.7 percent. The top 1 percent owns 41 percent of the financial wealth, the bottom 60 percent owns 1.7 percent. In fact, amazingly enough, the top one-tenth of 1 percent now owns almost as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent of the American people. Does anyone believe a system that proposed to be about, where the top one-tenth of 1 percent owns as much wealth as the bottom 90 percent?

Today we have the absurd situation, the obscene situation, where one family, the Walton family, the owners of Walmart, are worth about $148 billion. That is more wealth in that one family than the bottom 40 percent of the American people.

In the United States we have the highest rate of childhood poverty of any major country on Earth. About one-quarter of our kids get nutrition through food stamps, and we are the only industrialized country—major country—that does not guarantee health care to all people as a right.

We once led the world in terms of the percentage of our people who graduated college, but today in a highly competitive global economy we are now in 12th place.

In terms of infrastructure, the United States used to have the finest, most envied infrastructure in the world. Today, as I think every citizen of this country knows, our infrastructure, our roads, our water systems, airports are virtually collapsing. The American Society of Civil Engineers tells us that we need to spend $3 trillion just to bring our infrastructure up to par. But with infrastructure spending at the lowest level since 1947, we rank 16th in the world in terms of infrastructure according to the World Economic Forum.

So once we led the world in terms of the numbers of percentages of people graduating college; today we are 12th. Once we led the world in terms of the strength of our infrastructure; today we are the 16th. But we do have the dubious distinction of being first in terms of childhood poverty of any major country.

Real unemployment today is not what the official unemployment states of 5.8 percent; it is over 11 percent when you include those people who have given up looking for work or are working part time. Youth unemployment is over 18 percent.

We hear a lot about Ferguson, MO, and that is a very important issue, but we don’t hear enough about the reality that African-American youth unemployment is over 30 percent.

Today in this country millions of Americans are working longer hours for lower wages. In inflation-adjusted dollars, the median male worker—listen to this; this is really quite unbelievable—is living like he did 30 years ago. This is how to see how the American people are angry. The median male worker—that worker right in the middle of the economy—last year earned $783 less than he made 41 years ago—$783 less than he made 41 years ago in inflation-adjusted dollars. In the excitement of technology, the great global economy, all of the great free trade agreements, and that male worker today is earning over $700 less than he made in real dollars 41 years ago. The median female worker is earning less last year than she earned in 2007.

Since 1999, the median middle-class family has seen its income go down by...
almost $5,000 after adjusting for inflation, now earning less this year than a family earned 25 years ago. Are we better off today than we were 6 years ago when Bush left office and we were hemorrhaging 700,000 jobs a month and the financial system was on the verge of collapse? Of course we are. But if you look at the trends over the last 40 years, the reality is, the middle class in this country is disappearing and almost all new income and wealth is going to the people on top.

The American people must demand that Congress and the White House start protecting the interests of working families, not just wealthy campaign contributors. We need Federal legislation to put the unemployed back to work, raise wages, and make certain that all Americans have health care and education in order to live healthy and productive lives.

We can spend hours dissecting and analyzing the problems of American society, and in my view, they are worse today than at any time since the Great Depression, and if you throw in the planetary crisis of climate change, we may have more problems today facing our 320 million than at any time in a very long period.

But what I wish to do today is very briefly throw out and discuss 12 initiatives that I believe, if enacted by the Congress, could begin to address the collapse of the middle class and rebuild our economy. I will just touch on them briefly.

No. 1, as I mentioned earlier, our infrastructure is collapsing—our roads, bridges, water systems, wastewater plants, airports, railroads, and older schools. We spent $3 trillion—or when we take care of the last veteran, we have spent $3 trillion fighting a war in Iraq that we never should have fought in the first place.

If for a period of years we were to invest $1 trillion in rebuilding our infrastructure, we could create 13 million decent-paying jobs, and that is exactly what we have to do. Think of what America would look like if you went around the country and saw work being done on roads, bridges, and cutting-edge technology for our water plants and wastewater plants. We would become more productive and efficient. We would put people back to work.

No. 2, in my view—and I know many of my Republican colleagues don't agree, but the scientific community is united when they say climate change is real, it is caused by human activity, and if we do not reverse and substantially cut back carbon emissions, this planet will become increasingly uninhabitable for our kids and our grandchildren. In my view, we must transform our energy system away from fossil fuels and into energy efficiency and sustainable energy, such as wind, solar, geothermal, et cetera.

When we address energy efficiency and sustainable energy, not only do we lead the world in transforming our energy system and reversing climate change, but we also create a significant number of meaningful and important jobs.

No. 3, in my view, instead of giving tax breaks to large corporations which should do us in America and go to China, we want to promote new economic models to increase job creation and productivity, and that is giving workers the opportunity to own their own businesses. We have some of that in Vermont, and I know in Ohio there are workers who when workers are more productive and feel better about their jobs, I would rather invest in that than in corporations that will shut down in this country and move abroad.

No. 4, I think most people understand that when you have a union to negotiate and engage in collective bargaining, wages are higher and working conditions are better. Today corporate opposition to union organizing makes it extremely difficult for workers to join a union. We need legislation which makes it clear that when a majority of workers signs cards in support of a union, they can have that union.

No. 5, the Federal minimum wage today in this country is $7.25 an hour. We need to raise the minimum wage to a living wage. People who work 40 hours a week should not live in poverty.

No. 6, women workers today earn about 76 cents on the dollar to what their male counterparts earn doing the same work. That is not acceptable. We need equal pay for equal work. We need pay equity in our country, and we have to pass that legislation.

No. 7, an issue that we don't talk about enough, and, in fact, has had bipartisan support for many decades, is our disastrous trade policy, NAFTA, CAFTA, and permanent normal trade relations with China. The simple fact is these trade policies have been a disaster for the American worker. Since 2001, we have lost more than 60,000 factories in this country and more than 4.9 million decent-paying manufacturing jobs. Not all of that is attributable to bad trade policies, but a lot of it is. We need to rethink our trade policies and demand that corporate America invest in the United States of America and not in China.

I know that is a radical idea. Imagine going shopping in a department store where we can actually purchase products made in America and not in China, but I think we should be doing that.

No. 8, we are not going to be a successful economy unless our young people have the ability to get the college education they need regardless of the income of their families. Right now it is increasingly difficult for working families to afford college. Many of our young people are coming out of college deeply in debt and are moving in exactly the wrong direction. Forty, fifty years ago, tuition was virtually free at some of the great public universities in America, such as the University of California, New York City, and State colleges around country. Today it is unaffordable.

We need to radically rethink higher education in this country. Our goal is everyone, regardless of income, should be able to afford a quality college education and not come out in debt.

No. 9, I think everybody understands the enormous stranglehold that Wall Street has on our economy. Banking is supposed to be the mechanism to get money out in the productive economy where companies are producing products and services and not see Wall Street or financial institutions as an end in itself, but that is exactly what we have right now. We have six financial institutions in this country that have assets equivalent to over 60 percent of the GDP of the United States of America. That is too big, and it gives them too much economic and political power. In my view, they must be broken up, and we must have a more competitive financial system where money is getting out to the real economy so businesses can create real jobs.

No. 10, and many people don't know this, but the United States is the only major country on Earth that doesn't guarantee health care to all people as a right. Yet we end up spending almost twice as much per capita on health care as any other Nation. In my strong opinion, if we want health care for all, and we want to do it in a cost-effective way, we need to move toward a Medicare for all, single-payer system.

No. 11, today in this great Nation, millions of seniors are living in poverty, and that number is growing, and we have the highest rate of childhood poverty of any major country. We must strengthen the social safety net, not weaken it. Instead of talking about cutting Social Security or cutting Medicare or cutting Medicaid or cutting nutrition programs, we should be expanding those programs. This is a great country, and we should not have millions of people wondering how they are going to be able to buy medicine for their illness or heat their homes in the winter time. We have to expand the social safety net for our kids, our seniors, and our vulnerable populations.

Last, but certainly not least, at a time of massive wealth and income inequality, we need a progressive tax system that takes money out of the pocket of the rich and puts it in the pocket of the poor, so the enormous stranglehold that Wall Street has on the American people, and the stranglehold that corporate tax loopholes so we can actually purchase products and services and not see Wall Street or financial institutions as an end in itself, but that is exactly what we have right now. We have six financial institutions in this country that have assets equivalent to over 60 percent of the GDP of the United States of America.
With that, I think the American people have some fundamental choices to make. Do we continue the status quo from an economic perspective and political perspective or do we demand that Congress start listening to the pain of the middle class and working families directly and start producing legislation which rebuilds our crumbling middle class?

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the Senator from Vermont.

I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of my remarks, of up to 10 minutes, that Senator MANCHIN be recognized for his remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, every year about this time—actually every few months, maybe every month—there are attempts by Wall Street to again change the rules, cut back consumer protection laws, and change the regulations that protect the American public against Wall Street greed.

It happens almost weekly, it seems, in the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives. There are attempts in the Agriculture Committee, beaten back by Senator Stabenow, to her credit, and attempts in the banking committee, beaten back by Chairman Bachus to his credit.

Almost every week, it seems, there are efforts by Wall Street to undermine the protections that we were able to build in under the Dodd-Frank bill to stop Wall Street from doing to the economy what it did in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008. September of 2008 had been preceded by a decade of deregulation of the financial industry, decades of lobbying by very effective lobbyists for the six biggest Wall Street banks. Risky behavior was rewarded with gargantuan profits for the firms and multimillion-dollar bonuses for the executives.

The CEO of one of the largest megabanks in the history of the world—not just in our country—said: As long as the music is playing, you have got to get up and dance. There is a lot of money to be made on Wall Street, and they have to take advantage of every loophole, particularly those loopholes that their lobbyists create.

This unmitigated greed led to 8 million people losing their jobs, 7 million losing their homes after being foreclosed on because the financial system lacked the necessary safeguards to protect Wall Street. Dodd-Frank was supposed to end all of that. It has made progress by preventing taxpayer bailouts for banks. Risky derivatives trading was one of the central goals of Dodd-Frank. An amendment by Senator Lincoln, then the Chair of the Agriculture Committee, brought forward an amendment in 2009. Dodd-Frank went through the process.

The day that President Obama signed the Dodd-Frank bill to protect Americans from Wall Street greed, the chief lobbyists for the chief financial trade association in this town said: Now it is half-time. What does “now it is half-time” mean? Well, the bill passed, and Wall Street lobbyists said, we don’t like that, but now we can go to the regulatory agencies and weaken the rules, delay their implementation, sometimes stop some of the rulemaking, and we can go back to Congress and continue to lobby and weaken these rules.

To give you an example of what has happened, in 1995, the 6 largest banks in the United States had assets equal to 18 percent of the GDP. I don’t want to bore people with numbers, but in 1995, the 6 largest banks had assets equal to 18 percent of GDP. Today they make up 64 percent of GDP. The largest six Wall Street banks—everybody knows their names—are getting larger and larger, increasing their economic power, and as we see almost every day in this Congress and especially in the House of Representatives dominated by tea party Republicans and people at the beck and call of Wall Street, we see their bills, they want these changes.

Under the accounting rules applied by the rest of the world, the derivatives holdings of the 6 largest banks—basically insurance policy on top of insurance policy on top of insurance policy as financial instruments—are 39 percent larger than the think they are, which is a difference of about $4 trillion.

Derivatives were described by Warren Buffett as timebombs—financial weapons of mass destruction carrying dangers that are potentially lethal. Senator Levin, who is about to retire from the Senate after 36 years, calls these derivatives nuclear weapons.

According to the New York Times, bank leaders sometimes deal with derivatives that will repeal—not to get too technical—the Lincoln language. And here is what the language in section 716 says: Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal assistance may be provided to any swaps entity with respect to any swaps, security-based swap, or other activity of the swaps entity.

This is the language that is now Federal law. This language says no more bailouts.

However, the legislation likely to be in front of us, the omnibus we will be facing, because of Wall Street lobbyists, because of Republican financial services members caving to special interests, this provision that says “no more bailouts” is done with. We will see language now stripped out of Federal law that says “no more bailouts.”

The public needs to understand that if this language passes to strip this language out, if this bill passes, that again, taxpayer bailouts brought on by Wall Street greed, bailouts brought on by risky trading, now protected by taxpayers. So, in other words, it is heads I win, tails you lose. If I make big bets on derivatives and I am a Wall Street banker, I make tens of millions of dollars. However, if I make big bets and something bad happens, taxpayers get to pay for it. That is the problem with stripping out sections 716.

I am not the only one who thinks this. Tom Hoenig, Leader McConnell’s selection to the FDIC board, supports keeping 716 in the law. Sheila Bair—the former Chair of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation—she is opposed to repeal, as has the White House opposed the repeal.

Mark Steffanski, a friend of mine from Third Federal in my neighborhood in Cleveland, in Slovak Village, which is about an $11 billion bank on the southeast side of Cleveland. That is a bank which makes mortgages. It does not use derivatives. It does not trade in exotic derivatives. He told me a number you know should be boring. It is not about taking excessive risks, especially when those excessive risks are underwritten by taxpayers.

That is what abolishing 716—that is what the repeal of the 716 language does. It puts taxpayers on the hook in the form of a future bailout. It is a subsidy today for the six largest banks. It puts taxpayers on the hook in the future, gives all kinds of additional incentives for Wall Street bankers to engage in the kind of risky trading, and puts us all again under the possibility of a bank bailout.

It simply does not make sense. We have the opportunity to reject this part of this legislation. We owe it to the families in my State, to families in Virginia, to families in Delaware, to families in Georgia, and all over this country. That is why we cannot support a measure that values corporate greed over working America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, first I thank my colleague for giving me this time, and I acknowledge the hard work he has done.

WEISS NOMINATION

I represent the great State of West Virginia. It is a rural State where we believe in commonsense solutions and values. In the Mountain State, we understand the importance of leveling the playing field for community institutions and helping small businesses create and keep jobs. As a Senator from West Virginia, I was sent here to represent the people of Main Street. For those reasons, I rise today to explain why I must oppose the nomination of Wall Street’s risk manager Antoinette Weiss to be Under Secretary for Domestic Finance at the Department of the Treasury.

I cannot and will not support his nomination because I do not believe he possesses the characteristics and the background we need in an Under Secretary to push for strong Wall Street oversight and to protect our small
businesses and financial institutions on Main Streets all across America.

The position to which Mr. Weiss has been nominated is one that would put him at the head of the Treasury’s decision-making on issues of domestic finance, fiscal policy, government liability, and the national debt. He would oversee critical issues such as Wall Street reform, financing the national debt, housing finance reform, and small business credit. I have serious doubts that Mr. Weiss has the right background to make such a role work. It is clear that as the global head of investment banking at Lazard, Mr. Weiss is very talented and experienced in working in financial markets and economic institutions, but as an investment banker on Wall Street, he does not have the experience for this particular oversight position. He has dealt almost entirely with European investment banking, not domestic finance or community banking or regulators such as the Federal Reserve, and the vast majority of issues that fall under the jurisdiction of this important position.

Besides not having the right background for the job, the fact that Mr. Weiss is a top corporate dealmaker with a specialization in international financing is in itself troubling to me. He has spent a good deal of his professional career working on mergers and acquisitions for the world’s largest corporations. He has spent time in Paris running the firm’s European division.

There is not a thing wrong with that, but this fits the administration’s pattern of choosing Wall Street insiders for senior policy positions instead of those with strong consumer protection or community bank and credit union experience, plain-spoken people who have worked on Main Street.

To make matters worse, the substantial compensation Lazard plans to offer Mr. Weiss upon his confirmation is another kind of very skeptical. The financial giant is planning to pay him $20 million if he can win confirmation and come into government service. This kind of arrangement and human nature suggests he will be especially sympathetic to Lazard’s lobbying efforts. Public service is a noble cause. A $20 million golden parachute makes it very hard to gain the public’s trust.

With that being said, I do not believe Mr. Weiss upon his confirmation is another kind of very skeptical. The financial giant is planning to pay him $20 million if he can win confirmation and come into government service. This kind of arrangement and human nature suggests he will be especially sympathetic to Lazard’s lobbying efforts. Public service is a noble cause. A $20 million golden parachute makes it very hard to gain the public’s trust.

Mr. Weiss is a top corporate dealmaker with a specialization in international financing is in itself troubling to me. He has spent a good deal of his professional career working on mergers and acquisitions for the world’s largest corporations. He has spent time in Paris running the firm’s European division.

Mr. Weiss is very talented and experienced in working in financial markets and economic institutions, but as an investment banker on Wall Street, he does not have the experience for this particular job. It is important to send a message that we will no longer allow Wall Street to excessively make up our fiscal policy decisions, especially when they affect so many around this country on Main Street.

Economic and banking policies have too often been made without the input of our Nation’s midsize banks, community banks, and credit unions. We must strive to have a balanced view of engaging voices on all sides of these important issues. By confirming Mr. Weiss as the Under Secretary for Main Street before the Senate, we are putting Wall Street before Main Street. We have already seen from the 2008 crisis how that harmed the Nation as a whole. We do not need to repeat that picture again.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO SAXBY CHAMBLISS
Mr. WALTER, Mr. President, I wanted to rise very briefly because I know Senator Chambliss is about to give his farewell speech. I commend my dear friend the Senator from Georgia for his service. I am going to stay through his speech, but I know there will be people who otherwise rise afterwards to give accolades, and I wanted to be first in line to salute him for his service, his friendship to so many of us in this body, and my personal good wishes for his future.

I am sure there are some who thought for a change I would get a word in first.

I yield the floor.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE
Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. President, as my service in the Senate comes to an end, I rise today to say thank you to some of the wonderful people who have been part of a great ride for over 20 years.

As we Americans are fortunate to live in the greatest country in the world, a country where the American dream is still alive and well; a country where, in spite of all of our problems, we are the envy of the free world; a country where a preacher’s kid from rural southern Georgia can rise to be elected to the House of Representatives and then the Senate.

We as Members of the Senate are fortunate to have the opportunity to serve. We are blessed to be able to work in such a historic venue as we are in this afternoon. As we come into our offices and into this building every day, there are some things we take for granted. So to the entire Capitol Hill workforce, from those who clean our offices, to those who change the lightbulbs, provide our food, maintain our subways and elevators, and to all of those in between, I say thank you. You are very professional in what you do, and you always do it with a smile.

To the Motor staff and the cloakroom staff for both the majority and the minority, thanks for putting in the long hours, listening to often boring speeches, reminding us when we have not voted, scheduling floor time, reminding us of the rules, and making sure our mistakes are at a minimum.

I am fortunate to have been surrounded by great staff during all of my 20 years in the House and Senate, mostly young people from varied backgrounds who are the brightest minds in my State and my country have to offer. They are committed patriots and loyal to the core. To those current and former members of my staff, thank you for your service to me and to the State of Georgia.

I have been served by four chiefs of staff: Rob Leeborn, Kristler Holladay, Charlie Harman, and Camila Knowles. Every office plan that each of them put together starts with providing better constituent service than any other Member of the House or the Senate. I am extremely proud that our record shows we achieve the goal of doing just that. I have even had government agency personnel call my office asking for guidance on cases from other offices.

I have often said that my greatest satisfaction from this job comes not from negotiating major pieces of legislation but from being able to help people with different experiences and having a positive impact on their lives.

I am particularly blessed to have three members of my staff who have been with me for all 20 years. My deputies Teresa Ervin, John Canon, and Bill Stembrec have walked every mile with me and have been so valuable. Thanks, guys.

My greatest support comes from my family. My wife Julianne, my daughter and her husband Joe, my son Bo, and his wife Bess, along with our grandchildren—John, Parker, Jay, Kimbrough, Anderson, and Ellie—have all been somehow involved on the campaign trial.

Come the 28th day of this month, Julianne and I will have been married for 48 years, having met at the University of Georgia a couple of years before that. For tolerating a husband who had a 24/7 job for 20 years, for being a single mom part of that time, and for understanding why I could not get home until Christmas Eve some years, I say thank you, sweetheart.

I am privileged today to represent almost 10 million Georgians who are the most wonderful people God ever put on this earth. I lost my first primary election and went on to win each of my next seven races. I won every one of those seven races because I shared the values of my constituents, I worked each of my opponents, and I had better ideas and the best workers and staff.

Thanks, Tom and Paige.

Thanks to Senators Nunn and Miller for their regular advice and counsel. Thanks to my three leaders, Senator Lott, Senator Frist, and Senator McConnell, each of whom provided me with strong leadership and always listened to me even when I had ideas that might have been different from their ideas.

I am often asked what I will miss most about the Senate. The answer is very easy. I will miss my friends and the relationships we have developed over the years. Senator Isakson and I...
entered the University of Georgia 52 years ago in September and became friends immediately. We have been the dearest of friends ever since. He is without question the most trusted friend and adviser I have. I will miss our daily discussions.

My three best buddies from my House days, Speaker John Boehner, Congressman Tom Latham, and Senator Richard Burr, along with Senator Tom Coburn, have been the legislative collaborators, dinner partners, golfing buddies, mentors, and numerous other things that should not be mentioned on the floor of the Senate.

Senator Lindsey Graham is like a member of my family. We have traveled the world together many times, hearing a lot. I have no plans to write a book, but if I did, Lindsey Graham’s anecdotes would fill a chapter.

Senator Feinstein has been a great chairman and partner on the Intelligence Committee. I will miss her leadership, her smarts, her friendship, and those late-afternoon glasses of California wine.

My most productive time in the Senate has been spent with my dear friend Senator Mark Warner. Our work on the Gang of 6 included Senators Durbin, Conrad, Coburn, Crapo, and then later Senators Johanns and Bennet, represents the very best of everything about the Senate. We spent, literally, hundreds of hours together debating issues and trying to solve major problems, and we came very close. Senator Warner’s insight, his wanting to solve problems, and his political insight are lessons that I will carry with me forever.

As the Senate now goes forward under new leadership, I have two comments. First, the Senate should return to regular order. Senator McConnell has indicated that will be the case, and it should be.

The change by the current majority changed the institution of the Senate in a negative way. I hope the rule is changed back to require 60 votes on all issues, including judges and nominees. Some of those most vocal favoring the rules change lost their elections, and while the rules change did not cost them their election, it is very clear that the American people wanted a change in the leadership that changed the rule. Regular order will help in regaining trust and confidence to the world’s most deliberative body.

Second, it is imperative that the issue of the debt of this country be addressed. Just last week our total debt surpassed $21 trillion. We cannot leave theastronomical debt our policies have generated for our children and grand-children to fix. It is not rocket science; it is what must be done.

Cutting spending alone—for example, sequestration—is not the solution. Raising taxes is not the solution. As Simpson-Bowles, Domenici-Rivlin, and the Gang of 6 all agreed, it will take a combination of spending reduction, entitlement reform, and tax reform to stimulate more revenue. Hard and tough votes will have to be taken, but that is why we get elected to the Senate. The world is waiting for America to lead on this issue. If we do, the U.S. economy will respond in a very robust way. The Gang of 6 did the foundation for this proposal, and it is my hope that we do not leave the solution for the next generation.

I close with what I have enjoyed most about Congress, and that is the opportunity that I have had to spend time with and learn from and about the very best in the intelligence world, all of whom are willing to put their lives in harm’s way for the sake of our freedom.

Whether it was Robins Air Force Base, Kabul, Ramadi, Jalalabad, Khowst or Dubai, I always get emotional telling the men and women who protect us. They are special people who sacrifice so much for the sake of all 300 million Americans. Let us also remember and be thankful for the families of those military and civilian personnel who likewise make a commitment to America. As we head into another Christmas season, many of those families will not have at home their spouse, their parent, their son or their daughter.

May God bless them. May God bless this great institution, and may God continue to preserve our great country.

I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mrs. Feinstein. Senator Chambliss, my remarks are personal. We worked together for the past 8 years on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. For 4 years we have worked as chair and cochair. We have exchanged views, we have negotiated bills, and we have shared information. We have been there through very tough times and some very pleasant times. It is very hard for me to see you go.

I have learned to trust you. I respect you. We have worked together. The committee put together a Benghazi report. We worked very hard. We found areas of agreement.

Senator Collins of the committee is here on the floor, and I know she wants to say something. Am I missing anyone else from the committee? There is Senator Burr, who will be the new chairman, and Senator Coats, Senator Coburn. We were able to come together and put together a report unanimously, and it was really because of your leadership.

As I watched, what became very apparent is that maybe your side isn’t as fractious as my side is. You were able to say yes, we can do this or no, we can’t do that, and you reflected your membership. That made it so very easy for me, and I am very grateful.

Yesterday we disagreed. You have never taken a cheap shot. We worked together at the same time to move our intelligence authorization bill. There was one last glitch which you worked out, and that bill passed unanimously last night.

Together we have worked to put together an information sharing bill for what is probably our No. 1 defensive issue, which is cyber and the attacks that have taken 97 percent of our businesses into difficulties.

You have compromised, and I have compromised. Unfortunately, on our side we have some unproductive issues. So, hopefully, I will be able to pick up with Senator Burr where we left off, and we will be able to get that job done next year.

What I want you to know—and I said this to you in another way—that it was such a wonderful experience for me to work with you. This is the hard part. We are only here for an instant in eternity, and the only thing that matters is what we do with that instant.

Thank you for your service. I pray you have really done yeoman’s work in that instant, and I am very grateful to have the pleasure of working with you. I have learned from you, and I wish you all good things.

You very much, Senator Chambliss.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. Isakson. I rise to pay tribute to my friend, Saxby Chambliss. I would admit to you this is a speech I never wanted to make. I never wanted to make it because we have had a wonderful relationship in this body for the past 10 years. We have done everything together.

He has had my back, and I have had his back. He is a great friend, and I will miss him. But I am not a selfish guy. He married one of the finest women I have ever known, Julianne Chambliss, who is one of the best friends my wife has ever had.

Although he is leaving us and I will miss the clutch I have used for so long, Julianne is getting her Saxby back. For Julianne, her family, and those grandkids he loves so much, that is exactly what Saxby wants to do.

Georgia has had some great Senators: Richard Russell, who was really the master of the Senate; Zell Miller, a former Governor of Georgia, a great friend of mine and a great mentor of mine; and Sam Nunn, one of the finest in national defense and foreign policy our State ever offered. Saxby will be the fourth on the Mount Rushmore of Georgia Senators who have served Georgia with distinction and with class.

I want to tell Saxby this in person. For 10 years we have done joint conferences. We have messed up twice. When I messed up he covered my back and when he messed up I covered his.

In 2008 when he almost lost a race and went into a runoff in December in Georgia, I rode a bus for 21 straight days introducing him three times a day and eating barbecue every single day...
for dinner and for lunch. That is a price to pay that only friendship will bring out.

He is a dear friend, a trusted person. I love him very much and I love his family very much.

I could talk all day, but I wanted to open and close by saying, SAXBY, I love you. The State is going to love having you back. This country is going to miss you, but my grandchildren are safer, my State is better, and our relationship has never been stronger.

May God bless you and your family in every endeavor you undertake, and may God bless the United States of America.

(At ease, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. MANCHIN. First, I would say I have only been in the Senate for 4 years. When I--it really should be from all sides—but the bottom line is the Senator is loved by everybody. I never heard an ill word said about SAXBY CHAMBLISS, the distinction he carries as far as the Senate and as a human being.

I say to the Senator, your family and your priorities are correct. Your moral compass is working and working well. I can only tell you thank you. As someone from the other side of the aisle and as a fellow colleague and a fellow American, you are an inspiration to us all.

SAXBY, there will not be another SAXBY, but I am glad they gave you to me for this short period of time of 4 years. Some of you--I look at JOHNNY, and I envy JOHNNY. For 52 years he has been your close friend.

There is your partner in crime back there, Senator BURR. We hope he doesn't tell it all when he gets up.

But I tell you, there are so many people who have a relationship that is unmatched and that is because of you.

I say, my dear friend, my hat is off to you. Thank you, and God bless you for what you have done for the United States of America, for Georgia, but most importantly for all of us. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from North Carolina is recognized.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, this moment is bittersweet for me.

I spent more time with SAXBY than I have with any other Senator for the past 20 or even more years. We have done everything together. Those vacation spots he mentioned--Kabul, Baghdad--I was right beside him.

We traveled to areas of the world that others wouldn't venture too, and there was a reason he was there. He was concerned about America's future, he was concerned about his children's future, and he was in a position to have an impact on it to make it better for them in the future. That is why he served. It is obvious to all of us colleagues that he is a lot older than I am, but he has worked just as hard as the youngest Member of this institution.

Even though we have seen each other's children grow up, and now we have seen them as he deserves the time to go home and spend some time with his grandchildren and, more importantly, to get to know his wife again.

I want to say, Senator FEINSTEIN, I like red wine just as much as SAXBY does. I probably can't buy as cheaply as he could, but I do look forward to continuing to work with you and, more importantly, to continue to do the work on the Intelligence Committee that we built on what SAXBY started in the year 2000 as we went on the House Intelligence Committee together.

There is only one way to sum up SAXBY CHAMBLISS. He is a true southern gentleman. He is absolutely a statesman, but what everybody who meets SAXBY understands is this. He is a great American, he loves this country, he loves this institution, and some piece of him will remain here when he leaves at the end of the year. He will have an impact on what happens even though his presence may not be here.

We wish him Godspeed in life after.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I am a bit out of order here. I was waiting for some of my colleagues who have spent a bit more time here than I to speak, but I wanted to take this opportunity to add my sincere thanks to SAXBY CHAMBLISS for the kind of person he is and the kind of leadership he has provided and the kind of example he has set during his time in Congress and in the Senate.

I was privileged to be able to come back to the Senate and join the group of people who shared the same deep concerns I had shared. The reason I did come back was due to the threats to our country from abroad and the fiscal plunge into debt that is going to affect our country dramatically in the future if we don't deal with it. But having the privilege of being with the people who have set such an example has been a great privilege for me.

If I were a producer and director of a movie I was going to have come out about the Senate, I would want SAXBY to be the leading man. First of all, he looks like a Senator, and he has that southern calm presence that most of us envy and he just seems so pro- file. The next choice would have to be for the leading lady, and you couldn't find a more gracious, beautiful, supportive leading lady than Julianne Chambliss. Together, they just make a stunning couple.

I have had the privilege of traveling with them and seeing them in different places and in different situations, and what a tremendous gift it is to be with both of them. So the Senate and many of us here will dearly miss SAXBY CHAMBLISS. He comes from a line of distinguished Senators representing the State of Georgia, and as Senator BURR said, he fits right into that long list of more than I can get my arms around in terms of how do we deal with some of these threats and some of these challenges that have popped up all over the world in various manifestations. Yet the solid leadership on the Republican side, SAXBY CHAMBLISS has helped us in a way that has forged a real bond and a desire to work in a nonpartisan basis to live up to our responsibility to provide oversight for the intelligence community and to be a part of helping make those decisions that are so important and so formative in terms of how we deal with these particular issues.

So I thank SAXBY for the person he is and the person he is, and the person he will continue to be, for the example he has set, for his friendship, and for his extraordinary leadership. I know the refrigerator will be stocked with Coca Cola, there will be Georgia peanuts, maybe a little bit of bourbon in a drawer somewhere, and he will have a tee time at Augusta just about any time he wants. I wish him the very best as he and Julianne go forward with their life. He has left his mark here and certainly he has left his mark on me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.
Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, a lot has been said about SAXBY already, but I have an observation I have noticed over the last 10 years since I have been here, and it is about leadership. We see elected leadership on both sides, but then we see real leadership. We see the people people go to for advice. We see the person people go to for wisdom and judgment. That is what I have noticed the last 10 years.

More than anybody in this body, whether on the other side of the aisle or this side of the aisle, the person whose counsel is most sought is that of SAXBY CHAMBLISS. That is real leadership that is earned, and it needs to be recognized and honored for what it is. Because what it says is his leadership comes without judgment on the person asking the question, without condemnation of a position that may be different than his. It is giving of himself for the benefit of the rest of us. Hear, hear, my friend from Georgia. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. JOHANNS. Mr. President, it is an honor and a pleasure to pay tribute to SAXBY CHAMBLISS. I think the first time I got to work around SAXBY was when I was nominated as the Secretary of Agriculture, and I think the first hearing SAXBY chaired as chairman of the Senate ag committee might have been that hearing.

I arrived in Washington, and I was scared to death. I had no idea what to expect. But I met with SAXBY, and I knew immediately that when I was in that hearing I was going to be treated with dignity and with respect because he wouldn’t have it any other way. That is the way he did business.

Fortunately, I was confirmed, and that started our working relationship. In those years, I would not try to argue that every nuance of farm policy. I am positive there were times when SAXBY was convinced I didn’t understand a thing about southern agriculture. But he was patient and he was determined to represent all of agriculture, whether it was the South, the Midwest or the West. His goal was to be a chairman of the ag committee for all of agriculture. It was during that time the farm bill was written, and he was a tough negotiator. He had a mind in tax policy, and he was going to stand up for his people and I came to respect him so much.

It was in the Senate though where I truly began to understand his talent. I can tell you how many times we have been in a caucus meeting and somebody would ask the most intricate, difficult question relating to intelligence and national security, and invariably we would turn to SAXBY. SAXBY would stand and, in that quiet but forceful way he has, he would walk us through the issue. There was never a question he did not understand the topic was, he would explain it in a way that literally everybody in the room understood. They got it.

Watch out. You had better be prepared to be Senators with the information he had given us.

What has impressed me so much, and I know I speak for my colleagues when I say this, is he could do the same thing with the most intricate issues—relate to farm policy or ag policy or finance or the Federal budget. The breadth of his knowledge is absolutely unbelievable.

I thank you, SAXBY, for the many times you probably disagreed with me immensely but treated me thoughtfully and respectfully and listened to my opinion. I saw you do that with other Members in this body. I thank you for your service. As one of the retiring Members, I will look forward to the opportunity to spend more time with you. I hope our paths cross many times in the future because I know I will be the better for it.

God bless you, my friend, and best wishes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. The junior Senator from Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Your words.

Mr. PORTMAN. Look. I am so proud to be here to say a couple of words about my friend SAXBY. As you have heard from my colleagues, he is beloved. By the way, two of those who spoke were Senators who are also choosing to leave us. TOM COBURN talked about leadership, I will tell you, they are leaving a huge void.

I got to know SAXBY when he came to the House of Representatives. I was there in the early 1990s, and we became friends. Although I am from Ohio and he is a son of the South, he and Julianne embraced me and Jane, and I got to know his son Bo—such a great family.

But I didn’t truly get to know him until I was the U.S. Trade Representative, and I had the privilege to open markets for U.S. agricultural products around the world. That required looking at something called subsidies—agriculture subsidies. This is a dangerous area in terms of politics, and SAXBY CHAMBLISS is very well aware of this as an ex-Secretary of Agriculture, having been at my side during some of these negotiations.

My job was to come to the Senate ag committee and talk about what we were trying to find out how much flexibility was necessary for us to get these markets open that were so important for our farmers and ranchers but entailed considerable political risk. I learned a new SAXBY CHAMBLISS there. That is when I saw the leadership that was talked about earlier.

SAXBY was willing to not just be constructive but to take that risk and do it. He was totally discreet and confidential in his interactions with his staff. That was his strength.

I know I speak for my colleagues when I say this: SAXBY CHAMBLISS has been the guardian at the gate, giving of himself for the benefit of his country, not only on what we need to do to keep the country safe because of the most knowledgeable people in this country, not only on what we need to do to keep the country safe because...
of his role on the Intelligence Committee, but also, as we can see here, relationships within our own conference in the Republican Caucus, where he is a go-to leader, where people like me seek his advice on how to get things done—but also, as we can see here, relationships across the aisle.

As we go into the new Congress, I hope that SAXBY CHAMBLISS will continue to do other important things with his lovely family and Julianne and his children and grandchildren, that we will follow the example of SAXBY CHAMBLISS of what it means to work together, of what it means to be respectful of each other to get things done for this country, and to address the great challenges that SAXBY has done so much important work on—including keeping our Nation safe and making sure that America remains strong.

SAXBY, I want to thank you for being so welcoming to me, for being a role model, and for being someone who I think is an example of what it means to serve this country with distinction.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, in the new Congress we will welcome 12 new Republican Senators, and that is wonderful. They are great people. They are excited. They are enthusiastic. I think they are going to do wonderful things. So there are 12 new Republican Members coming into the new Senate, and I am looking and we are going to lose 3 of our Republican colleagues. I am thinking, maybe that is about the right ratio that it is about 4 to 1. But these are three individuals who are unbelievable in what they have been able to do in the relationships they built, the friendships, and the work they have done on behalf of the American people. So I am looking at that statistic and I am thinking: Wow, these are three great people who have done the work of many, and I think they have laid the foundation in many ways for us to get to a majority: Senator JOHNSON, Senator CORBURN, and Senator CHAMBLISS. I think they have done a lot of that work required for us to get to majority.

We have heard about the great Senator from Georgia. But I think the things I am going to talk about for a minute in regard to SAXBY CHAMBLISS apply to the two individuals sitting here with him. They are cut from the same cloth. They are the same kind of public servants. People who ran for the right reason; people who serve for the right reason. I think we could ask anybody in this body on either side of the aisle, and they would tell us that this goes down to individuals served for the right reasons and served to the very best of their ability the American people—not just the people of their State, but the American people. They will be remembered long after they are gone. They will be remembered because of the great, wonderful people they are, for the relationships they have built, and for that service. So I echo Senator AYOTTE’s comments.

Senator CORBURN touched on it, too. One of the first people I looked to as a mentor when I came here 4 years ago was SAXBY CHAMBLISS. Now, that doesn’t seem intuitively like something I would do—I am from North Dakota. He is from Georgia. Mike Johanns has been a member of mine since Governor days, for so much longer than a decade. But one of the first people I looked to as a mentor was SAXBY CHAMBLISS, and I don’t even know why. It was one of those things that immediately you like the guy. But as you listened to him a little bit, you respected the guy. You thought: This guy has something to say, he knows what he is doing. But then, it is that relationship thing—that thing where he goes out of his way to work with you, to help you, to understand what you are trying to do in a friendly way, with great humor, and he does it naturally. It is just who he is. It is automatic. I respected the guy. You thought: This guy is so young and beautiful. I am sure that statistic and I am thinking: Wow, doesn't seem intuitively like something I would do—I am from North Dakota, he is from Georgia. I am thinking, maybe that is about the right ratio that it is about 4 to 1.

When we talk about SAXBY CHAMBLISS, TOM CORBURN, MIKE JOHANNs, it doesn't get any better than that. We will miss them a lot.

I wish all three of them Godspeed, and may God bless you in your next career.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I add my congratulations to Senator CHAMBLISS. It is strange, coming here in the last 2 years and getting to serve only 2 years with giants in the Senate like SAXBY, like TOM HARKIN, and like Senator ROCKEFELLER, whose legacies will live on.

Knowing what a good soul Senator CHAMBLISS is, I bet he would enjoy the Newton Labor Day parade. I have a picture of it here.

We had the 53rd annual Newtown Labor Day parade this last year. This is the biggest event that happens in Connecticut on Labor Day. It is a celebration of the town and different groups that make up the parade. There is the Newtown High School marching band. This year Grand Marshall Sydney Eddison was proudly marching at the front. The Litchfield Hills Pipe Band and new groups such as the Marching Cobras of New York were there this year. It is a must-stop if you are a Senator, Governor, or Congressperson. We all march together at the front of the parade regardless of party. It is a really fantastic and wonderful place.

This year there were marchers from the Avielle Foundation; a truck decorated in pink promoting a culture of...
kindness, Sandy Hook Elementary School had a float called “The Magic School Bus to Sandy Hook School.” It had a positive message of “Think You Can, Work Hard, Get Smart, Be Kind,” and the judges selected Sandy Hook School’s float as the winner in the best school category. It is a reminder that Sandy Hook is a positive place—place that is rebounding as we come upon the 2-year anniversary, the 2-year memorial of the tragic shooting in this town, except for the lives of 20 6- and 7-year-olds, and 6 of their teachers who were sworn to protect them.

Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have come to the floor today to mark that 2-year anniversary and to talk for a brief few moments about what has happened over the last 2 years—what has happened that has been positive, and the work that is left to still be done. There are a lot of positive things that have happened. It is impossible to try to find any good that comes out of this, but the foundational work that has happened in the memory of these children is remarkable.

The Jessica Rekos Foundation was formed in an effort to pay homage to Jessica Rekos—her love of horses and her love of whales. They opened up a summer camp where kids ages 6 to 10, the age that Jessica was when she passed, could be able to enjoy horses, learn how to ride and take care of them. They also provided for a scholarship called the Jessica Rekos Fellowship, which is dedicated to conservation initiatives for the orca whale.

I mentioned the Avielle Foundation. Avielle’s brilliant parents started a foundation seeking to do new research into brain activity. They have a new PSA video to highlight the need to understand the aspects of the brain that can lead to aggression and violence.

Ana Grace Marquez-Greene. Her family is a musical family. They started a foundation which tries to identify ways to build stronger communities. Her father is a wonderful jazz musician, and he recently released an album called “Beautiful Life.” The proceeds all go to this effort.

Sandy Hook Promise, a group of families, is asking schools and communities to take a simple first step to ending violence. That first step is to talk to children and teens about how to be a bystander—to look out for those first signs of trouble, and to report anything that may seem out of the ordinary.

We frankly have seen how that small act can make a big difference. Just last week a young man was arrested in Utah after he admitted he had brought a gun to school with the intent to shoot a girl he had a falling out with and then his plans were to open fire on the rest of his classmates, but a student heard about it and tipped off authorities. As a result, he was stopped before he carried out his plan. That is what Sandy Hook Promise is trying to do in the wake of this tragedy, to spread the word that those small acts can make a difference.

I will talk for a few minutes about what hasn’t been done when it comes to policy changes, but there is a lot that has happened when it comes to policy changes. But we passed the strongest antigun violence measure in the country. It cracks down on illegal guns and invests more resources into identifying trouble spots before they happen. Washington State just passed a new referendum with 60 percent of the vote that extends their background check systems to private sales and to transfers. In Colorado they passed a strong new law as well. On the private sector side retailers are stepping up. Big retailers from Starbucks to Chipotle, to Target have taken steps up. Big retailers from Starbucks to Chipotle, to Target have taken.

It is a reminder that Sandy Hook is a positive place; Newtown is a positive place; Sandy Hook Elementary School’s float as the winner in the best school category. The judges selected Sandy Hook as the winner in the best school category. They have a new story of a school shooting all across this country.

Here is the map. In the 2 years since Newtown, there have been 95 different school shootings all across the country. Ninety-five different school shootings have occurred. During the last 3 months alone, there were 17 school shootings, including a single week where there was one every day, five events over a course of 5 days. This is an absolute epidemic that is happening across this country since Sandy Hook. Why I say we are complicit is that when there is no response from Congress, when there is not a single legislative act passed to try to do something about this, it sends a message as to what is happening. I know that is not our intent. I know that is not in the hearts of minds of any of our Members, but people notice when every week there is a new story of a school shooting all across the country and Congress does absolutely nothing about it while the private sector and State legislatures step up to do something about it. So this is a day when we remember what happened 2 years ago, but it is also a day when we should ashamed that we haven’t done a single thing to try to stem this tide.

I get it that we are not going to get a background check bill passed in the next 2 years, but why not work on men tal health funding? Why not have every child, every teen, every student that we care for, that we care about, that we can help reach their full potential. Why not work on mental health funding? Why not have everybody in this Chamber spend 5 minutes of your time reading the report that was just released by the Connecticut child advocate detailing the history of Adam Lanza’s intersection with the mental health system during his childhood and adolescence and how it failed step after step after year after year, month after month—a lack of followup, a lack of coordination, a lack of diagnosis. We have a mental health system in this country that is broken and can be fixed—yes, with some resources but just with better coordination. That is something we can work. We can work on together over the next 2 years. So we can say when this chart gets popped up, there are another 50 dots by this time next year that we didn’t just stand silent.

Nobody is more articulate than Senator BLUMENTHAL in talking about that day, and I don’t want to relive it on this side. But what is most powerful testimony I have heard about what happened that day.

This is a community that is recovering, but it is still a community in crisis. We don’t lose 20 little boys and girls and just come back to life in 2 years. It is a resilient community, but it is a community that still hurts, and it hurts in part because they don’t see us doing anything about it.

So before I yield the floor to Senator BLUMENTHAL to say a few words, I wish to close with somebody else’s words. I have shared these words on the floor before, but they are just as powerful now as they were the last time I read them. It is Neil Heslin testifying before Congress in February of 2013. He is still Jesse Lewis’s father, one of the little boys who was killed that day. So as we think about what happened 2 years ago in Sandy Hook and we think about the changes we have before us and we think about the fact that there are those of us such as myself and Senator BLUMENTHAL and others who will not rest until we honor their memories by our actions, let me give you these words:

On December 14, Jesse got up and got ready for school. He was always excited to go to school. I remember on that day we stopped by Misty Vale Deli. It’s funny the things you remember.

I remember Jesse got the sausage, egg and cheese he always gets, with some hot chocolate. And I remember the hug he gave me when I dropped him off at school, and he rubbed my back. I can still feel that hug. And Jesse said, “It’s going to be alright. Everything’s going to be okay, Dad.” Looking back it makes me wonder. What did he know? Did he have some idea about what was going to happen? But at the time I didn’t think much of it. I just thought he was being sweet.

Jesse had this idea that you never leave people hurt. If you can help somebody, you don’t want to feel bad. You want to feel better, you do it. If you can leave somebody a little better off, you do it.

They tell me that’s how he died. I guess we still don’t know exactly what happened at that school. Maybe we’ll never know. But what people tell me is that Jesse did something different.

When he heard the shooting, he didn’t run and hide. He started yelling. People disagree on the last thing he said. One person who was there said he yelled “run.” Another person he told everybody to stay put. Ten kids from my son’s class made it out alive. They tell me that’s how he died. I guess we still don’t know exactly what happened at that school. Maybe we’ll never know. But what people tell me is that Jesse did something different.

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him in the forehead. Both bullets were fired from the front. That means that the last thing my son did was look Adam Lanza straight in the face and scream to his classmate to run. The last thing he saw was that coward’s eyes.

Before he died, Jesse and I used to talk about maybe coming to Washington someday. I took him up to the Washington monument. When we talked about it last year Jesse asked if we could come and meet the President.

... Jesse believed in you.

This is Neil Heslin, his father talking.

... Jesse believed in you. He learned about you in school and he believed in you. I want to believe in you, too. I know you can’t give me Jesse back. Believe me, if I thought you could, I’d be asking you for that.

But I want to believe that you will think about what I told you here today. I want to believe you’ll think about it and then you’ll do something about it, whatever you can do to make sure no other father has to see what I’ve seen.

That is a pretty powerful message, a message that on the 2-year anniversary mark of that horrible tragedy we would be wise to listen to.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, on December 14, 2012, we saw evil, but we also saw good. We saw tragedy, but we also saw actions that should continue to inspire us.

The evil was in a deranged young man who committed unspeakable and unimaginable horrific acts, but the good was exemplified by the police, the emergency responders, and the teachers who not only risked their lives but saved other ones. The good was something that came forward in the days and months and in the past 2 years.

Often I visit the playgrounds that have been throughout the State of Connecticut in memory of those children, in memory of Charlotte Bacon in West Haven and Ana Grace Marquez-Greene in Hartford, Jessica Rekos in Fairfield, and Dylon Hockley in Westfork, and Victoria Soto in Stratford. I visit them to watch children playing, children often the same age as the wonderful, beautiful children who perished on that day, and parents about the same age as the teachers who lost their lives, sixth-grade educators.

On that day parents in Newtown took their children to school, kissed them goodbye and went about their days, went to work to plan play dates and snack breaks and holiday parties, and just hours into that morning many parents were standing at the Sandy Hook Volunteer Fire Station where I also went that day. What I saw was through the eyes of a parent, not just a public official, the cries of grief, the faces, and the tissues filled with tears and longing. These images I will never forget, and they have redoubled my own determination to try to make America safer and better, to keep faith with those 26 wonderful people whose lives were lost that day, and more than 30,000 people who perished in the United States as a result of violence simply because many of them were in the wrong place at the wrong time—on the street or in neighborhoods or in the home.

The good that is done every day by our police and firemen and emergency responders to try to stem and stop this epidemic of violence cannot overcome the flood of guns in our Nation and cannot compensate for the lack of effective measures to make America safer and better by making our laws against gun violence more effective.

I will never forget that day or any of the victims or their families, and I hope America never forgets them as well. We are memorializing now their wonderful lives by acts of kindness, but the best and truest way to memorialize them is to approve effective, common sense measures against gun violence.

In the aftermath of those horrific events of December 14, all of Connecticut, certainly in Newtown, and our State came together to lift those who were so devastatingly impacted, and those families have shown incredible strength. They sat in the gallery, they came to visit us and our colleagues urging action. Congress’s failure to act is contemptible and unacceptable and a betrayal of those individuals. The action that is ultimately truest and bestest as a memorial to those individuals. The action that is ultimately truest and bestest as a memorial to them will be for this Congress to act.

In Newtown and around the Nation, every community in some way was affected in those days and in some way came together with Newtown. So my hope is still that that spirit will be an inspiration to action, that it will be an impetus to the Congress for effective, commonsense measures that will protect countless others who are in danger and who will die if Congress does not act.

More than 60,000 firearm deaths have occurred since December 14, 2012. There are 32,000 firearm deaths per year. Those families have demonstrated unrelenting resolve, and so should we, and we will. It took more than 10 years for the Brady law to be approved, even after a President of the United States was almost assassinated and his Press Secretary, Jim Brady, was severely injured and paralyzed.

I hope we take 10 years for action to be taken by Congress, but we need the persistence and perseverance that will carry us through whatever it takes to achieve lasting reform.

I have been proud to serve as a member of the Judiciary Committee and to have worked hard for this measure, helping to lead the effort to approve the ban on high-capacity magazines as well as assault weapons and background checks. But a mental health initiative and school safety initiative are not what we need do. I will continue my work on those efforts—mental health and school safety bills I have introduced, including the Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act.

Lori Jackson was estranged from her husband. She obtained a court order against him because of the real evidence of danger from him. Unfortunately, that court order failed to save her life because it was only temporary, and it failed to take away the gun her husband had. The Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act will fill that gap in our laws now.

Women are five times as likely to die as a result of domestic violence when there is a gun in the home. One in five women are victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives. That is the reason we need to continue this fight on many fronts. Since that day or about then, on December 14, I have worn a bracelet and I still do. The writing has faded and is no longer visible, but the one thing it said was, “Love wins.” I truly believe that love won in Newtown, that love won when Connecticut’s legislature passed a strong and effective measure. It was the next step. It is not the end of the work, but the next step. I believe that love won through the grace and courage and strength of the families, the children, the parents, and the loved ones of the teachers who lost their lives.

I believe love wins every day in our classrooms around the Nation when teachers work hard—and they work hard—and resolve to keep children safe. Love wins every day when someone stands up and speaks out against gun violence. Love will win, eventually. Honor will win. We will honor those children, and we will celebrate the love they felt so deeply and unconditionally—as only children can—unqualifiedly for their parents and their community. I believe that love will win eventually as long as we keep working.

Thank you, the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

FAA MODERNIZATION AND REFORM ACT OF 2012

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 2614 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2614) to amend certain provisions of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered as made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
The bill (S. 2614) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

The bill would make a number of changes to the Federal Financial Transparency Act of 2006. The bill was introduced by Senator Coburn and would require the Federal Government to provide more detailed information about how it spends money.

Mr. President, I wish to salute my friend and colleague Mr. McCain. He has been an unimpeachable voice on this issue, and has said that the release of this report is a step forward in establishing greater transparency in government.

So before we leave here, I will offer a unanimous consent request, but the question that I am asking is, Why would anybody in this body object to us knowing where our money is being spent? Why would anybody in this body object to knowing how many programs each agency has? Why would anybody in this body object to coordinating with all the transparency things that we have done thus far and make it so that 2 years from now the American people can actually see where their money is being spent, how much is being spent, and where the money is being spent?

The American people are owed that transparency, and this administration, through its claims of being the most transparent administration should step forward and release this hold.

Before I go any further, I wish to recognize the many years of hard work, diligence, and courage—yes, courage—on the part of Congress and the Intelligence Committee. As a representative of one of the most targeted cities in the world, I feel compelled to speak about this report. We have a long way to go on many different fronts, and I believe that the transparency act and the Bush administration said when we said we are going to have the transparency act and usaspending.gov. It was the start of a great Nation and only an open and honest administration should step forward and release this hold.

First, the many members of the CIA and the intelligence community selflessly serve this Nation and put their lives on the line. They are patriots who are committed to protecting and serving America, keeping us safe from those very real enemies who are actively seeking to do the unspeakable in terms of harm. We owe the members of the CIA and the Intelligence Committee their due recognition and gratitude. We salute them for protecting us. In many cases, they have sacrificed what it stands for. It is the right to hold us accountable to the American people, and it has everything to do with honesty, it has nothing to do with with integrity, it has nothing to do with truth, it has nothing to do with reality. It has nothing to do with with the American people, and it has everything to do with the American people, and it has every-
this report. She has been a fearless, yet level-headed chair of the committee for many years now. She is just what you would envision as an ideal chair.

I thank her for her excellent report, where once again, she has been both fearless and level-headed.

An extensive report like this one deserves careful review, but at first reading, two things have been made very clear. First, the CIA undoubtedly went too far in its pursuit of intelligence from captured sources abroad. As I have said in formal proceedings in this legislature before, I am absolutely opposed to waterboarding and deplore some of the tactics depicted in this report.

I believe our intelligence community can obtain information using methods that are not anathema to our Nation’s values.

Second, the report makes it clear that there was a breakdown of communication between the CIA and the administration at the time of these events.

There is no doubt we live in a dangerous world. There are threats abroad and threats here in the homeland. We cannot expect to counteract these threats and protect our people and to do so in a responsible way if the CIA and the executive branch are not effectively communicating with one another.

I was astounded to learn that the report asserts that over 4 years went by without the President having full knowledge of the CIA’s actions detailed in this report. That simply cannot be the modus operandi for the CIA. They are accountable to the government and to the people and cannot behave without proper oversight. There is so much to unpack in this report. I urge my colleagues patience and a careful examination of the work produced by my colleagues on the Intelligence Committee. It should be out in front of the American people, and now it is. We must take a very, very close look at it.

The United States, its government, and its people must take stock of this report. We have hundreds of thousands of brave men and women posted around the world, tasked with the difficult job of keeping us safe. We should always be mindful of their dedication and thankful for their sacrifice. Their mission is demanding. It is never ending and nearly all of them perform with a level of professionalism beyond reproach.

However, from time to time, it is important for us to review those actions to make sure they meet the hard scrutiny of this Nation’s ideals while still protecting its people.

In that light the Senate Intelligence Committee report is an extremely important document for us all to examine.

Again, I thank my colleagues, especially my friend Senator FEINSTEIN, for their exhaustive and exemplary work on this report.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask without objection, it is so ordered.

ISAAC AND AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE

Mr. CASEY. I rise today to discuss the fight against ISIS and the debate we are having here in the Senate and across the country about the authorization for use of military force, known by the acronym AUMF.

The debate about the appropriate use of force is, I believe, healthy for our country. The American people deserve to know when and how our service-members are going to be deployed to protect our national security interests. All Senators in this body have an abiding interest and responsibility to ensure that there was a breakdown of communication between the CIA and the Administration.

The debate about the appropriate use of force is about our strategy, to thoroughly debate the strategy and the issues that relate to the authorization for use of force, and then we have an obligation to vote on the grave question of the use of military force.

It has been 6 months since ISIS began its major offensive in Iraq, taking control of key borderer crossings and the city of Mosul. The President has laid out since that time a strategy for combating ISIS through all available means and very, very close coordination and providing humanitarian assistance.

The Administration has taken these actions under previous authorizations. In these weeks and months I have consulted with Administration officials, both military and civilian, outside experts and former diplomats, as I know many of our colleagues have. I also have listened to my colleagues in Pennsylvania. We owe it to the American people to have a debate and a vote on a new authorization for use of military force that clarifies, and if necessary, places limitations on the President’s authority in this fight against ISIS.

We know that 1,830 service-members, 91 of whom were from Pennsylvania, have been killed in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and 3,482 service-members, 91 of whom were from Pennsylvania, have been killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Those are two conflicts, and in Pennsylvania alone the killed-in-action number was 91 in Afghanistan and 197 in Iraq.

Thousands more have been wounded in action from Pennsylvania and from across the country—some of them grievously, permanently injured because of their service. I am mindful, as I know many are here, that with both the 2001 and 2002 authorizations for use of force, Congress quickly to take that action. I understand that. We know in hindsight that in the case of Iraq, at least, mistakes were made because leaders did not take the time to debate and ask tough questions and demand answers to those tough questions. I believe it is appropriate for us to do the following: thoroughly debate this AUMF, as we should every time we consider sending U.S. servicemembers into harm’s way; and second, to continually reassess and debate our strategy against ISIS to ensure it is achieving our national security goals.

We all hope to develop an AUMF that has broad bipartisan support. However, our Nation must have a President clear and specific authority to continue the fight against ISIS.

The Administration should have come forward with a recommendation early in the process for what they would like to see in an authorization for use of military force. I welcomed Secretary Kerry’s testimony before the Foreign Relations Committee yesterday. That hearing was an important step in the right direction.

It is appropriate for the Congress to not only conduct rigorous oversight of the executive branch’s decisions about military force but also, from time to time, to take steps to shape or place boundaries around the Administration’s strategy. I applaud Chairman MENENDEZ’s efforts to craft an AUMF proposal that satisfies the needs of the Administration and the concerns from both sides of the aisle and across our country.

The Congress should move forward with an authorization for use of military force which addresses the following:

First, this AUMF should not allow for any significant deployment of U.S. troops in traditional ground combat roles. This is consistent with what the President has determined is necessary at this time. We also need to see Nations in the region step up to do the fighting. We can’t just have—to use an Administration term—“coat holders.” That is someone that says you go do the fighting and I will hold your coat while you fight.

We need a real coalition which we have in place now but it has to be built and strengthened and fortified and sustained. That coalition, especially in the case of members of the coalition from the region, will contribute fighters to the battlefield because it is their region. It is their conflict as much as it is our other nations in the coalition.

When I say we cannot have a coalition of coat holders, I am serious about that. We need a coalition that will help us. We have already done a lot, and our people have, our taxpayers have, and our soldiers have. We need a real coalition that will do the fighting.

We also know that ISIS has taken American hostages before and will try to do so again. If, for example, the Administration has a chance to bring one hostage back, the Administration will not want them—the Administration—to take action expeditiously and with clear authority. If the Administration disagrees with the current proposal for
authorization for exceptional circumstances or operations—for example, a search and rescue operation inside Syria or the recovery of an American hostage—the Administration should propose to us language they find acceptable to use in those difficult situations.

Second, this authorization for force should not be geographically limited. ISIS and its associated forces do not and will not respect sovereign borders. However, it is clear that the military strategy that requires the Administration consult closely with Congress if they want to consider U.S. military operation against ISIS in countries beyond Iraq and Syria. Expanding this fight geographically could have the unintended effect of prompting unrest in other countries or pushing recruits into the arms of ISIS.

Third, this authorization for use of force should have a reasonable timeline—something along the order of 3 years. It is both explicitly designed for the administration to extend it a bit longer if needed. We cannot know exactly how long it will take us and our coalition partners to degrade and defeat this terrorist organization. However, it should not end in the way that the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs were. We have seen how difficult it is to shift gears or even to repeal an existing authorization for use of military force.

Pursuant to this, this authorization must also address the nonmilitary components of the administration's strategy. I was one of the first Members to call for greater support for the moderate well-vetted Syrian opposition. We know that opposition, especially in the north, is fragmented, suffering, especially under the continual onslaught from Mr. Assad's barrel bombs—not to mention other actions he has taken against the opposition.

Although efforts to support them are ramping up, the brutal Assad regime has done significant damage. That is an understatement. Further, the Assad regime continues to commit unspeakable atrocities against Syrian civilians, starving, torturing, or indiscriminately murdering them in violation of international law and U.N. Security Council resolutions—that is plural.

I have also emphasized on a bipartisan basis several years ago the importance of cutting off ISIS's finances. This could include airstrikes against known oil-smuggling pipelines or additional sanctions against facilitators. I should say with Senator Burr that the financing efforts or the cutting off of the financing was this year. I have worked with him in other years on other parts of Syrian policy.

As we have heard multiple administrations, and I might say, the same, is a purely military solution to this conflict with ISIS. I would also say that if we have an authorization for force, this bill should include strict reporting requirements that press the administration to answer a series of questions:

First, what are you going to do to support the moderate opposition in Syria? I have raised this over and over again with the administration and still do not have satisfactory answers. Second, what steps are you taking to address the Assad regime's brutal barrel bomb campaign, and what are you doing to bring about a political settlement to the conflict in Syria? The Assad regime's military campaign to help cut off the financial support that ISIS is receiving, as I mentioned before?

There is strong bipartisan agreement that ISIS proposes a clear and proximate threat to our national security interests and those of our partners. I believe we can reach the same level of bipartisan agreement on an authorization for the use of military force.

We have no greater or more sacred responsibility than to carefully and thoroughly consider when and how we send American men and women in uniform into harm's way. I urge my colleagues in both parties to engage in this debate and to work expeditiously to pass an authorization for the use of military force. I would have preferred and I know many would have preferred that we would have passed a bill before we adjourn this year, knowing that in this holiday season there are service members already deployed away from home, from their families, to support this operation, Operation Inherent Resolve.

If we cannot get that done by the end of this year, where the debate would not be fully developed enough to pass an authorization, we must get it done early in 2015. It must be among our first orders of business in the new year, in the new Congress when we come back in early January. This is a very important operation. It is among the highest and most difficult responsibilities Congress has. I believe we will discharge that obligation with a full debate, with a debate that is well-informed and a debate that every Member participates in before we make a decision about the authorization for the use of force.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss Title 30 of the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, the title of which has become referred to as the lands package. This is a critical component in most technology, the administration to our partners. I believe we can reach the same level of bipartisan agreement on an authorization for the use of military force.

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I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss Title 30 of the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, the title of which has become referred to as the lands package. As with most of the items Congress considers, this provision has generated some controversy. For my part, however, it appears that many of the concerns here are outpaced by the substance of good public lands policy being advanced here and the economic development opportunities it will generate.

The bill the committees of jurisdiction involved in the package all have some form of committee procedure in either the House or the Senate. Thirty-four of the measures have passed the House on suspension. Another nine have passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

It is also worth noting that because the Federal Government owns so much land, particularly in the Western States, Congress must approve all sorts of transactions involving these public lands no matter how small the tracts might be.

On the substance, I believe the bipartisan group who assembled this package of bills struck the right balance, deferring to intrastate priorities that will promote responsible economic growth. In Arizona, for example, I was pleased to see the inclusion of the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act. This is a bill sponsored by my colleague John McCain. I was happy to join him to advance the measure. It also shares bipartisan support in the House among Members of Arizona’s House delegation: Representatives Gosar, Kirkpatrick, Frank, S McSweeney.

At its core, this bill will facilitate access to the largest copper ore deposit in North America. By some estimates the economic impact of the mine could exceed $40 billion over the course of the mining operations. It will support approximately 3,700 direct and indirect jobs annually.

It is also worth noting that copper is a critical component in most technologies, from weapon systems, to computers, to automobiles to turbines that generate electricity, to name a few. This mine would supply an amount of copper roughly equivalent to 25 percent of the U.S. demand.

Also notable is what this bill does in terms of conservation. It would preserve more than 5,300 acres of conservation land in Arizona.

Despite the broad benefits for economic development and conservation achieved by the bill, there has been some opposition. For instance, the land exchange would not occur until after the completion of a NEPA environmental impact statement. It will also generate a special management area around the large escarpment known as Apache Leap. Likewise, it will provide protections for Native Americans to continue traditional gathering and ceremonies after the land exchange has been completed so long as it remains safe to do so.

I would also note that Resolution Copper has proactively sought ways to address its anticipated water needs. To that end, I was encouraged to learn that the company has entered into a contract with the Gila River Indian Community to use a portion of the tribe’s water supplies to meet the long-term needs of the mine. This is further evidence of how the measure, even before it is passed, demonstrates the economic opportunities for Indian and non-Indian communities around the State.
I would also like to take a moment to talk about a couple of the other positive provisions in the lands package. From a resource management perspective, it would support further economic activity on Federal lands by conveying approximately 110,000 acres of lands to the State. This includes not only the aforementioned Resolution Copper project but also a Copper mine in Nevada, timber harvests in Alaska, and coal production in Montana.

The lands package also includes a provision that would streamline the permitting process for oil and gas leases. This is critical. We have seen the pace of oil and gas production on Federal lands decline in recent years while development on private lands has increased significantly. This measure also improves the permitting process for grazing and makes a downpayment on so-called payment in lieu of taxes, or PILT. This is critical in helping communities burdened with tracts of Federal land to meet the obligations of providing services related to those lands without a corresponding tax base. This applies to a lot of the land in rural Arizona.

Although people can disagree, I believe this is a good measure for the State of Arizona and the United States as a whole. I am pleased to see that it will advance as part of this package. I know the lands package was agreement firm Munich Re, 8 out of 10 Americans believe the climate is changing.

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. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am on the floor this evening for “Time to Wake Up” speech No. 82.

Scientists tell us that the evidence for climate change is now “unequivocal”—not a word often used in scientific writing. The American people know that climate change is real.

In a new poll released by the insurance firm Munich Re, 8 out of 10 Americans believe the climate is changing. They see it happening around them. The American people also know we need to cut our carbon pollution if we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change. We can’t keep burning carbon-polluting fossil fuels indiscriminately. Seven out of 10 Americans put using more carbon-free energy, such as solar and wind, among the best ways to battle climate change.

Changing the way we generate power will help cut emissions from the largest sources of carbon pollution in the country, our coal-fired powerplants. The Energy Information Administration notes that coal generates less than 40 percent of our country’s electricity while it generates 75 percent of the carbon pollution from the power sector.

The Obama administration has been denounced by the fossil fuel industry and its various mouthpieces as a “war on coal.” When EPA proposed limits on emission from new powerplants, we heard “war on coal.” When EPA promoted limits on existing powerplants, “war on coal.” For mercury limits, ozone limits, particulate limits, always “war on coal.”

The war on coal is a fabrication. The denial machine, funded by fossil fuel money, is paying top dollar to扩散 people from the harm coal wreaks on us.

The Web site waroncoal.com is owned by American Commitment, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit that has been funded by the Koch brothers-backed group Freedom Partners. War-on-coal is a public relations strategy, a catchphrase, a gimmick that is a distraction to people from the harm coal wrecks on us.

Dr. Drew Shindell is a professor at Duke University. He worked at NASA for two decades. Last week in the Environment and Public Works Committee he said: “I think climate change is real.

We hear a lot up here on Capitol Hill about the war on coal; what we forget about is coal’s war on us.

So let’s talk about the so-called war on coal versus coal’s war on us. When Republicans talk about President Obama’s war on coal, they leave a lot out. They leave out that coal companies have shifted to big open-topped mines—which is what is called mountaintop removal—so they can lay off miners and strip away the most valuable part of coal. They leave out that coal simply can’t compete with today’s cheaper, cleaner burning natural gas.

In 2012 Duke Energy’s own CEO acknowledged that EPA’s proposed climate rule for new powerplants was not to blame. This is what he said:

“New climate rule is in line with market forces anyway. We’re not going to build any coal plants in any event. We’re not going to build any coal plants in any event. He continued:

“Coal’s war on us looks like, somebody didn’t get the memo.

On the other side, let’s look at what coal’s war on us looks like. Evidence that mining and burning coal harms our health and our environment and our oceans is undeniable. It is this other side of the coal ledger which hits home in Rhode Island and Connecticut and many other States, and it is that side which the polluters want to ignore and obscure with “war on coal” rhetoric.

Coal burning contributes to the formation of toxic ground-level ozone, which is a cause of the bad air days in my home State of Rhode Island. Kids with asthma in the emergency room in Rhode Island are connected with midwestern powerplants that burn coal and pump often unscrubbed emissions up smokestacks designed to move the smoke downwind—out of State, out of mind.

Don’t overlook our oceans, which absorb about one-third of the carbon pollution being emitted and most of the excess heat. As a result, oceans are becoming more acidic, water temperatures are rising, and sea levels are rising across the globe. In Rhode Island the sea is up nearly 10 inches at the tide gauge at Naval Station Newport since the 1930s, when we had our great hurricane of 1938.

So whether you have a flooded home or are a mom with a child with asthma in the emergency room or somebody...
with coastal property facing 10-inch higher seas, there are costs to coal. This is all virtually indisputable, and it follows immutable laws of nature. Damage to coastal homes and infrastructure from rising seas and erosion, asthma attacks in children triggered by smog, and inundation of agricultural lands by seasonal flooding—all of these costs are real costs to Americans. This other side of the coal ledger counts too.

It hits home in coal country, where blowing up mountaintops pollutes streams and harms folks around the mining operations. West Virginia University has linked the dust thrown up by these mountaintop mines to lung cancer among nearby residents.

Coal-fired powerplants are the biggest sources of mercury pollution in the United States, and they also emit arsenic, acid gases, and other toxins.

Dr. Shindell, whom I mentioned earlier, is an expert in atmospheric chemistry and health. Here is what he told the EPW Committee last week:

Of all of the sources of the emissions that lead to poor air quality in the United States, coal burning is the single largest, causing by my count 70,000 premature deaths per year. That happens to be larger than the total number of Americans killed in all of the years of the Vietnam War by hostile fire.

If you look at the casualties, the Federal Government isn’t waging a war on coal. If there is any war, coal is waging a war on us.

This is business as usual for the polluter industry and its propaganda apparatus. Coal companies have long fought public health standards, mine worker protections, and compensation for ailments such as black lung disease, as well as efforts to address acid rain or reduce toxic pollutants, such as mercury, that cause brain damage in kids.

In 1989 Southern Company’s CEO Edward Addison testified that acid-rain controls would increase electricity rates in States with the most coal power by 10 to 20 percent by 2009. Well, we couldn’t evaluate that prediction then, but now we can. This is a fact: In the 10 States with the most coal, rates actually fell. Big Coal’s war on the truth has a long history.

I recently had the opportunity to visit West Virginia with Senator MANCHIN to learn about what coal means to the Mountain State economy. I get it. We need to care about the miners, the truckers, the powerplant operators, the engineers, and others who make their living in this industry. It would be wrong to ignore their plight, just as it is wrong when the coal industry tries to ignore the effects of its carbon pollution.

I think we need a carbon fee to correct the market and to slow climate change. I know I will hear that is a war on coal. It is not. It is simple fairness. It is simply paying for the mess you cause. That is not war. It is not even punishment. It is just fair accounting, taking both sides of the ledger into account.

When people do that—economists and scientists—they calculate the cost of carbon pollution as what they call the social cost of carbon. The administration estimates the social cost of carbon at around $40 per ton of carbon pollution—$40 per ton. The effective cost to polluters for causing that mess is zero.

My carbon fee bill would correct that. It would even economists and groups as conservative as the American Enterprise Institute agree is a market failure, and then return every dollar of the fee to the American people. That could include transition assistance for coal workers—and assistance for communities far from coal mines, like in Rhode Island, facing these costs of climate change. It is also becoming increasingly clear that a revenue-neutral carbon fee will spur innovation, create jobs, and boost the economy nationwide.

So it is time to end the polluters’ holiday from responsibility. It is time to see through their fanciful war on coal, and protect those facing the effects of coal’s war on us and coal’s war on the truth. It is time to seize the economic benefit of a clean energy economy. It is time to wake up.

I yield the floor to my friend, the distinguished Senator from Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana?

MS. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Rhode Island. I am so happy to follow him on the floor today and to see him again. We have worked together on so many important issues. It is wonderful to see the Presiding Officer to be back on the floor.

I come today for a very special reason. I am so proud to present to the Senate a package of lands bills that have been included in the Defense Authorization Act.

What is significant about this particular package is it is quite large, and it is the first package in almost 6 years and almost three Congresses, which is quite an accomplishment for our committee.

I am so proud of the staff of our committee, Energy and Natural Resources. I made this a priority when I took over as Chair 9 months ago. It was a long shot to see if we could put any package at all together that had eluded us for several Congresses, but I worked very closely with my counterpart, Congressman HASTINGS, in the House. We met several occasions with our top staff and committed to do all we could to see what was possible.

One of the important principles that made this grand compromise possible—and there are Republican bills and Democratic bills; it is very well balanced as between the parties, but also geographically in projects and expansions of new parks, and land transfers. The principle that we followed is it is revenue neutral. Some of these bills raise money, some of these bills spend money, but the lands package is revenue neutral. I think the taxpayer is going to get some extraordinary value in the package being presented today.

In addition, one of the principles I pursued very strongly was to make sure that this package included opportunities for the development of our natural resources. We are very proud of our wilderness areas. We are very proud of our parks. We are very proud of our areas that are off limits to economic development. But there are parts of the Federal landscape of public lands that should be developed—whether it is forests, or oil and gas, or hard-rock mining, for the benefit of the taxpayer and for our overall economy. That was a very important principle for me and of course for Congressman HASTINGS.

We also wanted to make sure that we get the past right. I had a great opportunity to help our only site in Louisiana, Poverty Point, achieve that designation just a few months ago. What an extraordinary action it was to be there when we cut the ribbon on a site that is going to continue to be a place that we believe is over 3,500 years old, with a very sophisticated Native American settlement on these beautiful raised mounds in one of the highest points in the Louisiana-Mississippi delta area. I was excited to see that San Antonio missions will be next. This puts these sites on the same level as the Grand Canyon and other really extraordinary international places of cultural significance. So that is one example.

Another new national park that has only taken us 200-something-plus years, with Senator CARPER and Senator COONS, to get a national park in Delaware. They were the only State without a national park. Although they are small in size, they are very important as they are the first State in the Union. So as it would be appropriate, the name of their park is the First State National Park. So now every State in the United States has at least one national park. Of course, some States have many more. Our commitment is to continue this great heritage for our Nation for generations to come.
This package represents a major milestone in our work to reach a consensus across party lines. We will clear much of the backlog of the public lands bill that has built up in the Senate, last passed in the omnibus package 5 years ago. It is worth noting the Congressional Budget Office has again scored this as revenue neutral.

Let me speak for a minute about a few Louisiana priorities. Although most of these bills do not have anything to do with Louisiana—we did not have any major expansion efforts of any of our parks to present—I did wish to discuss two meaningful impacts on the economy of my State.

The first provision will ensure the economic vitality and viability of the Toledo Bend hydroelectric project located on the beautiful Sabine River on the Louisiana-Texas border. Toledo Bend provides power to thousands of Louisiana homes and serves as an economic engine for our western border with Texas.

The project was first licensed in 1963. Russell Long and our congressional delegation were very instrumental in getting this dam for hydropower established in our State. Although we are known for oil and gas, we do have some hydropower in our State. It was relicensed in August—I am proud of, with my support and leadership—for an additional 50 years, which is a terrific certification on the part of the Federal Government that this project is fulfilling its original goals and objectives. Not only is it generating power, it is providing an extraordinary recreational opportunity.

This project includes a dam which impounds a 185,000-acre reservoir, the largest manmade body of water in the South, and a powerhouse capable of generating 81 megawatts of electricity. The project is operated primarily for water supply purposes, secondarily for hydropower and recreationally for recreation. But it has become an extremely popular recreational site both on the Texas side and on the Louisiana side. It is an interesting project, because we have joint jurisdiction. The Texas Commission runs its side, the Louisiana Commission runs our side, and it occupies about 3,800 acres of Federal land in a narrow 3-foot strip along the shore of the reservoir where it borders the Sabine National Forest and Indian mound.

Under current law, just because of that 3-foot strip, the forest, land, and other Federal agencies were claiming jurisdiction just because of this very narrow edge around the Toledo Bend. So we eliminated their jurisdiction. It gave the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the basis to impose annual charges. We didn’t think that would be fair, so we carved out a much-needed exemption that would prohibit undue regulation, and allow the local government and appropriate Federal agencies to determine the best use of this land. Local zoning ordinances will apply, local rules about what areas can be developed privately and publicly. There is plenty of public access to this reservoir. We hope, and I anticipate, that it will be another momentum builder for the economic development in this region.

Significantly, too—I have worked on it for many years, because I have been aware of this since I was a legislator years ago and the real need to develop this as a really first-class destination for resorts, hotels, marinas—not only for the people who live and have family and friends who may come from all over the region.

In addition, Fort Polk is situated only about 40 miles away. So it is within driving distance for soldiers and their families for recreation. It is really quite beautiful. It is isolated. We don’t have quite enough highway infrastructure I think for us to develop it in a way that we really should, but that will come with time. But this was a very important milestone in the 50-year certification to move forward. And now local communities—the parishes of Sabine, DeSoto, and Vernon—can lean forward and dream and plan for how this area can be developed.

The second provision authorizes the National Park Service to study areas along the Lower Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish for the potential addition to the national park system. It is just a study, but this Lower Mississippi area is of national importance. It is, of course, rich in cultural history. It was first traveled by Spanish explorers in the 1500s and later, in 1699, became the site of the first fortification on the Lower Mississippi River known as Fort Mississipi.

The area to be studied includes several other historic fortifications, including Fort St. Philip, which played a key role during the Battle of New Orleans and was the final major battle of the War of 1812. While Andrew Jackson’s forces were successful on land, it was William Overton’s 10-day defense of the back door to New Orleans that helped seal the American victory.

Fort Philip, and its companion fort located across the river, Fort Jackson, also played a pivotal role during the siege of New Orleans during the Civil War. These two forts, with their withering crossfire, held the Union Navy at bay for 12 days. And the history goes on and on.

These special places are tangible links to the dramatic stories of our Nation’s history and deserve to be studied for inclusion in our national park system.

Let me underscore again how important I think is the principle of developing our public resources in the right ways—preserving what we can, conserving what we must, but developing what we can for the benefit of the taxpayer. That is one of the underlying principles of this grand compromise. I recognize that to break the logjam, particularly with the House of Representatives, we needed to find a way to address both the development of natural resources and conservation and preservation, as well as the expansion of our public lands and public parks. This package reflects that balance. Let me mention a couple of the economic development provisions. The Tongass National Forest to Sealaska, an Alaska Native corporation, to complete its land settlement under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. This legislation has been a longstanding priority for Senator Begich and Senator Murkowski. I thank them both for their extraordinary leadership in working on this land transfer.

This bill has been considered in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for years, and the final language was carefully negotiated with the Department of Agriculture. So I thank the Department for helping us work out this extraordinary land transfer.

Another provision which was included at the request of Senator McCain and Senator Flake and which has been worked on by the Arizona delegation is a land exchange in Arizona between the Forest Service and the Resolution Copper company to allow development of a major copper mine. My friend Trent Franks has been a leader in this area as well in the House and in his legislative district, and I have had good conversations with him. This may be the biggest copper company in the United States of America. It is also one of the richest in the world.

There was some original language in this legislation that was perhaps not as responsible as it should have been—or as sensitive maybe is a better word—to some of the needs or requests of some of the nearby tribes. We tried to address some of their concerns in the final language. We haven’t, of course, settled all complaints, but we have settled as many as we can.

This is an extraordinarily valuable asset for the people of the United States, and the people of the United States own this land and right now own the potential copper that would come out of this mine. I most certainly, through my staff, have insisted and negotiated that the taxpayers get a fair exchange, that they are not underpaid in any way in this transfer and this dedication. I am very proud that the Forest Service, which will continue under the authorization in this bill to negotiate, will make sure the taxpayers of the United States are paid fairly for the exchange of this very valuable property, which will create many jobs in Arizona and also create opportunities for economic development in our whole country and around the world, as copper is a very valuable substance. One of my overriding conditions for approval was to make sure that taxpayers get a full benefit.

While the Sealaska and Resolution Copper provisions have drawn most of the attention in this bill, in total the
package includes many other prominent Federal land conveyances, all of which will allow for community services such as cemeteries and schools, provide land for development, and in many cases have been priorities of Senators for years. I am pleased to have played a pivotal role in building this comprehensive package, and it took a lot of compromising and an awful lot of hard work.

I thank the lead Senator on the Defense bill, Mr. Levin, for allowing us to be part of the Defense authorization bill, along with Senator Jack Reed, whom I spoke with on many occasions along with Senator Levin, because without their support I don’t know if this bill could have survived standing alone with one or two strong objections still out there. But they can’t fight the Defense authorization bill. Tucking it in a bill that is going to pass and will not be vetoed is a way to move these bills forward.

It does enjoy broad and deep bipartisan support, from both Members of Congress, and hundreds of staffers have spent hours and hours, and the executive branch—particularly Interior and Agriculture—has spent hours negotiating the fine details of this bill on the Senate floor.

I thank David Brooks, who is a leader staff member with our committee, Energy and Natural Resources, who has been a magnificent staffer here in the Senate for many years. He is known as the Senate expert on public lands and that title certainly is appropriate for a man who knows so much and cares deeply about our public spaces and finding the right balance between preservation, conservation, and development.

I thank Liz Craddock, who is my staff director for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, who was absolutely tireless. Not only running the committee staff, but sometimes when I was on the campaign trail, but also taking appropriate time to come and work with me for re-election and in addition putting together, with David, this package while all this was going on is really a testament to their professionalism. I thank them very much.

I thank all the Members of this particularly for their patience and understanding as we worked through this portfolio of bills that I hope will be passed as well. I say that because I think that it is possible to find common ground if we are willing to work hard enough to find it. We need to have our eyes open a little wider. We need to put our shoulder to the wheel a little bit stronger, and if we can do that, we can move a lot of significant legislation through that benefits generations of our citizens and taxpayers for years to come.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. HENNEN) Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I have come down to the floor today to talk about the package of public lands measures included in the House-passed Defense bill. I am told we are anyway, I will likely vote on that bill as early as tomorrow in the Senate.

Within the lands package is a measure that worked on the bill, the Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act.

The watershed, which is pictured here, is a beautiful parcel of national forest land up the road from Durango in the southwest corner of Colorado. I will say at the outset that our office may have introduced the bill in the Senate, but it was really the people I represent in southwest Colorado who wrote every bit of this piece of legislation.

Over 6 years ago, a diverse group of local citizens, mountain bikers, anglers, outfitters, local officials, and many others all got together to talk about the future of the land. Everyone involved liked to visit the area for recreation or to do business there. We discussed developing a plan to manage the area so everyone could enjoy it and benefit from the multiple uses well into the future.

Over the Memorial Day weekend in 2011, the Hermosa workgroup invited me through the watershed and to join the discussion, and we took them up on that offer.

We loaded up the van, drove to Durango, and met the working group at the Hermosa Creek trailhead.

My youngest daughter Anne, who was then probably about 8, made a hiking stick out of a nearby fallen branch, and we started up the trail with 40 or so others from the local community.

The President asks this area well. As we climbed higher and higher, we were overcome by the beauty around us and the forests and valleys and crystal-clear streams and unspoiled views in almost every direction.

After about an hour, the group pulled off the forest service trail into a meadow, and as Anne, Halina, and Caroline Bennet, my three daughters, made me a dandelion necklace out of the dandelions that were there, we started a discussion about what this area meant to the people who were on this trip.

The sportsmen came to fish for native Colorado cutthroat trout and for back-country elk hunting. The mountain bikers came to track riding trails known throughout the country and throughout the world. The local water districts love Hermosa because it provides clean water for the city of Durango, and workers in the timber and mining industry stress that some of the watershed could contribute to extractive development in the future.

The upshot of the discussion we had in the meadow that afternoon was an agreement to work together on a bill, a balanced bill that managed the watershed so it would contribute to the local economy long into the future. More than just working on this bill, I think
the people in that meadow set out to prove that people in this country can still work together and set an example for the U.S. Congress.

After nearly 3½ years of negotiations since that hike, we are on the verge of passing that bill and sending it to the President for his signature. The Hermosa Creek Watershed Protection Act governs the entire watershed. It includes provisions to allow for multiple uses, such as timber harvesting for forest management, fish and wildlife habitat for Colorado’s snowmobilers—a critical proviso to allow Silverton’s winter economy to continue to prosper.

The bill enhances opportunities for backcountry skiing and snowmobiling. It is the result of the great work of Trout Unlimited and Colorado Parks and Wildlife to reintroduce native cutthroat trout to the watershed.

The bill also adds—importantly—nearly 40,000 acres to the National Wilderness Preservation System, lands that provide unique and important opportunities for solitude and reflection, lands that will remain undeveloped forever so that they will always have clear water, fish, and lush forests for local outfitters to take clients into the forest on horseback.

I am proud to report that the bill has the unanimous bipartisan backing of the two county commissions involved, the San Juan County Commission and the La Plata County Commission. I thank those commissioners for their leadership, collaboration, and their vision, and the two local towns, Durango and Silverton. I also thank the support of the Hermosa Creek Workgroup, ranging from hardrock miners to environmental groups. These are the people we say can never get along and can never get anything done because everybody has to get only their position and disregard the position that the other has, and we have proven that is not true, as I said, ranging from hardrock miners to environmental groups such as the San Juan Citizens Alliance, Conservation Colorado, and The Wilderness Society.

It has the support of sportsmen, Trout Unlimited, and the back-country hunters and anglers.

The Hermosa bill is also supported by the local water district, the Southwestern Water Conservation District.

The outdoor recreation community—including the Colorado Snowmobile Association, Colorado Off-Highway Vehicles, the Trails 2000 mountain bike group—supports the measure. And support for Hermosa is especially strong from the local business community. Companies as diverse as fly shops, car dealerships, the Durango Chamber, and Durango Flatsheet Systems, one of the area’s largest employers, all agree that protected public lands add to the region’s quality of life and help them attract topnotch talent to the region.

This bill grew from the grassroots up. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents worked together to cement a long-term plan for their community’s future. I thank Senator Udall, a long-time champion for Colorado’s public lands and wilderness, for joining me as a co-sponsor of the bill. I also wish to thank Congressman Scott Tipton, our partner in the House. This bill and demonstrating that bipartisanship still exists in some corners of the Capitol. He has been outstanding to work with, as has his staff, and I look forward to collaborating on other conservation measures in the future.

To close and bring this back to the beginning—I see my colleague is here— I don’t have to convince most people that Colorado is a special place. Many people from all over the United States have been to our State to ski our mountains, run our rivers, or climb a 14er.

The Hermosa Creek watershed represents some of the best Colorado has to offer. We have to protect it, and that is what this bill does. However, in some respects, I wish Hermosa didn’t have to pass this way. This lands package is a great achievement. It came through a robust bipartisan, bicameral process, and that is something truly to be commended.

At the same time, I think the Hermosa Creek bill could have passed by unanimous consent many years ago as a stand-alone bill, or as part of another smaller, bipartisan, bicameral package that didn’t have to wait almost 6 years while local communities all across the country have been left limbo. The people there don’t work on the same time that people here work, and their expectations are that we are going to move things along. No one should object to bipartisan, commonsense measures that are widely supported. But instead of objection I urge on the bill.

I urge a "yes" vote. I thank the Presiding Officer for all of his work to make sure we could bring this lands bill together with the NDAA bill. I urge a "yes" vote. I thank the Presiding Officer, and I thank my colleague from Alaska for allowing me to go ahead with my remarks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I thank my colleague and his comment about the NDAA. It’s a provision for allowing him to go first. I think the Senator from Colorado was scheduled to go first, and we were just a little bit behind, so I was pleased to listen to my friend’s comments about one of the provisions in this NDAA lands bill, and I thank him for those comments.

I also wish to acknowledge the comments of the Senator from Louisiana, our chairman of the Energy Committee. I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with her as the ranking member on the committee now for the past 6 to 8 months since she has held the chair. But even before that, I have had the honor and privilege of working with her on so many energy issues.

As the Senator from Louisiana was detailing the contents of this lands package that is contained within the NDAA bill, I was reminded of what a good partnership we have had working together on the committee. They are not exactly easy issues that come before us. They generate a level of controversy—certainly a level of debate and dialog—but there has always been
good, civil debate and dialog as we try to work through some very difficult issues.

As Senator LANDRIEU leaves the Senate at the end of this Congress, I want her to know, as I stated in committee just a few moments ago, how much I appreciated the good work she has done, not only on energy issues, but the good work she has done on behalf of the people whom she represents in Louisiana.

If there is anybody who exemplifies the word "tenacious," it is MARY LARDRIEU, and I think the people of her State have enjoyed the benefit of the very tenacious approach and how my friend and colleague takes care of those she represents. I thank the Senator for that.

I too wish to add my comments this evening in support of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, and more specifically, to the public lands package, which is title 30.

As Senator LARDRIEU just mentioned in greater specificity, what we have here is a collection of smaller bills related to public lands. Just because a bill is small and somewhat discreet in terms of its area of impact, it doesn’t mean these are not issues that are critically important to people of that State, critically important to that region.

With so many of these bills that are now part of this package, we have spent months—and in some cases we have spent years—how long it has taken to bringing these amendments and working through these packages. We have spent weeks negotiating which ones will actually be in the package that we have before us in title 30. We have now arrived at this point where we have a bipartisan and bicameral consensus in support of it.

What I wish to do with my time this evening is to explain how this package is fundamental to economic development in our Western States.

I also wish to talk about what this package is as well as what it isn’t because I think there have been some misconceptions about what is contained in this. I also want to provide a little bit of insight into the process by which we crafted this and why it is now time for the Senate to do what the House has done in passing it by a very overwhelming margin.

But before we get into the substance of some of these measures, I think the Senate needs to understand why we want this package, why we need to pass it now rather than waiting until the next Congress or perhaps the one after that or perhaps whenever we have a slow day around here. So I will proceed to the basics of some of this.

It is probably best described by just looking at the map. The dominant landowner in the United States is the Federal Government. The Federal Government, like it or not, owns roughly 640 million acres of land. That is more than one-fourth of all land in the United States. So many of our Eastern States the Federal Government owns just a small fraction of the land. But if we look to some of our Western States and we look at the extent of Federal ownership, this is where the picture comes into greater focus. In Wyoming, 42.3 percent of the State of Wyoming is held in Federal lands. In my State of Alaska, 65 percent of the State of Alaska is federally owned. Nevada walks away with No. 1, where over 80 percent of the State of Nevada is held by the Federal Government.

For folks back on the east coast, what does that mean? Let’s say it presents some real difficulties for us in the West. Say we want a minor land conveyance—not a big deal. But if a person lives in a State such as New York with less than 1 percent of Federal lands, chances are that person can go see their attorney and they can have a document drawn up, and they might even be able to draw it up in 1 day or maybe it takes a couple of days, but a person can complete a transaction without too much difficulty. If a person tries to do a conveyance in 1 of our 12 Western States, where 93 percent of the Federal lands are, it is a different story. Chances are a person will not have the same luck as they might in New York. Even if they are seeking the smallest of land conveyances, say 1 acre—just 1 acre is all we want to move from the Federal side to the State side, to a local side, to the private side—a person does not go see an attorney. A person needs to go talk to one of the four Federal land management agencies in their area, and they do not show up. Then a person needs to go see their Congressman and their Senator because they need Federal legislation to make it happen. It honestly takes an act of Congress. In the East, in places where land ownership is different than it is in the West, people can handle all of these conveyances. We can work through some of what we are seeing in this public lands package. We can do it through negotiation and amendments. But in the West, it takes an act of Congress for a land conveyance.

That is why we see hundreds of public lands bills introduced each Congress. It underscores why their passage is so critical to economic development and job creation in our country. I have to admit, I am pleased the Senator from New Mexico is in the chair today, coming from a State such as New Mexico, which is at 41.77 percent. The Presiding Officer knows full well what we are talking about. But when we talk about the imperative of our communities that are asking for a little relief when it comes to a land conveyance, and the level it rises to is not the city council, it is not the mayor or the legislator or the Governor, it is a Congressman and Senator, and ultimately signed into law by the President of the United States.

So what are we actually looking at in this package? After truly months of negotiations, perhaps a few near-death experiences, and many temptations to walk away, we have agreed to a balanced, budget-neutral, revenue-neutral, bipartisan, bicameral, bipartisan package contained in title 30. These provisions that are contained here will create jobs. They will create thousands of American jobs. They will cut the red tape to energy production. They will boost American mineral production. They protect multiple use and public recreation. They convey Federal land for community development. They protect our treasured lands through measured energy development. They provide new means for private dollars to support our national parks.

We have included a bipartisan provision to streamline oil and gas permitting on our Federal lands. It is supported by the Western States Association. It cleared the Senate by unanimous consent before the elections. So think about that. So many things get tied up in the politics of elections, but this was so important to so many, on a bipartisan basis, that when we moved it through the Senate by unanimous consent.

We have included a provision to address the backlog of the grazing permit renewal for our western ranchers to ease their burdens. Then there is another provision we have included that will help to hopefully protect the collapse of the timber industry in Southeastern Alaska with the conveyance to our Alaskan Native peoples—a promise that has been 40 years—40 years—in achieving.

We have included a major priority for Arizona. This is an issue Senator LARDRIEU spoke to, an extensively negotiated bill that included Senator MCCAIN and Senator FLAKE. I know Senator MCCAIN has been working on this for a decade to find a way to responsibly open a copper deposit that could meet 25 percent of our country’s needs while at the same time taking incredible care to protect and maintain access to cultural resources and traditional uses of those lands.

There is another provision that relates to Nevada that facilitates development of a different copper mine. But now think about this. We are going to have an opportunity in Nevada and in Arizona to extract copper. Our military needs copper. The construction industry needs it. The automotive industry needs copper. The renewable energy industry needs copper. There are so many benefits to be had here.

We also have some provisions that are contained in this package that perhaps generate fewer headlines but are still hugely important for local communities. Probably the best example of
this is a provision for a school in Min-
nesota. This is a measure we have been
working on with Senator FRANKEN. But
it facilitates a land exchange of just 1
acre—1 acre to a school in Minnesota—
a single, lonely acre. We probably have
people saying, So do we really have to
pass a bill in order to make that hap-
pen? The simple answer is yes. That is
why we are here. That is why we are in-
cluding these provisions—so many pro-
visions—in this very important bill.
I also want to mention what the pack-
age is not—what it does not do, what
it does not contain, and some of the
parade of horribles that certain groups have been saying that in fair-
ness, they are not looking at the bal-
ance we have achieved with this
overall package.
We saw some rightful concerns
emerge before this title was finalized.
Everybody’s ears always perk up when they hear “public lands package.”"wondering what it is going to be. But we
have some of the most accurate criticisms
emerge even after the release. It is one
thing if they haven’t seen what is in it.
It is another thing to look at it and then
be critical of it.
As I mentioned earlier, this is a bal-
canced, revenue-neutral package. We
have taken great care to make sure it is
not all focused on new wilderness,
new parks. In Western States, and par-
ticularly coming out of Alaska, we are
just not going to have the support we
need if it is all focused on wilderness
and parks, so it is not. There is a con-
servation piece, absolutely, and it is a
strong conservation piece, and I think
it is a good, balanced one. But we also
have the very important development
piece that is critical to what is con-
tained within.
To those who have spoken out
against creating new national parks,
given the maintenance backlog that I
think we recognize—it could be as high
as $20 billion. I get it. I agree with Sen-
ators against creating new national parks,
tained within.

The balance we have achieved with this
overall package has been reviewed
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tained within.
The report will be the subject of significant debate over the coming weeks and months and maybe even years, as it should be. Nobody should be cavalier about the risks that are associated with the release of this information, but this is a discussion our country needs to have.

Although I am still reviewing the report, a couple of things are pretty clear from the outset.

First, the use of so-called enhanced interrogation techniques failed to secure accurate information or cooperation from detainees. The very first finding of the report says:

While being subjected to the CIA's enhanced interrogation techniques and afterwards, multiple CIA detainees fabricated information, resulting in faulty intelligence. Detainees provided fabricated information on critical intelligence issues, including the terrorist threats which the CIA identified as its highest priorities.

Not only has torture not made the country safer, it may have made us less safe—at least according to this report.

Second, the report reveals that the CIA withheld information from the FBI, the Justice Department, and the Director of the Office of National Intelligence. It denied access to detainees and provided inaccurate information about the interrogation tactics. Information was withheld from former Secretary of State Colin Powell out of concern he would “blow his stack if he were to be briefed on what’s been going on.” The CIA repeatedly misled Congress and impeded oversight by its own inspector general.

The report rebuts any notion that these brutal tactics led to actionable intelligence that made our country safer. It highlights the lengths to which people systematically misled other agencies, the Congress, and for years the American people. But most significantly, the report—and I thank the President for his service on the Intelligence Committee. It is a committee that by definition people can't learn very much about, and I know it takes a lot of time and an awful lot of work that can go underappreciated. But this week we are learning why the work on that committee is so important.

Most significantly, as I was saying, this report has reminded us that the strength of our democratic institutions is tested during times of crisis. Understanding what happened and learning we won't use torture again will help our democratic institutions persevere in the future and serve future generations as well as the generations that were here before. It will demonstrate that we are better people and we are stronger than our enemies. It will ensure that our uniquely American values will continue to inspire people like my mother and her parents all across the globe. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HAVEN ACT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my colleagues Chairman LEVIN of the Committee on Armed Services and Chairman JOHNSON of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. I join with my colleagues to speak about the inclusion of the HAVEN Act in the National Defense Authorization Act we are considering today. The HAVEN Act, which I sponsored along with Senator JOHANNS, authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to make repairs or modifications that are necessary for disabled or low-income veterans to stay in their homes. The HAVEN Act lies within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, to which it has been referred. However, working in close coordination with the chairman of the banking committee, we were able to include this measure in the NDAA bill, in recognition of the potential to assist veterans of our armed services who are in need; isn't that correct, Chairman JOHNSON?

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Honorable Mr. JOHNSON be considered as having been so authorized.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Honorable Mr. LEVIN be considered as having been so authorized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Senator REED is correct; I thank him for working with me on this matter and for his continued advocacy on behalf of veterans.

Mr. LEVIN. I would like to thank both Senator REED and Chairman JOHNSON for their committee to include the HAVEN Act within the bill we are considering today.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES BAKER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, James Baker has served the State of Vermont with great distinction over many years, and I was saddened when he announced his retirement in 2009 after 3 decades with the Vermont State Police. To no one’s surprise, he finished his tenure there at the top, as commander.

But we knew retirement would not last long for a man of his talents.

In 2010, Jim Baker answered the call to step in where he was most needed, taking the helm of the Rutland City Police Department when the department and the community were beset by turmoil. Chief Baker's leadership and loyalty was infections, and his plan to serve for only a few months turned into a few years.

During that time, Chief Baker pulled together a team of committed neighbors, businesspeople and community organizers to face the challenges head-on. They tackled blighted neighborhoods and encouraged new investment. They sent a strong message to drug dealers: NOT in our community. And they developed a statistical mapping system to reduce crime in the city's worst-hit blocks. This effort, known as "Project VISION," has shown great success.

With Rutland now on a steady course, one might think Chief Baker would again be thinking of retirement, but that will not be the case. Instead, Jim Baker will be bringing his leadership talents to Washington D.C., where he will serve as director of law enforcement and support with the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Rutland’s loss is our Nation’s gain. I look forward to a continued working relationship with Jim, and thank him for his dedication and leadership to the State of Vermont. I ask that the following profile of Jim Baker, which recently appeared in the Vermont weekly Seven Days, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Seven Days, Nov. 19, 2014]

INFLUENTIAL POLICE CHIEF HAS A NEW GIG

(By Mark Davis)

When Jim Baker first took over Rutland’s scandal-plagued police department in the winter of 2012, he had a running joke with the mayor. "That's a good job..." he would say to Mayor Chris Louras. "That's the only job title I ever have. They'll say, 'Mayor, mayor, look—interim, OK?"' Baker would say to Mayor Chris Louras. "That question is for the next guy."

As one of the Vermont State Police, initially signed on for a six-month stint as Rutland’s chief of police. Nearly
three years later, he still occupies the corner office at the Rutland police station. Baker is widely credited with stabilizing the department, initiating a statistics-based policing system, rallying dozens of community groups to fight the city's drug problem. "He was the driving force not just to turn around a dysfunctional department, but in helping the police department," Louras said. "It would not have happened without him."

But talk of the "next guy" is no joke. Although the mayor had started preliminary contract discussions to keep Baker around for a couple more years, the chief decided something less stressful. In December, Baker is leaving for a position with the International Association of Chiefs of Police, a Washington, D.C., think tank.

"I burn a lot of jet fuel when I get into a situation like I found here," said Baker, who has preferred working at a station—longer than a few years—during his lengthy law-enforcement career. The D.C. opportunity, he said, will enable him to engage in national (and international) issues on a less demanding schedule.

A New York native and Southern Vermont College graduate, Baker, 49, climbed the ladder during the 30 years he worked at Vermont State Police. He held nearly every position there, including director, before stepping down in 2009.

Baker says it is unlikely he'll ever stop working. After leaving the state police, he launched a consulting business and became something of a local law-enforcement expert. Then a scandal rocked the Vermont Police Academy: A training coordinator committed suicide after his computers were seized. An initial investigation prompted the director of the academy to resign, and in 2010, Baker took on temporary assignments with the intention of rooting out problems and improving morale.

Next Baker spent a few months as interim police chief in Manchester. Yes, when Louras and Rutland Police Commissioner Larry Jensen came calling. They convinced Baker to come aboard for six months to help "set the tone" in the midst of its own scandal.

The Rutland force had been in disarray since last spring, when a police captain was charged with attempted murder in connection with his physicians' board. Baker arrived on the job six months later, which includes an investigation into the death of a police officer. Baker also instructed his officers to stop Siegel's work on the job.

Meantime, the city wasn't faring much better than its police department. Once a booming city fueled by railroads and a marble quarry, Rutland's economy had lagged for decades. Out-of-state drug dealers moved in as property values plummeted, downtown went dormant and vacant buildings littered the city long before Gov. Peter Shumlin devoted his 2014 State of the State address to Vermont's "opioid epidemic."

Known as "the Vegas"—a moniker that Baker forbade his officers from using inside the station—the city was the brunt of countless jokes.

Then, in September 2012, a tragedy illustrated the severity of the city's plight. A 23-year-old Rutland man passed out while driving through downtown, as a result of inhaling gas from an aerosol can. His foot remained on the accelerator, and, moving at 80 miles per hour, he slammed into a bank of parked cars outside the Discount Food and Liquidation Center. Carly Ferro, a 17-year-old Rutland High School senior, had just walked her 4-year-old daughter to her father's car when she was struck and killed.

"That was the tipping point," Baker said. "That was the single incident where people in the community said they had finally had enough and starting rallying around the police department and the neighborhoods."

Baker has long aimed to tackle Rutland's list of urban ills, Baker and a few others organized regular meetings with housing agencies, social workers, neighborhood activists, lawyers, mental health experts, educators and city hall workers. The group that formed called itself Project VISION—Viable Initiatives and Solutions through Involvement of Neighborhoods—and focused on problems related to drugs, crime, housing and jobs. Its monthly meetings, which attracted broad-based, built-in support for a methadone clinic that opened earlier this year, among other initiatives.

Seeking further collaboration, Baker invited mental health workers, social workers, prosecutors, probation officers and domestic violence experts to relocate their offices to the police station.

Meanwhile, inside the police force, the chief aimed to strengthen relations with residents and institute smarter enforcement. He helped create a crime-mapping project that plotted the details of every police call—whether for a family fight or a noise disturbance—into a database. Every two weeks, officers and managerial staff would review "hot spots" and developed strategies to defuse them.

Baker also instructed his officers to stop measuring success by arrest numbers. "We're not focused on arrests or how much drugs were seized, but on working through problems," Baker said.

When his first six-month contract was up, Baker signed a one-year extension, then two more, the last of which paid him $125,000 a year. "I thought that if I would have been given $100,000 a year, I thought I could contribute," Baker said. "I found out there were some people in the community who were very good at getting it right."

Among them was Linda Justin. A Rutland native who had become increasingly distrustful by the city's decline, she and her husband, Bill Beckim, cashed out their 401(k), bought a derelict building in Rutland's Northwest neighborhood, and in January 2013 opened the Dream Center, where they have weekly meetings, block parties and free meals. One day, Justin called Baker looking for an answer to a neighbor's question. After hearing from Justin, Baker realized, "Oh my gosh, you guys are doing what we're talking about doing," the chief recalled.

Baker started to join Justin and Beckim on their neighborhood walks, chatting with residents about problems and their ideas for making things better. "He doesn't just sit in his office and tell 100 people, 'He gets his hands right in it. He's a real person. He's down-to-earth."

And while no one is declaring victory, officials say they have turned a corner. Calls for police service have dropped since Project VISION launched, and Baker said the department is registering double-digit drops in burglaries and arrests.

Rutland police have had a lot of help. Federal authorities conducted a three-year operation in the city and have been responsible for most of the prosecutions against prominent drug dealers operating there. Vermont Attorney General Bill Sorrell tasked one of the investigators to focus exclusively on Rutland; assistant attorney general Ultau Doyle works out of the downtown police station. Its porn scandal may be over, but the department still isn't perfect.

In September, two officers were suspended after a brawl outside a Rutland bar.

In a pending lawsuit filed in January 2013, Andrew Todd, a former Rutland police officer and now a Vermont State Police trooper, describes a culture of police misconduct and cover-ups, and alleges that superiors subverted his prosecutors to focus exclusively on Rutland. Todd, who is African American, claims he brought several concerns to higher-ups but that little was done. The alleged misconduct, including officers stealing, having sex and sleeping while on duty, occurred before Baker came to Rutland. Though Todd left the department before Baker arrived, he has alleged that Baker tried to "influence" an outside review of the Rutland police department.

Baker declined to comment on the lawsuit. In three years, nearly half of the department's roster has turned over, through firings and attrition. Baker says he is proud of the holdovers who were willing to adapt to his methods. "It would have been very easy for those folks to bunker down, wait me out," Baker said. "My track record is pretty clear—I don't stay anywhere very long."

"You have to prove yourself," Baker continued. "It takes a long time to prove your legacy. Guiding the search for a new chief, Louras said, will be his or her ability to adopt Baker's methods and continue the continuation of Project VISION. In recent months, Baker handed off much of his work there to Capt. Scott Tuck-er. The community agencies that populate the downtown of projects that aren't going anywhere. And the monthly Project VISION meetings still attract a crowd.

"You can't lead," Baker said, "if no one is following you."

THANKING CURRENT AND PAST DEMOCRATIC STAFF OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to thank the current and past Democratic staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for their hard work and diligence on the Committee Study of the Central Intelligence Agency's Detention and Interrogation Program.

Committee staff spent 7 years preparing the report, going through more than 6 million pages of documents and writing a final report that is over 6,700 pages. The Staff worked incredibly long hours over many years and sacrificed time with their families and friends. They overcame significant obstacles to put out this report. They took no short-cuts in their research. And they took no liberties with the facts.

The staff produced a report of historic importance, which will be studied for many years to come. Because of their work, the true facts about the CIA's interrogation program under both Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. It is for all Americans to understand. Because of their work, we as a country can commit that never again will we repeat...
these mistakes. This report, and the work of the staff, is an outstanding example of the constitutional oversight role that the Senate can and should play.

I want to particularly thank David Graham, the Senate’s staff director, and Daniel Jones, the lead staffer and author of much of the report. Many other committee staffers past and present participated in producing the report including: Evan Gottesman, Chad Tanner, Alissa Starzak, Nate Adler, Jennifer Adler, Nanci Bascianci, Michael Buchwald, Jim Catella, Eric Chapman, John Dickas, Lorenzo Goco, Andrew Grotto, Tressa Guevon, Clete Johnson, Michael Noblet, Michael Pevzner, Tommy Ross, Caroline Tuss, James Wolfe, and Andy Johnson.

REMEMBERING JUDY BAAR TOPINKA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to one of Illinois’ great pioneers, State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka. Judy passed away suddenly last night at the age of 70. She was the only woman in our State to hold two State constitutional offices, and her leadership built bridges for countless women.

Born in 1944 to William and Lillian Baar, Judy and her family lived in Riverside, near Cicero and Berwyn, two blue-collar Chicago suburbs. Her father ran a small business while her father fought in World War II. She went to Northwestern University and graduated with a degree in journalism from the university’s Medill School in 1966.

Judy became a reporter for a suburban Chicago newspaper chain and rose through the ranks to editor. But in 1980, she decided to run for the Illinois House. She said she ran because the corrupt officials were ignoring the community.

Her trademark humor and her work ethic served her well and she went to serve as State senator from 1985 until 1995. In 1994, she became the first woman in Illinois history to hold the post of State treasurer and then went on to set another first as the only State treasurer to be reelected to three consecutive terms. Judy was a consummate public servant. A few weeks ago, she was re-elected as State comptroller and was about to start her second term.

Judy never shied away from taking tough stands or making the hard decisions. When it was not popular among many in her party, she was an advocate of women’s rights and gay rights. When both parties needed to be held accountable, she was fearless. She was always a straight talker.

She was one of a kind. Judy could play the accordion, and she spoke four languages—English, Czech, Spanish, and Polish. She loved polka music and really was Illinois’ Polka Queen. Anyone who knew her also knew about her beloved dogs and their preference for McDonald’s cheeseburgers. In an era where far too many are stuck on talking points, Judy said what she thought and did it with style.

In a political world of cocker spaniels she could be a bulldog taking a bite out of both Democrats and right-wing Republicans without missing a beat. She was a blue-collar, immigrants’ kid who lit up the room with her quick wit and boundless energy.

Illinois lost someone special. My prayers and thoughts are with her son Joseph, her new granddaughter Andrea Faith, and the rest of her family.

NOMINATION OF THO DINH-ZARR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I address the Senate on the nomination of Dr. Tho “Bella” Dinh-Zarr of Texas to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, NTSB.

Dr. Dinh-Zarr is uniquely qualified to serve as a Member of the NTSB. Dr. Dinh-Zarr currently holds the position of Director of the U.S. office of the FIA Foundation, an independent nonprofit charity based in the United Kingdom which supports activities that promote transportation road safety research and sustainable mobility. I have been informed that, prior to assuming her current role, Dr. Dinh-Zarr also served as the Foundation’s Road Safety Director from 2007–2014. Dr. Dinh-Zarr has extensive professional experience with traffic and highway safety issues, working previously as Director of North America’s Make Roads Safe Campaign for Global Road Safety, a scientist at the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration, and as National Director of Traffic Safety Policy for the American Automobile Association.

I would like to highlight some of Dr. Dinh-Zarr’s connections to our shared home State of Texas—in particular, her educational and experience at some of our well-known academic and research institutions. Dr. Dinh-Zarr and her family escaped Vietnam in 1975, eventually taking up residence alone in Grand Traverse, TX. From an early age, Dr. Dinh-Zarr developed an awareness of the region’s extensive multi-modal transportation network and the importance of rail, marine, and pipeline safety in her community. One of her first jobs was working at the Ravenna Dam, an institution dedicated to preserving the region’s storied history of rail transportation through educational exhibits and programs. Dr. Dinh-Zarr earned both a Masters of Public Health and a Ph.D. in Health Policy and Injury Prevention from the University of Texas School of Public Health. She is a graduate of Rice University and worked as a Research Associate at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, TTI, widely recognized as one of the premier transportation research agencies in the country.

The NTSB plays a critical role in advancing transportation safety. The agency is charged with investigating transportation-related accidents and making recommendations aimed at preventing future events. In order to best meet its goal of improving safety across our Nation’s transportation systems, the NTSB must ensure safety recommendations are reasonable, balanced and evidence-based. The agency’s investigative and advocacy responsibilities must be considered in light of the unique and diverse safety challenges confronting our States, where innovative and tailored solutions can often more effectively reduce or eliminate the likelihood of future incidents or injury versus a one-size-fits-all approach.

Toward this end, NTSB must place a high priority on transparency and accountability, working to ensure communities, individuals, small businesses, and all others impacted by its work are provided adequate opportunities to be heard.

I am confident that Dr. Dinh-Zarr is up to the challenge. She will not only bring to the position a wealth of knowledge and experience, but also a Texan’s sense of compassion and dedication to the service of others. I am truly honored to join her and her family, members of Vietnamese American community in Texas and across the country, and many others in support of this well-qualified nominee.

INSURANCE CAPITAL STANDARDS CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2014

Ms. COLLINS. I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with Senators Brown and JOHANNES.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in June of this year the Senate passed by unanimous consent, S. 2270, urgent legislation I introduced with Senators Brown and JOHANNES to address the capital requirements that apply to insurance companies under Federal supervision pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act. This legislation clarifies that the Federal Reserve’s authority to recognize the distinctions between banking and insurance when implementing section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Act, ensuring that bank-centric capital standards are not applied to such companies’ regulated insurance activities.

One of the central elements of the Dodd-Frank Act was stronger capital rules for both banks and certain non-bank financial companies, or SIFIs. Section 165 of the Dodd-Frank Act accomplished this—section 165, which applies to large bank holding companies and to non-bank systemically important financial institutions, SIFIs, and section 165, which applies to large insurance companies, including insurance savings and loan holding companies, and to SIFIs.

Insurance companies, specifically insurance savings and loan holding companies, are different from banks. Insurers must match long-term obligations...
to their policyholders with long-term assets, mostly bonds, while banks have more callable obligations—securities and loans and mortgages—and fund them with deposits as well as a mix of debt and equity of varying maturities and durations. The Dodd-Frank legis-

lation reflected this reality, both in its text and in the legislative history, which repeatedly recognizes that the business of insurance is unique and pre-
sents different risks.

Mr. BROWN. I know other original co-
sponsors and strong supporters of S. 2270 have, like you, been disappointed by the regulators’ failure to recognize that they have the authority to imple-
ment the Collins amendment as it ap-
plies to insurers in a manner that tai-
lors the capital requirements for insur-
ers to reflect the substantial differ-
ences between insurers and depositi-
ary institutions. We continue to be-
lieve that the regulators could solve this problem using their existing au-
thority. Any other legislation that shows there is strong bipartisan support for addressing this issue. As you know, 31 of your colleagues and I cosponsored the bill, and the legislation passed the Senate with unanimous support in early June.

S. 2270 is narrowly crafted to only ad-
dress this issue as it relates to insur-
ance companies and insurance savings and loan holding companies. If you are a bank, or another entity that owns a bank, you would be subject to the full force of the Collins amendment for your banking activities. At the same time, if you are a financial organization 

engaged in insurance which is also 

engaged in bank activities, including 
derivatives market making, those activ-
ities would be subject to the Collins amendment.

To accomplish the goal of directing the Federal Reserve to tailor rules for insurance, our legislation permits the Federal Reserve to create a non-Basel III regime for the insurance operations of supervised entities. The legislation allows the Fed to work with State in-
surance regulators to develop appro-
priate insurance-based capital stan-
dards for insurance activities.

Mr. JOHANNS. I am an original co-
sponsor of this legislation and ac-

knowledge your long-standing partnership on this issue. The bill clarifies that, in establishing the minimum leverage capital ratio requirement under section 171 of the Dodd-Frank Act, the Federal Re-
serve Board is not required to include activities or companies that are en-
gaged in the business of insurance and are subject to State insurance regu-
lation, including State insurance capital requirements. Similarly, regulated for-
eign affiliates or subsidiaries engaged in the business of insurance and sub-
ject to foreign insurance regulation and foreign insurance capital require-
ments that have not been deemed to be inad-
ically required by the Federal Reserve Board.

The bill allows the insurance capital requirements that have been effective to continue to determine the capital requirements of insur-
ance companies and groups that are supervised by the Federal Reserve Board. Furthermore, activities of a holding company supervised by the Federal Reserve Board that are not the business of insurance would remain subject to the capital standards under section 171. In determining insurance versus non-insurance activities of a su-
upervised entity, the legislation pro-

vides regulators with the flexibility to tailor the rules for certain affiliates or subsidiaries of insurance companies that are necessary to the business of insurance, including, for example, af-
filiates or subsidiaries that support in-
surance company general and separate accounts.

Our legislation defines “business of insurance” by reference to section 1002 of the Dodd-Frank Act, and under this definition the business of insurance means “the writing of insurance or the reinsuring of risks by an insurer, in-
cluding, for example, the underwriting, writ-
ing or reinsuring and the activities re-

lating to the writing of insurance or the reinsuring of risks conducted by persons who act as, or are, officers, di-
rectors, agents, or employees of insur-
ance companies authorized to act on behalf of such persons.” The reference to this definition of the “business of insurance” will help en-
sure that insurance activities of fed-

era
dally supervised companies are subject 
to tailored capital rules, whether those activities are undertaken by the insur-
ance companies themselves or by their affiliates or subsidiaries on their be-

half.

Ms. COLLINS. We also want to en-
sure that the Federal Reserve uses its authority to tailor capital rules for in-
surance operations of entities under its supervision, regardless of the size of the subsidiary insured depository insti-
tution. As we have stated, under this legislation and under current law, the 

Basel banking regime and the Collins 
amendment requirements will continue to apply to all insured depository insti-
tutions. It would be at odds with sound public policy and the intent of this leg-
islation for the Federal Reserve to im-
pose a Basel banking capital regime on 
the entire enterprise of an insurer that 
happens to also own a sizable insured 
depository institution—the depository 
institution in that operation will al-
ready be subject to banking rules, but 

the insurance operations should not be.

Mr. BROWN. Another important pro-

vision of our legislation addresses the issue of insurance accounting for a small number of non-publicly traded insurance companies. When every pub-
licly traded company in the United States is required by the Federal Secu-
r

rities law to prepare consolidated fi-
nancial statements under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, GAAP, all insurance companies in the United States—whether in mutual or 
stock form of organization—are re-
quired by their State insurance regu-
lators to utilize an accounting method known as Statutory Accounting. In-
dependent mutual companies only use Statutory Accounting in preparing their financial statements.

Statutory Accounting Principles, 
SAP, are generally more conservative than GAAP because they are specifi-
cally designed to promote insurer sol-
vency and the ability to pay claims in-
stead of measuring an insurer’s value 
as a going concern. SAP does not al-
low a number of non-liquid or intangible assets to be included on an insurer’s balance sheet and provides less favor-
able accounting treatment for certain expenses. In both the text of the Dodd-
Frank Act and its legislative history, Congress recognized the acceptability of SAP for holding companies engaged in insurance activities engaged under Federal Reserve jurisdiction. Specifi-
cally, Congress 1) directed the Federal Reserve to rely on existing reports and information provided to State and other regulators (which for insurance companies would have been prepared according to SAP); and 2) included Sen-
ate report language stating that Fed-

eral Reserve assumption of jurisdiction over savings and loan holding compa-

nies engaged in the business of insur-
ance did not reflect a mandate to im-
pose SAP. How proposed rulemakings, the Federal Reserve ex-
pressed its intention to require all compa-
nies to eventually prepare GAAP financial statements-consistent with their existing model for all bank hold-
ing companies. Imposing such a man-
date on companies using only SAP would cost insurers a substantial amount to take on multi-year financial projects yielding minimal, if any, su-
ervisory benefit to regulators.

S. 2270 makes clear that under Sec-

tion 171 of the Dodd-Frank Act and the Home Owners’ Loan Act, such a man-
date is inappropriate where the holding company is a non-publicly traded in-
surance company that is only required to prepare and file SAP statements. Nothing in this provision prevents the Federal Reserve from obtaining any in-
formation it is otherwise entitled to 

obtain from a SAP-only insurer.

Ms. COLLINS, Mr. President, I and 
the other sponsors of S. 2270 are pleased that this legislation has passed the Senate. It is critical that 
this legislation be enacted this year. We look forward to its enactment this 
year and working with regulators as 
they implement appropriate, tailored 
capital rules for insurers under their 
supervision.

NEWBORN SCREENING SAVES 
LIVES REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I applaud the passage of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act.
Across the United States, newborns are screened routinely for certain genetic, metabolic, hormonal and functional disorders. Most of these birth defects have no immediate visible effects on a baby but, unless detected and treated early, they can cause serious physical problems, developmental disability and, in some cases, death.

Fortunately, most infants are given a clean bill of health when tested. In cases where newborns are found to have birth defects, doctors or nurses can take action to prevent impairment, early diagnosis and proper treatment are crucial in making the difference between healthy development and lifelong infirmity.

Newborn screening has been saving lives for more than 50 years, but programs vary from State to State. To address disparity among States' newborn screening capabilities, Congress passed the original Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, P.L. 110–383, a provision I sponsored with Senator Chris Dodd. The law established national newborn screening guidelines and helped facilitate comprehensive newborn screening in every State in America and of Columbia.

Before passage, some States offered as few as only four of the recommended tests, and only 11 States and D.C. required the recommended screening for all disorders. Today, 42 States and D.C. require screening for at least 29 of the 31 treatable core conditions, and both parents and physicians are more aware of the availability and necessity of newborn screening.

To maintain the important work of newborn screening programs, I am a proud sponsor of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2013. This legislation will allow States to continue improving their programs to help ensure prompt diagnosis and treat conditions which could result otherwise in irreversible brain damage, permanent disability, or death.

I very much appreciate and commend the hard work of my colleagues and their staffs here in the Congress, the administration, and the public health community to ensure that this program will continue to help States provide critical, timely, and lifesaving newborn screening for our youngest Americans.

...
Mr. President, once again, as is our tradition here in the Senate, we take a moment to express our appreciation for the service of those Members who will be retiring at the end of this year. We will miss them, their good ideas and thoughtful suggestions, and their concern and active involvement in the challenges facing our Nation in a number of areas.

It is hard to mention the word “service” and not have Carl Levin come to mind. As a former local official myself, I have a great deal of respect and regard for all those who have worked their way up from the local level to the Senate.

For Carl the great adventure of his political life began with his service on the Detroit City Council. During his 8 years on the council Carl probably had his share of run-ins with the Federal bureaucracy that he decided he had to do something about it. For him that meant a run for the Senate.

Carl’s election and his subsequent service in the Senate have shown him to be quite an effective legislator and a force for the positions he has taken on a long list of issues. He has been a Member of the Senate since 1979 and he has hit a number of milestones since then that reflect the length and productivity of his service.

Carl has been working for the benefit of those who have served in our Armed Forces since he first walked in the door of the Senate. Determined that they reap the benefits they have earned with their service, Carl joined the Armed Services Committee to ensure our military and our veterans were getting what they deserved and required both during and after their service.

That is one of the main reasons why he was so proud of his service in the Senate. He knows how important it is for us to get a handle on our Nation’s finances to ensure that our children and grandchildren will not have to clean up the financial mess we are going to leave them if we are not careful. Mike has said that our failure to act will cause our financial problems to appear sooner than we might think.

I am sorry to see Mike go when there is so much to be done that could use his understanding not only of the issues, but from his experience, the impact they will have on the local, State and national level.

Still we know where to find him whenever we could use some of his Nebraska-rooted common sense. Thanks, Mike, for your service to the State of Nebraska and to our Nation. You can be proud that you helped to accomplish and the seeds you planted that will lead to more accomplishments in the years to come.

Thanks for your leadership and thanks for your friendship, too. Diana joins in our best wishes to you and our appreciation for all you have done. Please keep in touch with us. We will always be pleased to hear from you.

Carl Levin
issues that affect us all—like education, the environment and health care. He has had an impact on his home State and our Nation that will be felt for a long time to come.

Thank you, for your service in the Senate. I know I join with the people of Michigan in expressing our appreciation to you for dedicating so much of your life to making our Nation a better place for us all to live. That is why our constituents have always been there to express their appreciation of your work here in the Senate with their votes. That is also why no other Senator has ever represented Michigan better.

Diana joins in sending our best wishes to you for all you have accomplished and for your close and personal attention to the needs of our Armed Forces and the concerns of our veterans. Thanks, too, for your friendship. We will miss you, but I am certain we will be in touch.

TOM HARKIN

Mr. President, it is hard to believe how fast the session of Congress has come to an end. Before that final gavel brings it to a close, however, it is good to have this time to express our appreciation for the service of those Members who will be retiring at the end of the year. They all have a lot to be proud of—from their first speech here on the floor to their representation of their State over the years.

Those words can not help but bring to mind a long adventure that has come to an end. Before that final gavel brings it to a close, however, it is good to have this time to express our appreciation for the service of those Members who will be retiring at the end of the year. They all have a lot to be proud of—from their first speech here on the floor to their representation of their State over the years.

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I hope you will keep in touch with us in the days to come with news of your next great adventure in life. Thank you for your service to our country, thank you for your focus on making Arkansas and our nation better places to live, and thank you for your friendship. Good luck in all your future endeavors. God bless.

TIM JOHNSON

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague from South Dakota, Senator Tim Johnson, who is retiring at end of this year. Tim has an impressively long career in public service, representing his home State of South Dakota in Congress for the last 28 years.

Tim is often described as “a work horse, not a show horse,” and with good reason. His values, passion and work ethic are reflected in the projects he has championed and the constituent service he provided for the people of South Dakota. Following his AVM in 2006, Senator Johnson came into the national spotlight which he so seldom sought. All were inspired by his perseverance and dedication to the people of South Dakota to return to do the work he loves, and the Senate has been better for it.

As a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Tim championed important water projects to bring clean drinking water to rural communities and Indian reservations, pressed for the development of renewable fuels, and supported efforts to build vital infrastructure throughout rural America. Through his position on the Appropriations Committee, he fought to see these efforts through from planning to completion.

Farmers and ranchers throughout his State could count on Tim to be a strong voice for them, protecting their hard work and the jobs of support service workers. His leadership on country of origin labeling, COOL, laid important groundwork to support our Nation’s producers and ensure consumers know where their food comes from—a fight that continues today.

Tim has also been a champion for veterans, working to improve the benefits they are owed and connecting South Dakota veterans with support and services in their communities. He was able to secure advanced appropriations for the Veterans Administration, providing budget certainty and ensuring access to health care for those who have bravely served their country.

Tim has a strong relationship with the tribes in South Dakota and is considered a steadfast and valued friend in Indian Country. He has tirelessly pressed for the Federal Government to meet its trust and treaty responsibilities. While significant challenges remain, Tim Johnson’s legacy as an advocate for Native American issues has improved the quality of life on many reservations. This commitment will be missed both in the Senate and on the Indian Affairs Committee.

Senator Johnson brought his passion for rural and Native American issues to the Senate Banking Committee. Under his chairmanship, the work of the committee highlighted the often-overlooked needs in these communities— and he was a champion during our efforts on housing finance reform to ensure they could receive the resources they so desperately need. Strengthening small community banks, improving housing, and reauthorizing critical highway and transit programs are just a few of the initiatives Senator Johnson undertook, and it was a pleasure viewing under his leadership.

Throughout all of these accomplishments, accolades, and challenges, Tim has remained true to his roots. He has never taken his public service for granted and has always considered it a privilege to serve the people of South Dakota. The impact of his work during his time in Congress will be seen in communities throughout his State for years to come. Certainly he has left his mark on South Dakota politics. I wish him the very best as he and his wife Barbara embark on this new chapter and get to enjoy more time with their family back in South Dakota.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I also wish to honor my colleague from Nebraska, Senator Mike Johanns, who is retiring from the Senate at the end of this year. Senator Johanns has been a friend since I started in the Senate, and I appreciate his willingness to work with me toward our shared goals. He is one of only two current Senators to have served as a Governor and cabinet Secretary, providing him with a tremendous amount of wisdom on how to get things done. It is his incredible knowledge and strong Midwestern work ethic that I admire most about him.

For more than 30 years, Senator Johanns has been a strong voice for the people of Nebraska. His first act in public service was as a Councilman and Mayor of Lincoln. He would eventually become Governor of Nebraska and Secretary of Agriculture under President George W. Bush. Senator Johanns set no limits to his potential; readily serving in any capacity he could to make our great Nation a better place.

Senator Johanns and I serve together on the Appropriations Committee, and I greatly admired the thoughtfulness and expertise he brought to the negotiations on the Farm Bill. His knowledge as a former Agriculture Secretary was unmatched and ensured many improvements were made throughout the debate. Senator Johanns never forgot about our farmers and always kept his eye on providing them with the best possible outcome he could.

We also had the privilege of working together on the Banking and Housing Committee, and I worked together with a bipartisan group of committee members to draft and advance legislation reforming the housing finance system to protect the American taxpayer from another bailout and to guarantee that another housing crisis does not happen again. Once again, his voice on behalf of rural America during these talks was critical and something that I greatly appreciated.

Senator Johanns has never been about taking credit or seeking the spotlight. He maintained a strong, hard work ethic throughout his time in the Senate and was one who was willing to do the work. The American people expect that of their representatives, and Senator Johanns met those expectations on behalf of Nebraska.

I will miss having him as my colleague in the Senate, but I also know that his wife and family will enjoy the free time they will have with him. I wish him happiness and success in the next chapter of his life.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, as I approach the end of my career, I cannot help but reflect on the role that my tremendous staff members have played in advancing my policy goals and, indeed, advancing the important work the American people over the years. I have been blessed to have worked with truly remarkable individuals who have worked tirelessly to promote initiatives that will improve the lives of ordinary Americans.

Among my own legislative and policy priorities over the years, none has been greater for me than advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. I am proud and honored to have been the chief Senate sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the last of the great civil rights laws of the 20th century—one that has correctly been called the Emancipation Proclamation for persons with disabilities. That legislation sought, once and for all, to fully enfranchise people with disabilities and to fully integrate them into the fabric of American life, guided by four great principles—equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic sufficiency. Over the last quarter century, that legislation has resulted in a quantum leap forward in the civil rights and daily quality of life of millions of Americans with disabilities.

However, even with that quantum leap forward, much work remains to be done to advance the rights of people with disabilities both in the United States and around the world. And over the last several years, no one has worked harder to advance this unfinished business of disabilities rights than Michael Gamel-McCormick, who served on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee as my lead K-12 staffer through the markup of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and subsequently as a team leader on disability policy.

Throughout his career, Michael has worked to improve the lives of children...
and other people with disabilities. He came to the HELP Committee from the University of Delaware, where he was dean of the College of Education and Human Development and where he had previously served as a departmental chair and director of the Center for Disability Studies. Prior to that, Michael served, variously, as director of an early intervention program in West Virginia, director of children’s services at an urban community services agency, and as a preschool and kindergarten teacher. Michael also used that expertise to work worldwide in helping other countries to establish their own systems to support persons with disabilities and to expand early learning opportunities.

Michael’s deep experience and knowledge was evident as soon as he arrived at the HELP Committee. Immediately, Michael became an integral and trusted member of my staff. His initial work on the committee was as an education policy advisor, lead staffer on K-12 education, and in charge of the interaction of education and inequality. His expertise and leadership were critical in drafting and passing in committee the Strengthening America’s Schools Act. As an education policy adviser, Michael was also deeply involved in shaping policies to strengthen the education of children with disabilities.

After serving as a senior education advisor, Michael assumed the role of my chief disability policy advisor, spearheading a number of important initiatives. In particular, Michael ensured that our committee reports on persons with disabilities. The first report, on the continued use of seclusions and restraints in our schools, exposed the inappropriate and often dangerous use of physical restraints on undiagnosed and unsupervised exclusion of many children, especially children with disabilities, in U.S. schools. That report was accompanied by important legislation to finally prohibit these outdated and ineffective measures. The second report, entitled “Overcoming Persistent Barriers to Economic Self-Sufficiency for People with Disabilities,” investigated the barriers that people with disabilities face as they seek to rise out of poverty and enter the middle class. This report found that living with a disability is both economically and socially costly, and that significant barriers—especially logistical barriers and discrimination—continue to stand in the way of the economic security of people with disabilities. Specifically, the report said this:

Twenty-four years ago, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act. We have been successful at meeting many of the goals of the ADA. We have increased the accessibility of our buildings, our streets, even our parks, beaches and recreation areas. And we’ve made our books and TVs, telephones and computers more accessible as well. And for many Americans with disabilities, our workplaces have become more accessible as well.

But far too few people with disabilities are in the workforce! The unemployment rate for people with disabilities is 12.8 percent, more than double the six percent unemployment rate for people without disabilities. Of the almost 29 million people with disabilities over 16 years of age, less than 20 percent participate in the workforce compared with nearly 70 percent of those without a disability.

Not content to identify a problem, Michael also seeks to solve them. His role as our most senior disability policy director will be his work to promote the employment of persons with disabilities through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which was signed into law earlier this year. That law will ensure that people with disabilities get the experiences they need to succeed in work settings. To obtain those experiences, the bill requires State vocational rehabilitation programs to work hand-in-hand and employ secondary disability services. The bill also ensures that employers will have the information necessary to recruit, hire, and retain people with disabilities.

These efforts will directly address the high unemployment rate among people with disabilities, smooth the transition of young people with disabilities into the competitive integrated workforce, and help employers to support their employees with disabilities.

I am especially proud of these provisions. And I am very grateful to Michael, who successfully endeavored to enact them in the face of long odds.

I had the good fortune to travel with Michael on a trip to China earlier this year, where we sought to identify opportunities for international cooperation on disability policy and to work with the Chinese Government to strengthen its own policies and programs to assist and empower the millions of persons with disabilities in that country. On the trip, not only was Michael incredibly helpful and knowledgeable, but he also proved to be a good humorist and indefatigable travel partner. Most importantly, I want to salute Michael’s heroic efforts over the past year to advance the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The CRPD, as it is known in shorthand, is a United Nation’s treaty modeled after our own Americans with Disabilities Act, with a goal of exporting the same advances enjoyed by people with disabilities in the United States to countries around the world. The United States has always been a leader on disability policy, and the CRPD offers an opportunity for us to play a more robust leadership role in advancing disability rights across the globe. Unfortunately, despite broad support for the CRPD among business leaders, faith leaders, and in the disability policy community, the CRPD ran up against significant and, I might add, spurious opposition here in the Senate. In fact, after failing to be ratified in the 112th Congress, the treaty was all but declared dead.

However, at my urging and direction, Michael worked tirelessly to revive the moribund treaty, reaching out to representatives, enlisting the assistance of business interests and activating grassroots networks around the country in support of the treaty. At the end of the day, the Senate was still not able to overcome the misinformation objections of a number of Senators who blocked consideration of the treaty. But Michael’s efforts to resurrect and advance the treaty in the face of daunting odds were remarkable. Thanks to Michael’s work, we came closer than ever before to passing the CRPD. I certainly haven’t given up the fight to pass the CRPD, and I am grateful to Michael for all that he did to advance the cause of global disability rights.

It is no exaggeration to say that Michael has enriched the lives of countless individuals. Because of his work, young children have been exposed to the rich environments that they need for early learning. Because of his work, young people with disabilities will receive the supports and experiences they need to secure gainful employment. Because of his work, school-aged children will receive developmentally appropriate discipline and direction rather than the cruelty of seclusion and physical restraints. And because of his work, countless individuals with disabilities will be able to live in a world where they can flourish in their communities alongside friends, colleagues, and neighbors.

This is a living legacy that Michael Gamel-McCormick deserves to be proud of. I am deeply grateful for his service to the committee, to the American people, and to me personally. And I wish him great success in his future endeavors on behalf of people with disabilities here in America and across the globe.

TRIBUTE TO BETH STEIN

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in 1997, Beth Stein, a talented young woman diagnosed with thyroid cancer at a young age and re-lentless attention to detail, arrived on Capitol Hill as counsel to a true American hero, U.S. Senator John Glenn. As his investigative counsel, Beth played a key role in the inquiry into campaign finance abuses in the 1996 election. And she helped to lead investigations into other critical issues, including food safety, Medicare fraud, waste, and abuse, and the relationship between thyroid cancer rates and exposure to radiation during nuclear testing in the 1940s. After working for Senator Glenn, Beth went on to serve as election counsel to Representative STENY HOYER and as Judiciary Committee counsel to U.S. Senator MARIA CANTWELL.

The work of a U.S. Senator is only as good as the staff that he or she hires, and in 2004 I was fortunate to convince Beth to join my staff, where she has served ever since. Throughout that time, she has served in a number of different capacities, distinguishing herself in each and every one of them. I owe a debt of gratitude to so many of my staff members across my career,
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but I would be remiss if I did not single out Beth for her especially meritorious contributions to my office over the past decade.

Beth began her work in my office as counsel, providing excellent advice on myriad legal and civil rights issues, among other things. One of her most noteworthy accomplishments from this time related to the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, located not far from Burlington, IA. The history of the covert nuclear weapons program at the IAAP is a fascinating one that I could recount for hours. Suffice it to say that for decades the men and women of the Iowa Ammunition Plant worked on a secret nuclear weapons program, handling highly radioactive materials with protective gear of only cotton gloves—gloves that were intended to protect the weapons material from contact with humans, not to protect humans from contact with dangerous materials.

After my office helped to uncover the long history of dangerous working conditions at the IAAP, we still had to address the needs of hundreds of men and women who were exposed to radioactive materials. We tried to seek a legislative fix. We worked on a secret nuclear weapons unit to provide critical oversight and investigations. There was no question in my mind that Beth, with her relentless energy, and through her expertise, was the right person to help us pursue this important goal.

Beth also played a critical role in producing HELP Committee reports on the abuse of for-profit higher education. After I asked Beth to serve in this role, she worked closely with a postcard in the mail notifying him to report for employment with the Work Projects Administration, the WPA. Dad always said that Franklin Roosevelt gave him a job. That opportunity gave my father dignity and enough money to put food on the table. Maybe most important of all, it gave him hope.

As a proud Midwestern progressive, my career has been guided by a desire to give hope to those who truly need it and to serve in the interest of opportunity to working families seeking affordable health care and child care, family farmers struggling to stay on the land, young people paying for college, and seniors seeking financial security in their retirement years.

But I haven’t done it alone. Every Senator stands on the foundation of his or her staff, and on my staff Beth Stein has been a rock-solid cornerstone in that foundation. For her counsel, intelligence, and excellent work, and for helping me to be the best servant I can be to the people of Iowa and the United States, I extend my deepest gratitude to my counselor and friend Beth Stein.
education counsel, Mildred Otero, who has stood stalwartly alongside me in my efforts to secure for every American a quality education from cradle to career.

Mildred came to Washington in 2003 as a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Fellow, working for then-Senator Hillary Clinton. Over the years, she has also worked at the Children’s Defense Fund, for Senator Jack Reed, and at the Department of State. Before joining the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Mildred served as Senior Policy Officer at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, helping to lead its Federal advocacy efforts for U.S. programs.

When she arrived at the HELP Committee, she brought with her sterling credentials, unmatched knowledge of education policy, and a reputation as a tough but fair negotiator. Most importantly, she brought with her a commitment to children and a determination to combat the savage inequalities in America’s public education system, and these priorities have been the foundation of all the work that she does.

For Mildred, “leave no child behind” is not a slogan, it is an imperative, an obligation that she endorses wholeheartedly to strive to do what is best for the children of our country, especially those who are born into disadvantage.

Mildred’s commitment to our children and her determination to extend a hand up to the disadvantaged have yielded for years due to one disagreement after another, until all that was left was final passage of the bill. It is testament to Mildred’s determination, creativity, and skill that the final bill passed by a vote of 95-3. As a result of her work on this bill, millions of Americans will be able to upgrade their skills, obtain better jobs, and ultimately, better their lives and the economic security of their families.

Mildred and her team also successfully guided into the law improvements to the Child Care and Development Block Grant, which allocates more than $5 billion annually and supports more than 1.5 million children across the country. The last reauthorization of this program took place 18 years ago, and child care has principally been seen as a work-support activity and only incidentally as something that could have a positive impact on the development of children. Today, backed up by impressive scientific research, we know that this program can and should be much more. In addition to providing vital work support for parents, it should be a rich early-learning opportunity for children. These are exactly the kinds of improvements that Mildred shepherded into law. Among other things, the bill requires States to improve education and training requirements, strengthens licensing requirements, and stipulates that States must demonstrate how they are meeting the needs of the most vulnerable children, especially children with disabilities.

I would be remiss if I did not also mention Mildred’s effort in the K-12 and higher education spaces. Last summer, the HELP Committee, under Mildred’s guidance, passed the Strengthening America’s Schools Act of 2013. This bill, an update to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, provided a framework to ensure that all children graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college and their careers. With Mildred’s guidance, the Strengthening America’s Schools Act focused greater attention on early childhood, encouraged equity through fair distribution of resources, and maintained a laser focus on helping all children, but especially disadvantaged children, to succeed in school.

Mildred brought similar energy to her efforts this year on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, efforts that culminated with the introduction of the Higher Education Affordability Act. For generations, a college education has been the pathway to the middle class, but new challenges are threatening that promise for many families in Iowa and across the country. College affordability, skyrocketing student debt, transparency—these are high stakes issues for students and families. The Higher Education Affordability Act calls to our system of higher education in order to make college more affordable and accessible, and to restore and strengthen the ladder of opportunity—a ladder that has been growing weaker and that is in need of repair.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said that “life’s most urgent and persistent question is: what are you doing for others?” During her tenure as a senior counselor on the HELP Committee, Mildred has answered that question in powerful ways, and in particular through her tireless efforts to bring greater equity to public education at all levels. We respect her expertise, and we admire the strong moral voice that she has brought to the Committee. I am deeply grateful to Mildred for her superb leadership of the Committee’s Education Office, and I wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DON HOUSE

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Don House, who will retire as Walnut Ridge Mayor after 4 years of public service to the citizens of the community.

Mayor House constantly stressed the spirit of cooperation within and between each city department, and the importance of good working relationships among its employees. That is why when he began his service as mayor he met with all of the community’s employees.

Don led a reorganization of the police department in an effort to serve the needs of the community more responsibly, including a crackdown on drug dealers and drug manufacturers within the city. Don also oversaw the completion of the Northeast Arkansas Water Authority project, improving the water quality in Walnut Ridge.

In addition to serving as mayor, Don lived in Lawrence County most of his life, owned House-Gregg Funeral Home—a local funeral home and family business since 1939—served as a member of the Arkansas State House of Representatives.

I applaud Don for his outstanding achievements and success as city mayor. My staff and I have enjoyed working with Mayor House on the projects important to Walnut Ridge. I am truly appreciative of his dedication, leadership, and eagerness to serve Arkansas.

RECOGNIZING THE IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation’s 75th year as an organization.

The Idaho Farm Bureau, which was started in 1939 in Murtaugh as an organization of farm and ranch families, has represented the interests of Idaho producers in addressing agriculture and natural resource issues. The Farm Bureau is focused on formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement and thereby, to promote the national well-being.

Idaho is home to more than 25,000 farms and ranches. Farm families support our communities and are central to our economy and our State’s culture. The pressures on these hard-working producers meeting the food needs of a growing world population are increasing as the pressures on our natural resources increase. Consideration of how policy changes affect this bedrock is critical to long-term economic growth and the success of our State and Nation.

From providing input on the farm bill, to transportation legislation and Federal regulation affecting the farm and ranch community, including the Food Security Act, the Idaho Farm Bureau has helped ensure that Idaho producers’ voice is heard in a broad array of local and Federal policy discussions. I have greatly valued
the input of farm bureau leadership, staff and members. I look forward to continuing to work with this seasoned Idaho organization in shaping agriculture and natural resources policy to ensure that it best meets the needs of Idaho producers.

Congratulations to the Idaho Farm Bureau and its membership on this significant milestone. I wish you continued success.

TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN CHARLES STEELE

- Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor Benjamin Charles Steele, a veteran of World War II.

On behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say “thank you” to Ben for his service to our Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of Ben’s service in World War II, because no story of bravery—especially not one from “the greatest generation”—should ever be forgotten.

Ben was born on November 11, 1917, in Roundup, MT. The son of ranchers, Ben loved the outdoors. Sometimes he would sneak out of school by pretending to go to the bathroom, but instead, he would jump on his horse and head for the ranch.

Ben was 22 when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in Missoula, MT on September 9, 1940.

In September of 1941, Ben was assigned to the Philippines. Ben had barely arrived in country when the Army gave him a rifle and told Ben “now you’re in the infantry.”

The Japanese attacked on December 8. A few weeks later, Ben’s unit was evacuated from Clark Field and ordered to the Bataan Peninsula. In January 1942, Ben was sent to the front lines.

Three months later, the front lines collapsed. Soon after, Ben’s unit was captured and he and his fellow soldiers began the infamous Bataan Death March.

Ben marched for 6 days and was fed only two cups of rice. The American captives were tormented by the Japanese soldiers. They were forced to walk closely together, and if a prisoner stumbled, or worse, fell, they were bayoneted or shot and killed.

Ben was a prisoner for three and one-half years. During this time, at great risk, Ben secretly made drawings of the torture and cruelty he and his fellow prisoners endured. On one construction project, 324 prisoners started work beside Ben. By the end, Ben was one of only 50 surviving prisoners.

Ben then was sent to Japan where he did hard labor in the Japanese mines. He was liberated once the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, with Ground Zero less than 80 miles from Ben’s coal mine. When he was freed, Ben had dysentery, pneumonia, malaria, blood poisoning and beriberi.

Ben was discharged from the U.S. Air Force on July 10, 1946. After beginning his art career drawing on the concrete floor of a prison in the Philippines, Ben pursued a formal art education. In 1955, he received a master’s in art from the University of Denver.

Ben then taught art at Montana State University-Billings. To this day, he continues to recreate the images of his imprisonment through drawings and paintings.

Ben was never “officially” assigned to the infantry; the military just handed him a weapon and told him to go fight—and he fought for months before he was captured.

Ben is now 97 years old, living in a nursing home in Billings, MT, fighting his last battle—and still painting. Ben never requested any medals or recognition for his brave and incredible service.

A true World War II veteran, Ben feels he simply did the job he was sent to the Philippines to do.

But today, it is my honor to honor Ben Steele’s true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to duty by including his story in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Thank you, Ben.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:56 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2799. An act to release the City of St. Clair, Missouri, from all restrictions, conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, conveyance, and closure of the St. Clair Regional Airport.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1378. An act to designate the United States Federal Judicial Center located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the “John Rhodes Federal Judicial Center” and to designate the United States courthouse located at 333 West Broadway in San Diego, California, as the “James M. Carter and Judith N. Keep United States Courthouse”.

H.R. 5059. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of annual evaluations of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5086. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5185. An act to reauthorize the Young Women's Breast Health Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act of 2009.

H.R. 5701. An act to require that certain Federal and State governments in the United States for the benefit of federally recognized tribes in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5705. An act to modify certain provisions relating to the Propane Education and Research Council.

H.R. 5764. An act to authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5781. An act to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5741. An act to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

MEASURES REFERRED ON DECEMBER 9, 2014

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 579. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi, as the “R. Jess Brown United States Courthouse”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5146. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the “Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 5385. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the “Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5687. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 East Market Street in Long Beach, California, as the “Juanita Millender-McDonald Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5692. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Ocean Avenue in Lompoc, California, as the “Federal Correctional Officer Zachary M. Fisher Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5807. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1605 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the “Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5794. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7058 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the “Jess Brown United States Courthouse”.

H.R. 5789. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 21995 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the “Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5086. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 5781. An act to provide short-term water supplies to drought-stricken California; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2992. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reform procedures for determinations to proceed to trial by court-martial at certain arsenals under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME ON DECEMBER 9, 2014

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2992. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reform procedures for determinations to proceed to trial by court-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 10, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 229. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 2900 Woodward Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

S. 1434. An act to designate the Junction City Community-Based Outpatient Clinic located at 715 Southwind Drive, Junction City, Kansas, as the Lieutenant General Richard J. Seitz Community-Based Outpatient Clinic.

S. 2673. An act to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 2917. An act to expand the program of priority review to encourage treatments for tropical diseases.

S. 2021. An act to designate the community based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 310 Home Boulevard in Galesburg, Illinois, as the "Lane A. Evans VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic".

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were presented:

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1328. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the archeological site and surrounding land of the New Philadelphia town site in the State of Indiana, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–293).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1419. A bill to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–294).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 1750. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States and political subdivisions of States providing for the continued operation, in whole or in part, of public land, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System in the State during any period in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture is unable to maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–295).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1571. A bill to establish an interagency coordination subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–296).

S. 2031. A bill to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, and for other purposes, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–297).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 2104. A bill to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown (Rept. No. 113–298).

By Ms. LANDRIEU, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2995. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a pilot program to work with municipalities that are seeking to develop and implement integrated plans to meet wastewater and stormwater obligations under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2996. A bill to create a limited population pathway for approval of certain antibacterial drugs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. 1317. A bill to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2014 through 2016 and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 2993. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the determination of cohort default rates and provide for enhanced civil penalties, and to authorize the establishment of an institutional risk-sharing commission; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2994. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1890 to facilitate the administration and enforcement of antidumping and countervailing duty orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2995. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a pilot program to work with municipalities that are seeking to develop and implement integrated plans to meet wastewater and stormwater obligations under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2996. A bill to create a limited population pathway for approval of certain antibacterial drugs; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico:

S. Res. 596. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need for reconciliation in Indonesia and disclosure by the United States Government of events surrounding the mass killings during 1965–66; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mrs. HARRIS) (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. Res. 597. A resolution commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS day; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. COATS):

S. Res. 598. A resolution expressing condolences to the family of Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig and condemning the terrorist acts of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, considered and agreed to.
AMENDMENT NO. 3980

At the request of Mr. BINGGELI, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 287, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the conduct of an evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2980

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2980, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of an evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 287

At the request of Mr. BINGGELI, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 287, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the conduct of an evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 410

At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 410, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to repeal certain limitations on health care benefits.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. BINGGELI, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to allow public access to research of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 1256

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1256, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antimicrobials used in the treatment of human and animal diseases.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. BOXER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEARY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 2047

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to prohibit the marketing of electronic cigarettes to children, and for other purposes.

S. 2864

At the request of Mr. PRIYOR, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2864, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require the Secretary of the Interior to publish and make available for public comment a draft economic analysis at the time a proposed rule to designate critical habitat is published.

S. 2851

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2851, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes.

S. 2897

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2897, a bill to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2980

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Ayotte) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 2980, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for the conduct of an evaluation of mental health care and suicide prevention programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to require a pilot program on loan repayment for psychiatrists who agree to serve in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 596—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE NEED FOR RECONCILIATION IN INDONESIA AND DISCLOSURE BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF EVENTS SURROUNDING THE MASS KILLINGS DURING 1965–66

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. Res. 596

Whereas, on October 1, 1965, six Indonesian Army generals were killed by military personnel, including members of Indonesia’s Presidential Guard, and these killings were blamed on the Indonesian Communist Party and labeled “attempted Communist coup d’état”;

 Whereas this alleged coup was used to justify the mass killing of alleged supporters of the Indonesian Communist Party, with estimates of the number of dead ranging from 500,000 to 1,000,000 killed;

 Whereas the targeted individuals were predominantly unarmed civilians, and often included members of trade unions, intellectuals, teachers, ethnic Chinese, and those involved in the women’s movement;

 Whereas thousands of people were arrested and the imprisonment of up to 1,000,000 targeted individuals were done without due process of law;

 Whereas the targeted individuals were subject to extrajudicial execution, torture, rape, forced disappearance, forced labor, and forced eviction;

 Whereas the United States Central Intelligence Agency in a 1968 research study described the period as one of the worst mass murders of the twentieth century;

 Whereas the United States Government provided the Indonesian Army with financial, military, and intelligence support during the period of the mass killings, and did so in such a way that such taking place as recorded in partially declassified documents in the Department of State history, “Foreign Relations of the United States”, pertaining to this period;

 Whereas, within months of military leader Suharto’s assumption of the presidency following the mass killing, the United States Government began serious economic and military support to Suharto’s military regime, and played an indispensable role in its consolidation of power;

 Whereas aid to the Suharto government continued for more than three decades, despite on-going crimes against humanity committed by the Suharto government, including mass killing and other gross violations of human rights during the invasion and subsequent 24-year occupation of East Timor;

 Whereas perpetrators of the 1965–66 mass killings have largely lived with impunity, and the survivors and descendants of the victims suffer continued discrimination economically and for social, cultural, and political rights, as noted in the 2012 Indonesia National Commission on Human Rights report;

 Whereas the United States Government has not yet fully declassified all relevant documents concerning this time period, and full disclosure could help bring historical clarity to atrocities committed in Indonesia between 1965 and 1966;

 Whereas the United States Government has in recent years supported the declassification and release of documents in support of truth and reconciliation efforts following periods of violence in countries such as Chile and Brazil;

 Whereas open dialogue about alleged past crimes against humanity and past human rights violations is important for continued efforts to reconcile populations of Indonesia and the United States to ensure a stable, sustainable peace that will benefit the region and beyond;

 Whereas, Indonesia has undergone a remarkable democratic transition over the last two decades, and is the world’s third largest democracy with the largest Muslim population in the world;

 Whereas, through free and fair elections, the people of Indonesia have elected new leaders who now have the opportunity to establish a culture of accountability in partnership with the country’s vibrant civil society, press, academia, and human rights activists;

 Whereas the relationship between the United States and Indonesia is strong and involves many shared interests, as reflected in the 2010 United States-Indonesia Comprehensive Partnership, including democracy and civil society, education, security, climate and environment, energy, and trade and investment;

 Whereas the economic relationship between the United States and Indonesia is strong, with bilateral goods trade exceeding $27,000,000,000 and with major United States companies making significant long-term investments in Indonesia;

 Whereas strong relations between the United States and Indonesia are mutually beneficial to both countries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the mass murder in Indonesia in 1965–66;
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(2) expresses great concern about the lack of accountability enjoyed by those who carried out crimes during this period;
(3) urges political leaders in Indonesia to consider the requests of the Interagency Group and to release relevant classified documents pertaining to covert operations in Indonesia from January 1, 1964 through March 30, 1966; including records and documents concerning the mass killings of 1965 and 1966; and
(4) calls on the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the Central Intelligence Agency, and other intelligence agencies to work with the Interagency Group toward expediting access to all classified records and documents concerning the mass killings of 1965 and 1966, including records and documents pertaining to covert operations in Indonesia during this period.

I rise today, International Human Rights Day, to submit a resolution concerning the mass murders committed in 1965 to 1966. The resolution highlights the human rights abuses committed during this time period and urges the United States government to take action to address these crimes.

The United States has a long history of involvement in Indonesia, particularly during the rule of President Suharto. The resolution highlights the need for accountability and the importance of addressing these historical events.

The United States has a responsibility to promote human rights and democratic values around the world. This resolution serves as a reminder of the importance of upholding these values and holding those who commit crimes accountable.

The resolution also highlights the importance of reconciliation and healing in Indonesia. The resolution encourages the Indonesian government to address these crimes and to work towards national reconciliation.

The United States has been engaged in several initiatives to support human rights and democratic values in Indonesia, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. These initiatives have been successful in reducing the number of new HIV infections and increasing access to treatment.

Whereas the United States has been a leading donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the resolution highlights the importance of continued support for these efforts.

The United States has also supported efforts to address the epidemic of HIV and AIDS in Indonesia, including the provision of antiretroviral drugs to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Whereas the United States has been a leading donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the resolution highlights the importance of continued support for these efforts.

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The United States has also supported efforts to address the epidemic of HIV and AIDS in Indonesia, including the provision of antiretroviral drugs to people living with HIV/AIDS.
goal was within reach in February 2013 State of the Union Address; Whereas the international community is united in pursuit of achieving the goal of an AIDS-free generation; Whereas a UNAIDS 2014 report on the state of the global epidemic assessed that AIDS could be ended as a public health threat by 2030 if a fast-track response is taken and certain targets are realized by 2020, and further noted that doing so would aver nearly 26,000,000 new HIV infections and 21,000,000 AIDS deaths by 2020; Whereas, during the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak of 2014, countries with PEPFAR-strengthening capacity, high testing, and health facility capacity were able to contain Ebola outbreaks; Whereas, in August 2014, PEPFAR and the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFP) launched an initiative to double the total number of children receiving treatment over the next two years in ten countries; Whereas, December 1 of each year is internationally recognized as World AIDS Day; and Whereas, in 2014, the theme for World AIDS Day commemorations was “Focus, Partner, Achieve: An AIDS-free Generation”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) supports the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day, including seeking to get to zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths; (2) applauds the goals and approaches for achieving an AIDS-free generation set forth in the PEPFAR Blueprint: Creating an AIDS-free Generation, as well as the targets set by United Nations member states in the 2011 United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS; (3) commends the dramatic progress in global AIDS programs supported through the efforts of PEPFAR, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and UNAIDS; (4) urges, in order to ensure that an AIDS-free generation is within reach, rapid action by all nations toward; (A) full implementation of the Global Plan Towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections Among Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive to build on progress made to date; and (B) further expansion and scale-up of antiretroviral treatment programs, including efforts to secure access for children to life-saving medications such as getting antiretroviral HIV medication to the 2,000,000 children with HIV currently unable to access them; (5) calls for scaling up treatment to reach all individuals eligible for treatment under WHO guidelines; (6) calls for greater focus on the HIV-related vulnerabilities of women and girls, including those at risk for or who have survived violence or faced discrimination as a result of the disease, and urges more directed efforts to ensure that they are connected to the information, care, support, and treatment they require; (7) supports efforts to ensure inclusive access to programs and appropriate protections for all those most at risk of HIV/AIDS and hardest to reach; (8) encourages additional private-public partnerships to research and develop better and more affordable tools for the diagnosis, treatment, vaccine, and cure of HIV; (9) encourages sustained leadership by the United States in bilateral, multilateral, and private sector efforts to fight HIV; (10) stresses the importance of ensuring that the PEPFAR funds are central to the 2015 United Nations development agenda and of advocating for the inclusion of targets under relevant goals towards achieving zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths; (11) encourages and supports greater degrees of ownership and shared responsibility by developing countries in order to ensure sustainability of their domestic responses; and (12) encourages other members of the international community to sustain and scale up their support for and financial contributions to efforts around the world to combat HIV/AIDS.

SENATE RESOLUTION 598—EX-PRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF ABDUL-RAHMAN PETER KASSIG AND CON-DENMING THE TERRORIST ACTS OF THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT

Mr. DONELLY (for himself and Mr. COATS) submitted the following resolution, which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 598

Whereas Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig was a tireless humanitarian who devoted his life to helping the most vulnerable populations; Whereas Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig saved lives across Lebanon, Turkey, and Syria, particularly through the nongovernmental organization he founded, Special Emergency Response and Assistance; Whereas Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig represented the best qualities of humanity through his work administering medical aid, food and shelter to the people most impacted by the war in Syria; Whereas Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig served with honor as a United States Army Ranger; Whereas the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (referred to in this preamble as “ISIL”) is a terrorist organization that has committed widespread acts of violence against innocent civilians throughout Iraq and Syria, forcing many people to flee their homeland; Whereas ISIL has carried out grave atrocities targeting Muslims and religious and ethnic minorities in the region, including women and children, for enslavement, torture, and massacre; Whereas ISIL has captured and assassinated journalists and humanitarian and health workers, deepening the suffering of a war-torn region; Whereas ISIL is responsible for the murder of United States citizens; and Whereas ISIL continues to hold hostages in contravention of international law: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE. The Senate—
(1) mourns the death of Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig; (2) expresses condolences to the family and loved ones of Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig; (3) condemns the terrorist acts by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (referred to in this resolution as “ISIL”), including the targeting of innocent civilians, journalists, and aid workers; and (4) urges the United States and the international community, working in partnership with the governments and citizens of the Middle East, to address the threat posed by ISIL and the suffering of innocent civilians impacted by the war in Syria.

SEC. 2. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION. Nothing in this resolution is a declaration of war or authorization to use force.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3996. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LEE, Mr. PAUL, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WHITMER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HENSCHEL, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. NELSON, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as expenses under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3997. Mrs. BOYSEN (for Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. THUNE)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2444, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

SA 3998. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. ROCKEFELLER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2444, to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3999. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2519, to codify an existing operations center for cybersecurity.

SA 4000. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COBURN)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3979, to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

SA 4001. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3979, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess the cybersecurity workforce of the Department of Homeland Security and develop a comprehensive workforce strategy, and for other purposes.

SA 4002. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2952, supra.

SA 4003. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4004. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4005. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4006. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4007. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4008. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4009. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4010. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4011. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4012. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.
SA 4013. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4016. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4017. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4018. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4019. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4020. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4021. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4022. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4023. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4024. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4025. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4026. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4027. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4028. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4029. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4030. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4031. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4032. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4033. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4034. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4035. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4036. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4037. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4038. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4039. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4040. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4041. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4042. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4043. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4044. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4045. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4046. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4047. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4048. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4049. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4050. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4051. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4052. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4053. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4054. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4055. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4056. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.
SA 4079. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4080. Mr. CUTTEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4081. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4082. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4083. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4084. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4085. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4086. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4087. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4088. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4089. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4090. Mr. SCHUTZ (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3997. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. ROCKETT-FELDER (for himself and Mr. THUNE)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2144, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes; as follows:

(1) Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the "Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.
The table of contents for this Act is the following:

TITLES I—AUTHORIZATION
Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 102. Authorized levels of military personnel.

TITLES II—COAST GUARD
Sec. 201. Commissioned officers.
Sec. 203. Prevention and response workforce.
Sec. 204. Centers of expertise.
Sec. 205. Penalties.
Sec. 206. Agreements.
Sec. 207. Tuition assistance program coverage of textbooks and other educational materials.

TITLES III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION
Sec. 301. Repeal.
Sec. 302. Donation of historical property.
Sec. 303. Small shipyards.
Sec. 304. Drug testing reporting.
Sec. 305. Opportunities for sea service veterans.
Sec. 306. Clarification of high-risk waters.
Sec. 308. Report.
Sec. 309. Fishing safety grant programs.
Sec. 310. Establishment of Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee.
Sec. 311. Travel and subsistence.
Sec. 312. Prompt intergovernmental notice of maritime casualties.
Sec. 313. Area Contingency Plans.
Sec. 314. International ice patrol reform.
Sec. 315. Offshore supply vessel third-party inspection.
Sec. 316. Watchkeeping.
Sec. 317. Coast Guard response plan requirements.
Sec. 318. Regional Citizens’ Advisory Councils.
Sec. 319. Uninspected passenger vessels in the United States Virgin Islands.
Sec. 320. Treatment of abandoned seafarers.
Sec. 321. Website.
Sec. 322. Coast Guard regulations.

TITLES IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISION
Sec. 401. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 402. Award of reparations.
Sec. 403. Terms of Commissioners.

TITLES V—ARCTIC MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
Sec. 501. Arctic maritime transportation.
Sec. 502. Arctic maritime domain awareness.
Sec. 503. IMO Polar Code negotiations.
Sec. 504. Arctic maritime safety, security and operational priorities on the Missouri River.
Sec. 505. Arctic maritime history.
Sec. 506. Icebreaking in polar regions.

TITLES VI—MISCELLANEOUS
Sec. 601. Distant water tuna fleet.
Sec. 602. Extension of moratorium.
Sec. 603. National maritime strategy.
Sec. 604. Waivers.
Sec. 605. Competition by United States flag vessels.
Sec. 606. Vessel requirements for notices of arrival and departure and automatic identification system.
Sec. 607. Conveyance of Coast Guard property in Rochester, New York.
Sec. 608. Conveyance of certain property in Gig Harbor, Washington.
Sec. 609. Vessel determination.
Sec. 610. Safe vessel operation in Thunder Bay.
Sec. 611. Parking facilities.

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.
Funds are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for necessary expenses of the Coast Guard as follows:

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR OFFSHORE PATROL CUTTERS.

SEC. 222. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 14.
(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard, $5,981,036,000.
(2) For the acquisition, construction, re-building, and improvement of aids to navigation, assistance to offshore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto, $1,546,486,000, to remain available until expended.
(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including personnel and training costs, equipment, and services, $140,016,000.
(4) For environmental compliance and restoration of Coast Guard vessels, aircraft, and facilities (other than parts and equipment associated with operation and maintenance), $16,700,000, to remain available until expended.
(5) To the Coast Guard Reserve program, including personnel and training costs, equipment, and services, $140,016,000.
(6) For environmental compliance and restoration of Coast Guard vessels, aircraft, and facilities (other than parts and equipment associated with operation and maintenance), $16,700,000, to remain available until expended.
(7) To the Commandant of the Coast Guard for research, development, test, and evaluation of technologies, materials, and human factors directly related to improving the performance of the Coast Guard’s mission with respect to search and rescue, aids to navigation, marine safety, marine environmental protection, enforcement of laws and treaties, ice operations, oceanographic research, and defense readiness, $19,690,000.
(8) For the alteration or removal of bridges over navigable waters of the United States constituting obstructions to navigation, and for personnel and administrative costs associated with the alteration of Bridges Program, $15,000,000.

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZED LEVELS OF MILITARY TRAINING AND TRAINEE.
(a) Active Duty Strength.—The Coast Guard is authorized an end-of-year strength for active duty personnel of 34,000 for fiscal year 2015.
(b) Military Training Student Loads.—The Coast Guard is authorized average military training student loads for fiscal year 2015 as follows:
(1) For recruit and special training, 2,500 student years.
(2) For flight training, 165 student years.
(3) For professional training in military and civilian institutions, 350 student years.
(4) For officer acquisition, 1,200 student years.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

SEC. 201. COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.
Section 42(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking “7,200” and inserting “7,180”.

SEC. 202. COMMANDANT; APPOINTMENT.
Section 44 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking “7,200” and inserting “7,180”.

SEC. 203. PREVENTION AND RESPONSE.
Section 57 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—
(1) in subsection (b)—
(A) in paragraph (2) by striking “or” at the end;
(B) in paragraph (3) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and
(C) by adding at the end the following:
“(4) waterways operations manager shall have knowledge, skill, and practical experience with respect to marine transportation system management; and
“(5) port and facility safety and security specialist shall have knowledge, skill, and practical experience with respect to the safety, security, and environmental protection responsibilities associated with maritime ports and facilities;”;
(2) in subsection (c) by striking “or marine safety engineer” and inserting “marine safety engineer, waterways operations manager, or port and facility safety and security specialist”; and
(3) in subsection (f)(2) by striking “investigator, marine safety engineer,” and inserting “investigator, marine safety engineer, waterways operations manager, or port and facility safety and security specialist.”;

SEC. 204. CENTERS OF EXPERTISE.
Section 58(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:
“(b) Mission.—Not later than the date established under subsection (a) shall—
“(1) promote, facilitate, and conduct—
“(A) education; and
“(B) training; and
“(C) activities authorized under section 93(a)(4); and
“(2) establish and maintain a repository of information on operations, practices, and resources related to the mission for which the center was established; and
“(3) perform and support the mission for which the center was established.”.

SEC. 205. PENALTIES.
(a) Aids to Navigation and False Distress Messages.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:
“(1) In section 83 by striking “$100” and inserting “$1,500”; and
“(2) in section 84 by striking “$500” and inserting “$1,500”; and
“(3) in section 85 by striking “$100” and inserting “$1,500”; and
“(4) in section 88(c)(2) by striking “$5,000” and inserting “$10,000”.

(b) Unauthorized Use of Words “Coast Guard”.—Section 639 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking “$10,000” and inserting “$100”.

SEC. 206. AGREEMENTS.
(a) In General.—Section 93(a)(4) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—
“(1) by striking “investigate” and inserting “investigate”;
“(2) by striking “and” and inserting “and investigate”; and
“(3) by striking “and cooperate and coordinate such activities with other Government agencies and with private agencies”.
(b) Authority.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**102. Agreements.**

(a) In General.—In carrying out section 93(a)(4), the Commandant may—
“(1) enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and other agreements with—
“(A) Federal entities;
“(B) other public or private entities in the United States, including academic entities; and
“(C) foreign governments with the concurrence of the Secretary of State; and
“(2) impose on and collect from an entity subject to an agreement or contract under paragraph (1) a fee to assist with expenses incurred in carrying out such section.

(b) Deposit and Use of Fees.—Fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts. The fees may be used, to the extent provided in advance in an appropriation law, only to carry out activities under section 93(a)(4).

(c) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

**102. Agreements.**

SEC. 207. TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COVERAGE OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS.
Section 93(a)(4) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and the textbooks, manuals, and other materials required as part of such training or course of instruction” after “correspondence courses”.

SEC. 208. COAST GUARD HOUSING.
(a) Commandant; General Powers.—Section 93(a)(13) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking “the Treasury” and inserting “the fund established under section 687.”
(b) Lighthouse Property.—Section 672a(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking “the Treasury” and inserting “the fund established under section 687.”

SEC. 209. LEASE AUTHORITY.
Section 93 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(b) Leasing of Tidelands and Submerged Lands.
“(1) Authority.—The Commandant may lease under subsection (a)(13) submerged lands and tidelands under the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard without regard to the limitation under that subsection with respect to lease duration.
“(2) Limitation.—The Commandant may lease submerged lands and tidelands under paragraph (1) only if—
“(A) lease payments are—
“(i) received exclusively in the form of cash;
“(ii) equal to the fair market value of the use of the leased submerged lands or tidelands for the period during which such lands are leased, as determined by the Commandant; and
“(iii) deposited in the fund established under section 687; and
“(B) the lease does not provide authority to or commit the Coast Guard to use or support any improvements to such submerged lands or tidelands, or obtain goods or services from the lessee.”.

SEC. 210. NOTIFICATION OF CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS.
(a) In General.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

**103. Notification of certain determinations.**

(a) In General.—At least 90 days prior to making a final determination that a waterway, or a portion thereof, is navigable for commercial vessels on such waterway, or portion thereof, is subject to an agreement or contract under subsection (a) shall—
“(1) the Governor of each State in which such waterway, or portion thereof, is located;
“(2) the public; and
“(3) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(b) Content Requirement.—Each notification provided under subsection (a) to an entity specified in paragraph (3) of that subsection shall include—
“(1) an analysis of whether vessels operating on the waterway, or portion thereof, subject to the proposed determination are inspected or subject to other similar regulation by State or local officials;
“(2) an analysis of whether operators of commercial vessels on such waterway, or portion thereof, is navigable for commercial purposes of the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard, the Commandant shall provide notification regarding the proposed determination to—
“(1) the Governor of each State in which such waterway, or portion thereof, is located;
“(2) the public; and
“(3) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(c) Clerical Amendment.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

**102. Agreements.**
“(3) an estimate of the annual costs that the Coast Guard may incur in conducting operations on such waterway, or portion thereof;

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘§ 193. Notification of certain determinations.’’.

SEC. 211. ANNUAL BOARD OF VISITORS.

Section 194 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

‘‘§ 194. Annual Board of Visitors

(a) In General.—A Board of Visitors to the Coast Guard Academy is established to review and make recommendations on the operation of the Academy.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) In general.—The membership of the Board shall consist of the following:

(A) The chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the chairman’s designee.

(B) The chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, or the chairman’s designee.

(C) 3 Members of the Senate designated by the Vice President.

(D) 4 Members of the House of Representatives designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(E) 6 individuals designated by the President.

(2) LENGTH OF SERVICE.—

(A) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—A Member of Congress designated under subparagraph (C) or (D) of paragraph (1) as a member of the Board shall be designated as a member in the First session of a Congress and serve for the duration of that Congress.

(B) INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT.—Each individual designated by the President pursuant to paragraph (E) of paragraph (1) shall serve as a member of the Board for 3 years, except that any such member whose term of office has expired shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

(3) DEATH OR RESIGNATION OF A MEMBER.—If a member of the Board dies or resigns, a successor who is designated for any unexpired portion of the term of the member by the official who designated the member.

(b) PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ACADEMY VISITS.—

‘‘(1) Annual visit.—The Board shall visit the Academy annually to review the operation of the Academy.

(2) Annual visit.—With the approval of the Secretary, the Board or individual members of the Board may make other visits to the Academy in connection with the duties of the Board or to consult with the Superintendent of the Academy.

(3) Scope of review.—The Board shall review, with respect to the Academy—

(A) the state of morale and discipline;

(B) the curriculum;

(C) instruction;

(D) physical equipment;

(E) financial affairs; and

(F) other matters relating to the Academy that the Board determines appropriate.

(c) EFFECT.—Not later than 40 days after the date of an annual visit of the Board under subsection (a), the Board shall submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the actions of the Board during such visit and the recommendations of the Board pertaining to the Academy.

(d) ADVISORS.—If approved by the Secretary, the Board may consult with advisors in carrying out this section.

‘‘(4) Reimbursement.—Each member of the Board and each adviser consulted by the Board under subsection (f) shall be reimbursed, to the extent permitted by law, by the Coast Guard for actual expenses incurred while engaged in duties as a member or adviser.’’.

SEC. 212. FLAG OFFICERS.

(a) In General.—Title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 295 the following:

‘‘§ 296. Flag officers

During any period in which the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy, section 194 of title 10 does not apply with respect to flag officers of the Coast Guard.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 295 the following:

‘‘§ 296. Flag officers.’’.

SEC. 213. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON MEDALS OF HONOR.

Section 404 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ‘‘medal of honor,’’ each place it appears.

SEC. 214. COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE.

(a) In General.—Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after chapter 13 the following:

‘‘CHAPTER 14—COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 531. Work-life policies and programs.

532. Surveys of Coast Guard families.

533. Child development center standards and inspections.

534. Youth sponsorship initiatives.

535. Definitions.

SUBCHAPTER II—COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT

541. Support activities.

542. Education and training opportunities for Coast Guard spouses.

543. Youth sponsorship initiatives.

544. Child development centers.

545. Parent partnerships with child development centers.

SUBCHAPTER III—COAST GUARD CHILD CARE

551. Work-life policies and programs.

552. Surveys of Coast Guard families.

(b) Definitions.—In this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) ELIGIBLE SPOUSE.—

(A) In General.—The term ‘‘eligible spouse’’ means the spouse of a member of the Coast Guard who is serving on active duty and includes a spouse who receives transitional compensation under section 109 of title 10.

(B) Exclusion.—The term ‘‘eligible spouse’’ does not include a person who—

(i) is married to, but legally separated from, a member of the Coast Guard under a court order or statute of any State or territorial possession of the United States; or

(ii) is eligible for tuition assistance as a member of the Armed Forces.

(2) PORTABLE CAREER.—The term ‘‘portable career’’ includes an occupation that requires education, training, or both that results in a credential that is recognized by an industry, profession, or specific type of business.

SEC. 215. YOUTH SPONSORSHIP INITIATIVES.

(a) In General.—The Commandant is authorized to establish, within any Coast Guard unit, an initiative to help integrate into new surroundings the dependent children of members of the Coast Guard who received permanent change of station orders.

(b) Description of Initiative.—An initiative established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) provide to a dependent child of a member of the Coast Guard in the dependent child’s new Coast Guard community;

(2) primarily focus on preteen and teenaged children;

(3) be carried out by the Commandant with the advice of the National Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note).

(4) be carried out by the Commandant with the advice of the National Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note).

(5) be carried out by the Commandant with the advice of the National Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note).

(6) be carried out by the Commandant with the advice of the National Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note).

(7) be carried out by the Commandant with the advice of the National Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note).

(b) ACADEMY VISITS.—

(2) primarily focus on preteen and teenaged children;

(c) AUTHORITY.—In carrying out an initiative under subsection (a), the Commandant may—

(1) provide to a dependent child of a member of the Coast Guard information on youth programs and activities available in the dependent child’s new Coast Guard community;

(2) enter into agreements with nonprofit entities to provide youth programs and activities to such child.

SUBCHAPTER III—COAST GUARD CHILD CARE

551. Definitions.

In this subchapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.—The term ‘‘child abuse and neglect’’ has the meaning given to that term in section 3 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note).

(2) CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER.—The term ‘‘child development center’’ means a civilian employee of the Coast Guard who is employed to work in a Coast Guard child development center with regard to whether the employee is paid from appropriated or nonappropriated funds.
“(3) COAST GUARD CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER.—The term ‘Coast Guard child development center’ means a facility on Coast Guard property or on property under the jurisdiction of the commander of a Coast Guard unit at which child care services are provided for members of the Coast Guard.

“(4) COMPETITIVE SERVICE POSITION.—The term ‘competitive service position’ means a position in the competitive service (as defined in section 2102 of title 5).

“(5) FAMILY HOME DAYCARE.—The term ‘family home daycare’ means home-based child care services provided for a member of the Coast Guard by an individual who—

“(A) is certified by the Commandant as qualified to provide home-based child care services; and

“(B) provides home-based child care services on a regular basis in exchange for monetary compensation.

“§ 553. Child development center standards and inspections

“(a) STANDARDS.—The Commandant shall require each Coast Guard child development center to meet standards that the Commandant considers appropriate to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the children attending such center.

“(b) INSPECTIONS.—The Commandant shall provide for regular and unannounced inspections of Coast Guard child development center to ensure compliance with this section.

“(c) NATIONAL REPORTING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant shall maintain and publicize a means by which an individual can report, with respect to a Coast Guard child development center or a family home daycare—

“(A) any suspected violation of—

“(i) standards established under subsection (a); or

“(ii) any other applicable law or standard;

“(B) suspected child abuse or neglect; or

“(C) any other deficiency.

“(2) FUNCTIONS.—Each board of parents shall have the duty—

“(A) to meet periodically with the staff of the center at which the board is formed and the commander of the unit served by the center, for the purpose of discussing problems and concerns; and

“(B) to be responsible, together with the staff of the center, for coordinating any parent participation initiative established under subsection (b).

“(3) FACAC.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) does not apply to a board of parents formed under paragraph (1).

“(d) PARENT PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE.—The Commandant is authorized to establish a parent participation initiative at each Coast Guard child development center to encourage and facilitate parent participation in educational and related activities at the center.

“(e) TRANSFER OF PROVISIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) REIMBURSEMENT FOR ADOPTION EXPENSES.—Section 515 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(2) CHIL.

“(3) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The training program established under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, instruction with respect to—

“(A) early childhood development;

“(B) activities and disciplinary techniques appropriate to children of different ages;

“(C) child abuse and neglect prevention and detection; and

“(D) cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other emergency medical procedures.

“(4) USE OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS.—The Commandant may use Department of Defense training programs, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, for purposes of this subsection.

“(b) TRAINING AND CURRICULUM SPECIALISTS.—

“(1) SPECIALIST REQUIRED.—The Commandant shall require that at least 1 employee at each Coast Guard child development center be a specialist in training and curriculum development with appropriate credentials and experience.

“(2) DUTIES.—The duties of the specialist described in paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) maintaining a dialogue with the staff of the center on the performance of the other child care employees;

“(B) advising the director of the center on the performance of the other child care employees;

“(C) C H I L D DEVELOPMENT CENTER FEES .—The term ‘child development center fee receipts’ means fees paid by members of the Coast Guard for child care services provided at Coast Guard child development centers.

“§ 559. Parent partnerships with child development centers

“(a) PARENT BOARDS.—

“(1) FORMATION.—The Commandant shall require that there be formed at each Coast Guard child development center a board of parents, to be composed of parents of children attending the center.

“(2) FUNCTIONS.—Each board of parents formed under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) meet periodically with the staff of the center at which the board is formed and the commander of the unit served by the center, for the purpose of discussing problems and concerns; and

“(B) be responsible, together with the staff of the center, for coordinating any parent participation initiative established under subsection (b).

“(3) FACAC.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) does not apply to a board of parents formed under paragraph (1).

“(b) PARENT PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE.—The Commandant is authorized to establish a parent participation initiative at each Coast Guard child development center to encourage and facilitate parent participation in educational and related activities at the center.

“(c) TRANSFER OF PROVISIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) REIMBURSEMENT FOR ADOPTION EXPENSES.—Section 515 of title 14, United States Code, is redesignated as section 541 and transferred to appear before section 542 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

“(B) CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES.—Section 515 of title 14, United States Code—

“(1) is redesignated in section 552 and transferred to appear after section 551 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section; and

“(C) DEPENDENT SCHOOL CHILDREN.—Section 657 of title 14, United States Code—

“(a) is redesignated as section 544 and transferred to appear after section 543 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section; and

“(b) is amended—

“(i) in subsection (b) by inserting ‘and whether a family is participating in an initiative established under section 555(b)” after ‘family income’;

“(ii) by striking subsections (c) and (e); and

“(iii) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

“(2) DEPENDENT SCHOOL CHILDREN.—Section 657 of title 14, United States Code—

“(a) is redesignated as section 544 and transferred to appear after section 543 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section; and

“(b) is amended in subsection (a) by striking ‘Except as otherwise’ and all that follows through ‘Secretary may’ and inserting ‘Secretary may’.

“(c) FORMING UNITS.—

“(1) PART I.—The analysis for part 1 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by—

“(A) redesignating the matter following the table to chapter 13 the following:

“14. Coast Guard Family Support and

Child Care

“15. Child Development Centers

“16. Coast Guard Family Support and

Child Care

“17. Coast Guard Family Support and

“18. Continuing Education

“19. Child Development Centers

“20. Child Development Centers

“21. Child Development Centers

“22. Child Development Centers

“23. Child Development Centers

“24. Child Development Centers

“25. Child Development Centers

“26. Child Development Centers

“27. Child Development Centers

“28. Child Development Centers

“29. Child Development Centers

“30. Child Development Centers

“31. Child Development Centers

“32. Child Development Centers

“33. Child Development Centers

“34. Child Development Centers

“35. Child Development Centers

“36. Child Development Centers

“37. Child Development Centers

“38. Child Development Centers

“39. Child Development Centers

“40. Child Development Centers

“41. Child Development Centers

“42. Child Development Centers

“43. Child Development Centers

“44. Child Development Centers

“45. Child Development Centers

“46. Child Development Centers

“47. Child Development Centers

“48. Child Development Centers

“49. Child Development Centers

“50. Child Development Centers

“51. Child Development Centers

“52. Child Development Centers

“53. Child Development Centers

“54. Child Development Centers

“55. Parent partnerships with child development centers

“(a) PARENT BOARDS.—

“(1) FORMATION.—The Commandant shall require that there be formed at each Coast Guard child development center a board of parents, to be composed of parents of children attending the center.

“(2) FUNCTIONS.—Each board of parents formed under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) meet periodically with the staff of the center at which the board is formed and the commander of the unit served by the center, for the purpose of discussing problems and concerns; and

“(B) be responsible, together with the staff of the center, for coordinating any parent participation initiative established under subsection (b).
(3) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—The term ‘capital investment plan’ means the plan required under section 656(a)(1)."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 14 of United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 659 and inserting the following:

(3) DRUG INTERDICTION.—Section 103 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996 (14 U.S.C. 2 note), and the item relating to that section, is further amended—

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget under section 1105 of title 31 each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a Coast Guard authorization request for fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a Coast Guard authorization request for fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commandant shall—

(a) I N GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

§680. Retired service members and dependents serving on advisory committees.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget under section 1105 of title 31 each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing each project carried out under paragraph (1) in the most recently concluded fiscal year, for which the amount expended under such paragraph for such project was more than $1,000,000. If no such project was carried out during a fiscal year, no report under this paragraph shall be required with respect to that fiscal year.

(b) COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘Coast Guard authorization request’ means a proposal for control of such property, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 662 the following:

§662a. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.

(a) I N GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

§679. Inventory of real property.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget under section 1105 of title 31 each fiscal year, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a Coast Guard authorization request for fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commandant shall—

(a) I N GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 662 the following:

(b) CONSOLIDATION AND REFORM OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) MARINE SAFETY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 216(d)(2)(B) of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

(2) RETIRED SERVICE MEMBERS AND DEPENDENTS SERVING ON ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget under section 1105 of title 31 each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report describing each project carried out under paragraph (1) in the most recently concluded fiscal year, for which the amount expended under such paragraph for such project was more than $1,000,000. If no such project was carried out during a fiscal year, no report under this paragraph shall be required with respect to that fiscal year.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 57 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(i) by designating subsection (f) as subsection (f)(1), in the most recently concluded fiscal year, for which the amount expended under such paragraph for such project was more than $1,000,000. If no such project was carried out during a fiscal year, no report under this paragraph shall be required with respect to that fiscal year.

(c) SEC. 222. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 14.

(a) SEC. 221. ACTIVE DUTY FOR EMERGENCY AUGMENTATION OF REGULAR FORCES.

Section 712(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting “36 U.S.C. 123” before “36 U.S.C. 123”.

(b) SEC. 223. MULTIYEAR PROCUREMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR OFFSHORE PATROL CUTTERS.

SEC. 224. MAINTAINING MEDIUM ENDURANCE CUTTER MISSION CAPABILITY.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may enter into, in accordance with section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, multiyear contracts for the procurement of Offshore Patrol Cutters and associated equipment.

SEC. 225. MAINTAINING MEDIUM ENDURANCE CUTTER MISSION CAPABILITY.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may enter into, in accordance with section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, multiyear contracts for the procurement of Offshore Patrol Cutters and associated equipment.

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operated by the Coast Guard on the date of enactment of this Act—
(A) to maintain the capability of the Coast Guard to carry out sea-going missions with respect to national security; and
(B) to ensure that such offshore patrol cutters are scheduled to be commissioned under paragraph (4); and
(2) the extent to which differences determined pursuant to paragraph (1) are the result of inherent differences between—
(A) the Coast Guard and the Navy; and
(B) the Coast Guard and other branches of the Armed Forces;
(3) the feasibility of more closely aligning and conforming the Coast Guard’s officer fitness and capability evaluation reports and position number to—
(A) the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on any gaps that the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process that allows an operator of a marine exchange or other non-federal marine exchange service to—
(A) provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.
(2) request and accept through a direct military-to-military transfer under section 101 of this Act.
SEC. 226. GAPS IN WRITINGS ON COAST GUARD OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL.
SEC. 225. AVIATION CAPABILITY.
(b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment required under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, an analysis of—
(1) the extent to which the Coast Guard’s officer fitness reports differ in length, form, and content from the officer fitness reports used by the Navy and other branches of the Armed Forces;
(2) the extent to which differences determined pursuant to paragraph (1) are the result of inherent differences between—
(A) the Coast Guard and the Navy; and
(B) the Coast Guard and other branches of the Armed Forces;
(3) the feasibility of more closely aligning and conforming the Coast Guard’s officer fitness and capability evaluation reports and position number to—
(A) the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on any gaps that the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process that allows an operator of a marine exchange or other non-federal marine exchange service to—
(A) provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.
(2) request and accept through a direct military-to-military transfer under section 101 of this Act.
SEC. 226. GAPS IN WRITINGS ON COAST GUARD OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL.
SEC. 225. AVIATION CAPABILITY.
(b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment required under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, an analysis of—
(1) the extent to which differences determined pursuant to paragraph (1) are the result of inherent differences between—
(A) the Coast Guard and the Navy; and
(B) the Coast Guard and other branches of the Armed Forces;
(3) the feasibility of more closely aligning and conforming the Coast Guard’s officer fitness and capability evaluation reports and position number to—
(A) the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on any gaps that the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process that allows an operator of a marine exchange or other non-federal marine exchange service to—
(A) provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.
(2) request and accept through a direct military-to-military transfer under section 101 of this Act.
SEC. 226. GAPS IN WRITINGS ON COAST GUARD OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL.
SEC. 225. AVIATION CAPABILITY.
(b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment required under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, an analysis of—
(1) the extent to which differences determined pursuant to paragraph (1) are the result of inherent differences between—
(A) the Coast Guard and the Navy; and
(B) the Coast Guard and other branches of the Armed Forces;
(3) the feasibility of more closely aligning and conforming the Coast Guard’s officer fitness and capability evaluation reports and position number to—
(A) the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on any gaps that the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process that allows an operator of a marine exchange or other non-federal marine exchange service to—
(A) provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.
(2) request and accept through a direct military-to-military transfer under section 101 of this Act.
SEC. 226. GAPS IN WRITINGS ON COAST GUARD OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL.
SEC. 225. AVIATION CAPABILITY.
(b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment required under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, an analysis of—
(1) the extent to which differences determined pursuant to paragraph (1) are the result of inherent differences between—
(A) the Coast Guard and the Navy; and
(B) the Coast Guard and other branches of the Armed Forces;
(3) the feasibility of more closely aligning and conforming the Coast Guard’s officer fitness and capability evaluation reports and position number to—
(A) the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on any gaps that the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process that allows an operator of a marine exchange or other non-federal marine exchange service to—
(A) provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.
(2) request and accept through a direct military-to-military transfer under section 101 of this Act.
SEC. 226. GAPS IN WRITINGS ON COAST GUARD OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL.
SEC. 225. AVIATION CAPABILITY.
(b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment required under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, an analysis of—
(1) the extent to which differences determined pursuant to paragraph (1) are the result of inherent differences between—
(A) the Coast Guard and the Navy; and
(B) the Coast Guard and other branches of the Armed Forces;
(3) the feasibility of more closely aligning and conforming the Coast Guard’s officer fitness and capability evaluation reports and position number to—
(A) the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on any gaps that the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process that allows an operator of a marine exchange or other non-federal marine exchange service to—
(A) provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted.
(2) request and accept through a direct military-to-military transfer under section 101 of this Act.
SEC. 301. REPEAL.

Chapter 555 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by repealing section 55501; and

(2) by redesignating section 55502 as section 55501; and

(3) in the analysis by striking the items relating to sections 55501 and 55502 and inserting the following:

"5501. United States Committee on the Marine Transportation System.".

SEC. 302. DONATION OF HISTORICAL PROPERTY.

Section 51103 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) DONATION FOR HISTORICAL PURPOSES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may convey the right, title, and interest of the United States in any property administered by the Maritime Administration, except real estate or vessels, if—

"(A) the Secretary determines that such property is not needed by the Maritime Administration; and

"(B) the recipient—

"(i) is a nonprofit organization, a State, or a political subdivision of a State;

"(ii) agrees to hold the Government harmless for any claims arising from exposure to hazardous materials, including asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls, or lead paint, after conveyance of the property;

"(iii) provides a description and explanation of the intended use of the property to the Secretary for forwarding;

"(iv) has provided to the Secretary proof, as determined by the Secretary, of resources sufficient to accomplish the intended use provided under clause (iii) and to maintain the property;

"(v) agrees that when the recipient no longer requires the property, the Secretary shall—

"(I) return the property to the Secretary, at the recipient’s expense and in the same condition as received except for ordinary wear and tear; or

"(II) subject to the approval of the Secretary, retain, sell, or otherwise dispose of the property in a manner consistent with applicable law; and

"(vi) agrees to any additional terms the Secretary considers appropriate.

"(2) REVOCATION.—The Secretary shall include in any conveyance under this subsection terms under which all right, title, and interest conveyed by the Secretary shall revert to the Government if the Secretary determines the property has been used other than as approved by the Secretary under paragraph (1)(B)(ii).

303. SMALL SHIP YARDS.

Section 309 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking "2009 through 2013" and inserting "2015 through 2017".

SEC. 304. DRUG TESTING REPORTING.

Section 7706 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting "an applicant for employment by a Federal agency," after "Federal agency,"; and

(2) in subsection (c), by—

(A) inserting "or an applicant for employment by a Federal agency" after "an employee"; and

(B) striking "the employee." and inserting "the employee of the applicant."

SEC. 305. OPPORTUNITIES FOR SEA SERVICE VETERANS.

(a) ENDORSEMENTS FOR VETERANS.—Section 7011 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(1) has at least 3 months of qualifying service on vessels of the uniformed services (as that term is defined in section 101(a) of title 10) of appropriate tonnage or horsepower within the 7-year period immediately preceding the date of application; and

"(2) satisfies all other requirements for such a license.

(b) SEA SERVICE LETTERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 427 the following:

"§ 428. Sea service letters.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide a sea service letter to a member or former member of the armed forces (as such term is defined in title 10) of appropriate tonnage or horsepower within the 7-year period immediately preceding the date of application.

"(b) DEADLINE.—Not later than 30 days after receiving a request for a sea service letter from a member or former member of the Coast Guard under section (a), the Secretary shall provide such letter to such member or former member if such member or former member satisfies the requirement under subsection (a)(1).

"(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 427 the following:

"428. Sea service letters.

"(d) CREDITING OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES SERVICE, TRAINING, AND QUALIFICATIONS.—

"(1) Maximizing Credibility.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is organized under subchapter I of chapter 91 of title 10 shall consider United States merchant mariner license, certification, and document laws and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, to maximize the extent to which United States Armed Forces service, training, and qualifications are creditable toward meeting the requirements of such laws and such Convention.

"(2) Notification.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the Senate and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the steps taken to implement this subsection.

(d) MERCHANT MARINE POST-SERVICE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall take steps to promote better awareness, on an ongoing basis, among Coast Guard personnel regarding post-service use of Coast Guard training, education, and practical experience in satisfaction of requirements for maritime licenses, credentials, and certificates under section 11.213 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 306. CLARIFICATION OF HIGH-RISK WATERS.

Section 55505(e) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "provide armed personnel aboard" and inserting "reimburse, subject to the availability of appropriations, the owners or operators of"; and

(B) by inserting "for the cost of providing armed personnel aboard such vessels" before "if"; and

(2) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

"(2) In this subsection, the term ‘high-risk waters’ means waters so designated by the Commandant of the Coast Guard in the maritime security directive issued by the Commandant and in effect on the date on which an applicable voyage begins, if the Secretary of Transportation—

"(B) determines that an act of piracy occurred in the 12-month period preceding the date the voyage begins; or

"(C) in such period, issued an advisory warning that an act of piracy is possible in such waters."

SEC. 307. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) TITLE 46.—Section 2116(b)(1)(D) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking "section 93(c)(i)" and inserting "section 93(a)(1) of title 14".

(b) COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2006.—Section 303(a) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–241; 33 U.S.C. 1503 note) is amended by inserting "and from" before "the United States".

(c) DEEPWATER PORT ACT OF 1974.—Section 4(i) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1503) is amended by striking "or that will supply" after "be supplied with".

SEC. 308. REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the number of jobs, including vessel construction and vessel operating jobs, that would be created in the United States in the 12-month period ending the date of enactment of this Act, if liquefied natural gas exported from the United States were required to be carried—

(1) before December 31, 2018, on vessels documented under the laws of the United States; and

(2) on and after such date, on vessels documented under the laws of the United States and constructed in the United States.

SEC. 309. FISHING SAFETY GRANT PROGRAMS.

(a) FISHING SAFETY TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4502(d)(1)(D) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking "2010 through 2014" and inserting "2015 through 2017".

(b) FISHING SAFETY RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 4502(d)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking "2010 through 2014" and inserting "2015 through 2017".

SEC. 310. ESTABLISHMENT OF MERCHANT MARINE PERSONNEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 81 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:


"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as ‘the Committee’). The Committee—
“(1) shall act solely in an advisory capacity to the Secretary through the Commandant of the Coast Guard on matters relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards, and other matters as assigned by the Commandant;”

“(2) shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations reflecting its independent judgment to the Secretary;”

“(3) may be appointed by the Secretary and may conduct studies, inquiries, workshops, and fact finding in consultation with individuals and groups in the private sector and with State or local governments;”

“(4) shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations that the Committee makes to the Secretary;”

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall consist of not more than 19 members who are appointed by and serve terms of a duration determined by the Secretary. Before filling a position on the Committee, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register soliciting nominations for membership on the Committee.

“(2) REQUIRED MEMBERS.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary shall appoint as members of the Committee—

“(A) persons with active licenses or certificates issued under chapter 71 of title 46, United States Code, or section 664(e) of title 14, United States Code, or section (a),”.

“(b) TITLE 14, UNITED STATES CODE.—Sections 3114(a) and (b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall consist of not more than 19 members who are appointed by and serve terms of a duration determined by the Secretary. Before filling a position on the Committee, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register soliciting nominations for membership on the Committee.

“(2) REQUIRED MEMBERS.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary shall appoint as members of the Committee—

“(A) persons with active licenses or certificates issued under chapter 71 of title 46, United States Code, or section 664(e) of title 14, United States Code, or section 6101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

“(1) amends the Standards of Ethical Conduct for members and employees of the Coast Guard to include regulations governing the acceptance of in-kind reimbursements; and

“(2) certifies the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives as having the authority to be notified of the amendments made under paragraph (i).”

“SECTION 312. PROMPT INTERGOVERNMENTAL NOTICE OF MARINE CASUALTIES.

“Section 6101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

“(1) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) LAND ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall notify the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives of any marine casualties that are reasonably expected to affect the marine environment, within 72 hours of declaring such marine casualties to be of national significance, and thereafter at least every 72 hours thereafter until the marine casualty has been terminated;”

“(2) by redesigning subsection (b)(2) as subsection (i) of section 6101, and in such subsection—

“(A) by striking “paragraph,” and inserting “paragraph”;”

“(2) The value of in-kind transportation, travel, and subsistence accepted under this paragraph may not exceed applicable per diem rates set forth in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37;”

“(3) may be given special assignments by the Secretary and may conduct studies, inquiries, workshops, and fact finding in consultation with individuals and groups in the private sector and with State or local governments;”

“(4) shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations reflecting its independent judgment to the Secretary;”

“(5) shall meet not less than twice each year; and

“(6) may make available to Congress recommendations that the Committee makes to the Secretary.”

“(1) shall act solely in an advisory capacity to the Secretary through the Commandant of the Coast Guard on matters relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards, and other matters as assigned by the Commandant;”

“(2) shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations reflecting its independent judgment to the Secretary;”

“(3) may be appointed by the Secretary and may conduct studies, inquiries, workshops, and fact finding in consultation with individuals and groups in the private sector and with State or local governments;”

“(4) shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations that the Committee makes to the Secretary;”

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall consist of not more than 19 members who are appointed by and serve terms of a duration determined by the Secretary. Before filling a position on the Committee, the Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register solicit—
(C) in the first sentence of subsection (d), by striking "vessels" and inserting "aircraft"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"§ 80304. Limitation on ice patrol data

"Notwithstanding section 80301 of this title or section 80304(c) of the Maritime Administration Appropriations Act, 2000, to the extent that the Coast Guard carries off the expenses related to the ice patrol data to protect a vessel, the General Services Administration Fund may be appropriated to the Secretary of Transportation to reimburse the expenses and make available to the Coast Guard funds therefor.

SEC. 315. OFFSHORE SUPPLY VESSEL THIRD-PARTY INSPECTION.

Section 3316 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g), and by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

"(f) Third-party inspection.—(1) In general.—Sections 3077 and 3079 of title 46, United States Code, as added by the Merchant Marine and Fedral Aid Highways Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277; 112 Stat. 2502) shall apply to an uninspected vessel of less than 24 meters' seasonal waterline length only if the vessel—

"(A) is used as a supply vessel;

"(B) is not commercially documented under title 46, United States Code; or

"(C) is used in support of a vessel of a type in which there is not a single unified system of inspection, certification, or registration;

"(2) Authorization.—Subsection (c) of section 3079 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

"(5) Authorization.—Subsection (c) of section 3079 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) Authorization.—Subsection (c) of section 3079 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

"(2) Authorization.—Subsection (c) of section 3079 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(2) Authorization.—Subsection (c) of section 3079 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(H) Subsection (c) of section 3079 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking "a vessel" and inserting "the vessel".

SEC. 316. WATCHES.

Section 3101 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking "coal passers, firemen, oilers, and water tenders" and inserting "and oilers"; and

(2) in subsection (g)(1), by striking "the number of vessels for which a delegation was made under paragraph (1)".

SEC. 317. COAST GUARD RESPONSE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) VESSEL RESPONSE PLAN CONTENTS.—The Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall require that each vessel response plan prepared for a mobile offshore drilling unit includes information from the facility response plan prepared for the mobile offshore drilling unit regard-
“(B) the vessel owner or operator abandons a seafarer in the United States, as determined by the Secretary based on substantial evidence.”

“ENFORCEMENT.—If a vessel owner or operator fails to reimburse the Fund under paragraph (1) within 60 days after receiving a written, itemized description of reimbursable expenses and a demand for payment, the Secretary may—

“(A) proceed in rem against the vessel on which the seafarer served in the Federal district court for the district in which the vessel is found; and

“(B) withhold or revoke the clearance required under section 60105 for the vessel and any other vessel operated by the same operator (as that term is defined in section 209(a)(a) of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1909(a)) as the vessel on which the seafarer served.

“(3) OBTAINING CLEARANCE.—A vessel may obtain clearance from the Secretary after it is withheld or revoked under paragraph (2)(B) if the vessel owner or operator—

“(A) reimburses the Fund the amount required under paragraph (1); or

“(B) provides a bond, or other evidence of financial responsibility, sufficient to meet the amount required to be reimbursed under paragraph (1).

“(4) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall notify the vessel at least 72 hours before taking any action under paragraph (2)(B).

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ABANDONS; ABANDONED.—Each of the terms ‘abandons’ and ‘abandoned’ means—

“(A) a vessel owner’s or operator’s unilateral severance of ties with a seafarer; or

“(B) a vessel owner’s or operator’s failure to provide necessary support of a seafarer.

“(2) FUND.—The term ‘Fund’ means the Abandoned Seafarers Fund established under this section.

“(3) NECESSARY SUPPORT.—The term ‘necessary support’ means normal wages and expenses the Secretary considers reasonable for lodging, subsistence, clothing, medical care (including hospitalization), repatriation, and any other support the Secretary considers to be appropriate.

“(4) VESSEL.—The term ‘vessel’ means an alien crew member who is employed or engaged in any capacity on board a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

“(5) VESSEL SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES.—The term ‘vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States’ has the meaning given that term in section 7052(c), except that it does not include a vessel that is—

“(A) owned, or operated under a bareboat charter, by the United States, a State or political subdivision thereof, or a foreign nation; and

“(B) not engaged in commerce.

“(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

“1113. Treatment of abandoned seafarers.”

“(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 9 of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (33 U.S.C. 1909) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) Any penalty collected under subsection (a) or (b) that is not paid under that subsection to the person giving information leading to the conviction or assessment of such penalties shall be deposited in the Abandoned Seafarers Fund established under section 11113 of title 46, United States Code.”

“SEC. 321. WEBSITE.

“(a) REPORTS TO SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION; INCIDENTS AND DETAILS.—Section 3507(g)(3)(A) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

“(1) in clause (ii) by striking ‘‘the incident to an Internet based portal maintained by the Secretary’’ and inserting ‘‘the incident on a website maintained by the Secretary’’; and

“(2) in clause (iii) by striking ‘‘the incident on a website maintained by the Secretary’’ and inserting ‘‘the website maintained by the Secretary of Transportation under paragraph (4)(A)’’.

“(b) AVAILABILITY OF DATA ON INTERNET.—Section 3507(g)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

“(1) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) WEBSITE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall maintain a statistical compilation of all incidents on board a cruise vessel specified in paragraph (3)(A)(i) on an Internet website that provides a numerical compilation of all incidents on board a cruise vessel served.

“(ii) NECESSARY SUPPORT.—The term ‘necessary support’ means normal wages and expenses and a demand for payment, the person giving information leading to the conviction or assessment of such penalties shall be deposited in the Offshore Activities Fund established under section 2108 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

“(1) in subsection (b), by striking ‘‘plus any penalty collected under subsection (a)’’ and inserting ‘‘plus any penalty collected under subsection (a), plus any penalty collected under subsection (d)’’; and

“(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) ATTORNEY FEES.—In any action brought under section 4310, the prevailing party may be awarded reasonable attorney fees.”

“SEC. 403. TERMS OF COMMISSIONERS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

“(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) TERMS.—The term of each Commissioner is 5 years. When the term of a Commissioner ends, the Commissioner may continue to serve until a successor is appointed and qualified, but for a period not to exceed one year. Except as provided in paragraph (3), no individual may serve more than 2 terms.”; and

“(b) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4), and inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(4) VACANCIES.—A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. An individual appointed to fill a vacancy may serve 2 terms in addition to the remainder of the term of the person for which the predecessor of that individual was appointed.

“(c) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—

“(A) LIMITATION ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH RELATED ENTITIES.—An individual may not have a pecuniary interest in, hold an official relation to, or own stocks or bonds of any entity the Commission regulates under chapter 401 of this title.

“(B) LIMITATION ON OTHER ACTIVITIES.—A Commissioner may not engage in another business, vocation, or employment.”

“(d) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(1) does not apply with respect to a Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission appointed and confirmed by the Senate before the date of the enactment of this Act.”

“TITLE V—ARCTIC MARITIME TRANSPORTATION

“SEC. 501. ARCTIC MARITIME TRANSPORTATION.

“(a) ARCTIC MARITIME TRANSPORTATION.—Chapter 5 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 89 the following:

“(b) 90. Arctic maritime transportation

“(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to ensure safe and secure maritime shipping in the Arctic including the availability of aids to navigation, vessel escorts, spill response capability, and maritime search and rescue in the Arctic.

“(b) INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION AGREEMENTS.—To carry out the purpose.
of this section, the Secretary is encouraged to enter into negotiations through the International Maritime Organization to conclude and execute agreements to promote coordinated action among the United States, Russia, Canada, Iceland, Norway, and Denmark and other seafaring and Arctic nations to ensure, in the Arctic—

(1) improvement and maintenance of aids to navigation;

(2) appropriate marine safety, tug, and salvage capabilities;

(3) spill prevention and response capability;

(4) maritime domain awareness, including long-range vessel tracking; and

(5) analysis and coordination.

(b) COORDINATION.—The Commandant and the head of a department or agency listed in subsection (b) may by agreement, on a reimbursable basis, share personnel, services, equipment, and facilities to carry out the requirements of this section.

(d) 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than three years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a 5-year strategic plan to guide interagency and international intergovernmental cooperation and coordination for the purpose of improving maritime domain awareness in the Arctic.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the term ‘Arctic’ has the meaning given in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111)).

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 153 the following:

‘‘154. Arctic maritime domain awareness.’’. SEC. 503. IMO POLAR CODE NEGOTIATIONS.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

(1) the strategy for maintaining the Coast Guard’s polar icebreaking services until at least September 30, 2024;

(2) a strategy to meet the Coast Guard’s Arctic ice operations needs through September 30, 2030; and

(3) a strategy to meet the Coast Guard’s Antarctic ice operations needs through September 30, 2050.

(2) RESULT OF NO DETERMINATION.—If in the analysis submitted under subsection (a) the Secretary does not make a determination under section 154. Arctic maritime domain awareness, the Secretary must take such action as the Secretary determines is necessary to maintain the needs and services described in that paragraph.

(b) CUTTER ‘POLAR SEA’.—Upon the submission of a service life extension plan in accordance with section 222(d)(1)(C) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213, 126 Stat. 1560), the Secretary may, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, decommission the Coast Guard Cutter ‘Polar Sea’, if—

(1) the Secretary is satisfied that the icebreaker has a business case analysis comparing the leasing or purchasing of icebreakers to maintain the needs and services described in that paragraph;

(2) the coming into effect of such a code and such amendments for nations that are parties to those conventions;

(3) impacts of communities located in the Arctic (as that term is defined in the section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111)) of such a code or such amendments, on—

(A) the costs of delivering fuel and freight; and

(B) the safety of maritime transportation; and

(4) actions the Secretary must take to implement the requirements of such a code and such amendments.

SEC. 504. FORWARD OPERATING FACILITIES.

The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may construct facilities in the Arctic (as that term is defined in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111)). The facilities shall—

(1) support aircrew maintenance, including exhaust ventilation, heat, an engine wash system, fuel andound support services, and electrical power;

(2) provide shelter for both current helicopter assets and those projected to be located at Arctic sites; and

(3) include accommodations for personnel.
SEC. 601. DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.

Section 421 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (46 U.S.C. 8103 note) is amended—

(a) by striking subsection (c) and (e); and

(b) by redesignating subsections (d) and (f) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

SEC. 602. EXTENSION OF MORATORIUM.

Section 2(a) of Public Law 110–299 (33 U.S.C. 1342 note) is amended by striking “2014” and inserting “2017”.

SEC. 603. NATIONAL MARITIME STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a national maritime strategy.

(b) CONTENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) identify—

(A) Federal regulations and policies that reduce the efficiencies of United States flag vessels in international transportation markets; and

(B) the impact of reduced cargo flow due to reductions in the number of members of the United States Armed Forces stationed or deployed outside of the United States; and

(2) include recommendations to—

(A) increase the use of United States flag vessels more competitive in shipping routes between United States and foreign ports;

(B) increase the use of United States flag vessels imported to and exported from the United States;

(C) ensure compliance by Federal agencies with chapter 553 of title 46, United States Code; and

(D) increase the use of third-party inspection and certification authorities to inspect and certify vessels;

(E) deploy the use of short sea transportation routes, including routes designated under section 55601(c) of title 46, United States Code, to enhance intermodal freight movement; and

(F) enhance United States shipbuilding capability.

SEC. 604. WAIVERS.

(a) JOHN CRAIG.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8902 of title 46, United States Code, shall not apply to the vessel John Craig (IMO number D1106131) when such vessel is operating on the portion of the Kentucky River, Kentucky, located at approximately mile 1,600 plus or minus 1,607, between Lock and Dam Number 8 and Lock and Dam Number 9.

(2) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall apply on and after the date on which the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating determines that a licensing requirement has been established in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for the F/V Western Challenger (IMO number 5388108).

SEC. 605. COMPETITION BY UNITED STATES FLAG VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct an assessment of authorities under subsection II of title 46, United States Code, that have been delegated to the Coast Guard and that impact the ability of vessels documented under the laws of the United States to effectively compete in international transportation markets.

(b) REVIEW OF DIFFERENCES WITH IMO STANDARDS.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall include a review of differences between United States laws, policies, regulations, and guidelines governing the inspection of vessels documented under the laws of the United States and international standards set by the International Maritime Organization governing the inspection of vessels.

(c) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Commandant enters into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences under subsection (a), the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the assessment required under such subsection.

SEC. 606. VESSEL REQUIREMENTS FOR NOTICES OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AND AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM.

Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating relinquishes the reservation of the Property for lighthouse purposes, at the request of the City and subject to the requirements of this section, the Secretary shall convey to the City described in subsection (b) and interest of the United States in and to the Property, notwithstanding the land use planning requirements of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713).

(3) T ERM S OF CONVEYANCE.—A conveyance made under paragraph (1) shall be made—

(A) subject to valid existing rights;

(B) at the fair market value as described in subsection (c); and

(C) subject to any other condition that the Secretary may consider appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(3) COSTS.—The City shall pay any transaction costs associated with a conveyance under paragraph (1), including the costs of the appraisal, title searches, maps, and boundary and cadastral surveys.

(4) CONVEYANCE IS NOT A MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION.—A conveyance under paragraph (1) shall not be considered a major Federal action for purposes of section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)).

(3) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market value of the Property shall be—

(A) determined by an appraisal conducted by an independent appraiser selected by the Secretary; and

(B) approved by the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (3).
(2) **Requirements.**—An appraisal conducted under paragraph (1) shall—
(A) be conducted in accordance with nationally recognized appraisal standards, including—
(i) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and
(ii) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and
(B) shall reflect the equitable considerations described in paragraph (3).

(3) **Equitable Considerations.**—In approving the fair market value of the Property under this subsection, the Secretary shall take into consideration matters of equity and fairness, including the City's past and current tax history, maintenance or improvements by the City to the Property, and such other factors as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(4) **Revocation.**—Revocation—Effective on and after the date on which a conveyance of the Property is made under subsection (b)(1),

(A) Executive Order 3528, dated August 9, 1921, is revoked; and

(B) the use of the tide and shore lands belonging to the State of Washington and adjoining the Property, that were granted to the Government of the United States pursuant to the Act of the District of Columbia on August 12, 1909, are no longer to the State of Washington and State of Oregon, as that term is defined under section 3502(8) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101); and

(C) 1,042 parking spaces not later than September 30, 2017.

The vessel assigned United States official number 1205366 is deemed a new vessel effective on the date of delivery of the vessel after January 1, 2012, from a privately owned United States shipyard, if no encumbrances are on record with the Coast Guard at the time of the issuance of the new certificate of documentation for the vessel.

**SEC. 610. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THUNDER BAY.**

The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not prohibit a vessel operating within the existing boundaries and any future expanded boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve from taking up or discharging ballast water to allow for safe and efficient vessel operation if the uptake or discharge of this ballast water would violate any maintenance or improvement requirements that would apply if the area were not a marine sanctuary.

**SEC. 611. PARKING FACILITIES.**

**Allocation and Assignment.**—(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Administrator of General Services, in coordination with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, shall allocate and assign the spaces in parking facilities at the Department of Homeland Security National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve to allow any member or employee of the Coast Guard, who is assigned to the Campus, to use such spaces.

(2) **Timing.**—In carrying out paragraph (1), and in addition to the parking spaces allocated and assigned to Coast Guard members and employees in fiscal year 2014, the Administrator shall allocate and assign not less than—

(A) 300 parking spaces not later than September 30, 2015;

(B) 700 parking spaces not later than September 30, 2016; and

(C) 1,042 parking spaces not later than September 30, 2017.

**SEC. 226. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AND COMMUNICATIONS INTEGRATION CENTER.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**SEC. 226. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AND COMMUNICATIONS INTEGRATION CENTER.**

(a) **Definitions.**—In this section—

(i) the term ‘cybersecurity risk’ means threats to and vulnerabilities of information systems and any related consequences caused by or resulting from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, degradation, disruption, modification, or destruction of information or information systems, including such related consequences caused by an act of terrorism; and

(ii) the term ‘incident’ means an occurrence that—

(A) actually or imminently jeopardizes, without lawful authority, the integrity, confidentiality, or availability of information on an information system; or

(B) constitutes a violation or imminent threat of violation of law, security policies, or security procedures, or acceptable use policies;

(iii) the term ‘information sharing and analysis organization’ has the meaning given that term in section 212(5) of title 44, United States Code; and

(iv) the term ‘information system’ has the meaning given that term in section 3502(8) of title 44, United States Code; and

(b) **Functions.**—The cybersecurity functions of the Center shall include—

(i) a federal civilian interface for the multi-directional and cross-sector sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks, incidents, analysis, and warnings for Federal and non-Federal entities; and

(ii) providing shared situational awareness to enable real-time, cross-border, multi-directional and cross-sector data collection and operational actions across the Federal Government and non-Federal entities to address cyber- security risks and incidents to Federal and non-Federal entities; and

(iii) coordinating the sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents across the Federal Government, facilitating cross-sector coordination to address cybersecurity risks and incidents, including cybersecurity risks and incidents that may be related or could have consequential impacts across multiple sectors; and

(iv) providing information and recommendations on security and resilience measures to Federal and non-Federal entities, including information and recommendations to—

(A) facilitate information security; and

(B) strengthen information systems against cybersecurity risks and incidents.

(c) **Composition.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Center shall be composed of—

(A) appropriate representatives of Federal entities, such as—

(1) sector-specific agencies; and

(2) civilian and law enforcement agencies; and

(3) any other participants in the cyber community, as that term is defined under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)); and

(B) appropriate representatives of non-Federal entities, such as—

(1) State and local governments; and

(2) owners and operators of critical information systems;
(C) components within the Center that carry out cybersecurity and communications activities;
(D) a designated Federal official for operations coordination with and across each sector; and
(E) other appropriate representatives or entities, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) The Secretary shall, in the event of an incident during exigent circumstances the Secretary may grant a Federal or non-Federal entity immediate temporary access to the Center.

(e) PRINCIPLES.—In carrying out the functions under subsection (c), the Center shall—

(1) to the extent practicable, that—
(A) timely, actionable, and relevant information related to cybersecurity risks, incidents, and analysis is shared;
(B) when appropriate, information related to cybersecurity risks, incidents, and analysis is integrated with other relevant information and tailored to the specific characteristics of a sector;
(C) activities are prioritized and conducted based on the level of risk;
(D) industry sector-specific, academic, and military expertise is sought and receives appropriate consideration;
(E) continuous, collaborative, and inclusive coordination occurs—
(i) across sectors; and
(ii) with—
(I) sector coordinating councils;
(II) information sharing and analysis organizations; and
(III) other appropriate non-Federal partners;
(F) as appropriate, the Center works to develop and use mechanisms for sharing information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents that are technology-neutral, interoperable, real-time, cost-effective, and resilient; and
(G) the Center works with other agencies to reduce unnecessarily duplicative sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents;

(2) that information related to cybersecurity risks and incidents is appropriately safeguarded against unauthorized access; and

(3) activities conducted by the Center comply with all policies, regulations, and laws that protect the privacy and civil liberties of United States persons.

(f) NO RIGHT OR BENEFIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The provision of assistance or information to, and inclusion in the Center, of federal or private entities under this section shall be at the sole and unreviewable discretion of the Under Secretary appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H).

(2) CERTAIN ASSISTANCE OR INFORMATION.—The provision of certain assistance or information to, or inclusion in the Center of, one governmental or private entity pursuant to this section shall not create a right or benefit, substantive or procedural, to similar assistance or information for any other governmental or private entity.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 note) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 225 the following:

Sec. 226. National cybersecurity and communications integration centers.

SEC. 4. RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING NEW AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit recommendations on how to expedite the implementation of information-sharing agreements for cybersecurity purposes between the Center and non-Federal entities (referred to in this section as “cybersecurity information-sharing agreements”) to—

(1) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and
(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

(b) CONTENTS.—In submitting recommendations under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) address the development and utilization of a scalable form that retains all privacy and other protections in cybersecurity information-sharing agreements in effect as of the date on which the Secretary submits the recommendations, including Cooperative Research and Development Agreement agreements, and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States a report on the Center, which shall include—

(a) information on the Center, including—

(I) an assessment of the capability and capacity of the Center to carry out its cybersecurity mission under this Act;
(2) the number of representatives from non-Federal entities that are participating in the Center to carry out its cybersecurity mission under this Act;
(3) the number of requests from non-Federal entities to participate in the Center and the response to such requests;
(4) the average length of time taken to resolve requests, described in paragraph (3);
(5) the identification of—
(A) any delay in resolving requests described in paragraph (3) involving security clearance processing; and
(B) the agency involved with a delay described in subparagraph (A); and
(6) a description of any other obstacles or challenges to resolving requests described in paragraph (3) and a summary of the reasons for denials of any such requests;
(7) the extent to which the Department is engaged in information sharing with each critical infrastructure sector, including—
(A) the extent to which each sector has representatives at the Center;
(B) the extent to which owners and operators of critical infrastructure in each critical infrastructure sector participate in information sharing at the Center; and
(C) the volume and range of activities with respect to which the Secretary has collaborated with the sector coordinating councils and the sector-specific agencies to promote greater engagement with the Center; and
(8) the policies and procedures established by the Center to safeguard privacy and civil liberties.

SEC. 5. ANNUAL REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the effectiveness of the Center in carrying out its cybersecurity mission.

SEC. 6. CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN; CLEARANCES.

(a) CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN; CLEARANCES.—Subtitle C of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 141 et seq.), as amended by section 3, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 227. CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN.

"(a) The Under Secretary appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H) shall, in coordination with appropriate Federal departments and agencies, State and local governments, sector coordinating councils, information sharing and analysis organizations, and other appropriate representatives or entities and individuals, develop, regularly update, maintain, and exercise adaptable cyber incident response plans to address cybersecurity risks (as defined in section 226) to critical infrastructure.

"SEC. 228. CLEARANCES.

"(a) The Secretary shall make available the process of application for security clearances under Executive Order 13549 (75 Fed. Reg. 162; relating to a classified national security information program) or any successor Executive Order to appropriate representatives of sector coordinating councils, sector information sharing and analysis organizations (as defined in section 212(5)), owners and operators of critical infrastructure, and any other person that the Secretary determines appropriate.

(b) BREACHES—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall ensure that data breach notification policies and guidelines are updated periodically and require—

(A) except as provided in paragraph (3)(B), notification by the affected agency to the committee of Congress described in section 3544(c)(1) of title 44, United States Code, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, which shall—
(i) be provided expeditiously and not later than 30 days after the agency discovered the unauthorized acquisition or access; and
(ii) include—
(I) information about the breach, including a summary of any information that the agency knows on the date on which notification is provided about how the breach occurred;
(II) an estimate of the number of individuals affected by the breach, based on information that the agency knows on the date on which notification is provided, including an assessment of the risk of harm to affected individuals;
(III) a description of any circumstances necessitating a delay in providing notice to affected individuals; and
(IV) an estimate of whether and when the agency will provide notice to affected individuals; and

(B) notification by the affected agency to affected individuals, pursuant to data breach notification policies and guidelines, which shall be provided as expeditiously as practicable and without unreasonable delay after the agency discovers the unauthorized acquisition of access.

(2) NATIONAL SECURITY; LAW ENFORCEMENT; REMEDIATION.—"The Attorney General, the head of an element of the intelligence community (as such term is defined under section 101(1) of Title 50 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)), or the Secretary may delay the notice to affected individuals.
under paragraph (1)(B) if the notice would disrupt a law enforcement investigation, endanger national security, or hamper security remediation actions.

(3) COMPLIANCE—During the first 2 years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall, on an annual basis—

(A) determine and publish a list of each chemical facility to which the requirements under section 2533a(a) of title 44, United States Code, apply; and

(B) include the assessment described in clause (A) in the annual report required under section 453a(4)(8) of title 44, United States Code.

(4) EXCEPTION.—Any element of the intelligence community (as such term is defined under section 101 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))) that is required to provide notice under paragraph (1)(A) shall only provide such notice to appropriate committees of Congress.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the amendment made by subsection (a) or in subsection (b)(1) shall be construed to alter any authority of a Federal agency or department.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 note), as amended by section 3, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 226 the following:

"Sec. 227. Cyber incident response plan.

"Sec. 228. Clearances.".

"Sec. 227. Cyber incident response plan.

"Sec. 228. Clearances.".

"Sec. 227. Cyber incident response plan.

"Sec. 228. Clearances.".
this section, the Secretary may recommend additional security measures to the program that will enable the Secretary to approve the program.

‘‘(H) SATISFACTION OF SITE SECURITY PLAN REQUIREMENT.—A covered chemical facility may satisfy the site security plan requirement under subsection (a) by adopting an alternate security program that the Secretary has—

‘‘(i) reviewed and approved under subparagraph (A); and

‘‘(ii) determined to be appropriate for the operations and security concerns of the covered chemical facility.

‘‘(3) SITE SECURITY PLAN ASSESSMENTS.—

‘‘(A) RISK ASSESSMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—In approving or disapproving a site security plan under this subsection, the Secretary shall employ the risk assessment policies and procedures developed under title.

‘‘(B) PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PLANS.—In the case of a covered chemical facility for which the Secretary approved a site security plan before the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the Secretary may approve a site security plan for the covered chemical facility that includes—

‘‘(i) the site security plan submitted to the Secretary under subsection (a)(2)(D) by developing and submitting to the Secretary—

‘‘(I) a site security plan and the certification described in subparagraph (C); or

‘‘(II) a site security plan in conformance with a template authorized under subparagraph (H).

‘‘(C) GUIDANCE FOR EXPEDITED APPROVAL FACILITIES.—

‘‘(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the site security plan shall include an adequate procedure for addressing events beyond the control of the owner or operator in implementing any planned measures.

‘‘(ii) the date that is 210 days after the date of enactment of this Act; and

‘‘(D) DEADLINE.—

‘‘(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date described in clause (ii), the owner or operator of an expedited approval facility shall submit to the Secretary the site security plan and the certification described in subparagraph (C).

‘‘(ii) the date described in this clause is—

‘‘(I) for an expedited approval facility that was assigned to tier 3 or 4 under existing CPAPS regulations before the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, the date that is 210 days after the date of enactment of that Act; and

‘‘(II) for any expedited approval facility not described in clause (I), the later of—

‘‘(aa) the date on which the expedited approval facility was assigned to tier 3 or 4 under subsection (e)(2)(A); or

‘‘(bb) the date that is 210 days after the date of enactment of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014.

‘‘(E) COMPLIANCE.—

‘‘(i) IN GENERAL.—For an expedited approval facility submitting a site security plan and certification described in subparagraph (C), the owner or operator shall—

‘‘(I) implement all of the required performance measures in the site security plan or is otherwise in violation of the site security plan.

‘‘(ii) the owner or operator of an expedited approval facility amends a site security plan submitted under subparagraph (A), the owner or operator shall submit an amended site security plan and certification describing the site security plan and the certification information in the site security plan that contains the information described in subparagraph (C).

‘‘(ii) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—For purposes of this clause, an amendment to a site security plan includes any technical amendment to the site security plan.

‘‘(ii) AMENDMENT HURDLE.—The owner or operator of an expedited approval facility shall amend the site security plan if—

‘‘(i) there is a change in the design, construction, operation, or maintenance of the expedited approval facility that affects the site security plan;

‘‘(ii) the Secretary requires additional security measures or suspends a certification and recommends additional security measures under subparagraph (G); or

‘‘(iii) the owner or operator receives notice from the Secretary of a change in tiering under subsection (e)(3).

‘‘(ii) DEADLINE.—An amended site security plan and certification shall be submitted under clause (I)—

‘‘(i) in the case of a change in design, construction, operation, or maintenance of the expedited approval facility that affects the site security plan, not later than 120 days after the date on which the change in design, construction, operation, or maintenance occurred;

‘‘(ii) in the case of the Secretary requiring additional security measures or suspending a certification and recommending additional security measures in subparagraph (G), later than 120 days after the date on which the owner or operator receives notice of the requirement for additional security measures or suspension of the certification and recommendation of additional security measures; and

‘‘(iii) in the case of a change in tiering, not later than 120 days after the date on which the owner or operator receives notice under subsection (e)(3).

‘‘(G) FACIALLY DEFICIENT SITE SECURITY PLANS.—

‘‘(i) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or (E), the Secretary may suspend the authority of a covered chemical facility to certify a site security plan if the Secretary determines that—

‘‘(I) the site security plan or an amended site security plan is facially deficient; and

‘‘(II) not later than 100 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the site security plan and certification, provides the covered chemical facility with written notice that the site security plan is facially deficient, including a clear explanation of each deficiency in the site security plan.

‘‘(ii) ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES.—

‘‘(i) IN GENERAL.—If, during or after a compliance inspection of an expedited approval facility, the Secretary determines that planned or implemented security measures are insufficient to meet the risk-based performance standards based on misrepresentation, omission, or an inadequate description of the site security plan, the Secretary may—

‘‘(aa) require additional security measures; or

‘‘(bb) suspend the certification of the facility.

‘‘(II) RECOMMENDATION OF ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES.—If the Secretary suspends

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the certification of an expedited approval facility under subsection (I), the Secretary shall—

(aa) recommend specific additional security measures; or;

(bb) provide the facility an opportunity to submit a new or modified site security plan and certification under subparagraph (A).

(III) Submission; Review.—If an expedited approval facility determines to submit a new or modified site security plan and certification as authorized under subsection (II)(bb), the Secretary shall review the plan and determine whether the plan is facially deficient.

(aa) not later than 90 days after the date on which the facility receives recommendations under subsection (II)(aa), the facility shall submit the new or modified plan and certification; and

(bb) not later than 45 days after the date on which the Secretary receives the new or modified plan under item (aa), the Secretary shall review the plan and determine whether the plan is facially deficient.

(IV) Determination Not To Include Additional Security Measures.—

(aa) Revocation of Certification.—If an expedited approval facility does not agree to include in its site security plan specific additional security measures recommended by the Secretary under subsection (II)(aa), the Secretary may revoke the certification of the facility by issuing an order under section 2104(a)(1)(B).

(bb) Effect of Revocation.—If the Secretary revokes the certification of an expedited approval facility under item (aa) by issuing an order under section 2104(a)(1)(B), the order shall require the owner or operator of the facility to submit a site security plan or alternative security program for review by the Secretary review under subsection (c)(1); and

(bb) the facility shall no longer be eligible to certify a site security plan under this paragraph.

(V) Facial Deficiency.—If the Secretary determines that a new or modified site security plan for an expedited approval facility under subsection (III) is facially deficient—

(aa) not later than 120 days after the date of the determination, the owner or operator of the facility shall submit a site security plan or alternative security program for review by the Secretary under subsection (c)(1); and

(bb) the facility shall no longer be eligible to certify a site security plan under this paragraph.

(H) Templates.—

(I) In General.—The Secretary may develop prescriptive site security plan templates with specific security measures to meet the risk-based performance standards under subsection (a)(2)(C) for adoption and certification by a covered chemical facility assigned to tier 3 or 4 in lieu of developing and certifying a plan of its own.

(II) Applicability of Other Laws to Development and Issuance of Initial Site Security Plan Templates and Related Guidance.—The Secretary shall establish national, regional, and local templates or guidance for use by covered chemical facilities to develop and submit site security plans.

(I) Section 553 of title 5, United States Code;
chemical facility, or its designated representative, was inaccurate.

"(B) PERSONNEL SURETY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.—To the extent that a risk-based performance standard established under subsection (a) requires identifying individuals with ties to terrorism—

(i) a covered chemical facility—

(I) the obligation under the standard by using any Federal screening program that periodically vets individuals against the terrorist screening database, or any successor program, including the Personnel Surety Program established under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) shall—

(aa) accept a credential from a Federal screening program described in subclause (I) if an individual who is required to be screened presents such a credential; and

(bb) address in its site security plan or alternative security program the measures it will take to verify that a credential or documentation from a Federal screening program described in subclause (I) is current; and

(ii) visual inspection shall be sufficient to meet the requirement under clause (I)(II)(bb), but the facility should consider other means of verification, consistent with the facility’s assessment of the threat posed by acceptance of such credentials; and

(iii) the Secretary may not require a covered chemical facility to submit any information about an individual unless the individual—

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

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

(C) RIGHTS UNAFFECTED.—Nothing in this section shall supersede the ability—

(i) to maintain its own policies regarding the access of individuals to restricted areas or critical assets; or

(ii) of an employing facility and a bargaining agent, where applicable, to negotiate as to how the results of a background check may be used by the facility with respect to employment status.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall share with the owner or operator of a covered chemical facility any information that the owner or operator needs to comply with this section.

(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—

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

(2) RISK ASSESSMENT.—

(A) MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.—The Secretary shall document the basis for each instance in which—

(I) tiering for a covered chemical facility is changed; or

(ii) a covered chemical facility is determined to no longer be subject to the requirements under this title.

(B) EXCERPTED INFORMATION.—The records maintained under subparagraph (A) shall include information on whether and how the Secretary confirmed the information that was the basis of the change or determination described in subparagraph (A).

(4) SEMIANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORTING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Act of 2006, and not less frequently than once every 6 months thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that includes, for the period covered by the report—

(A) the number of covered chemical facilities in the United States; and

(B) information—

(i) describing—

(I) the number of instances in which the Secretary—

(aa) placed a covered chemical facility in a lower risk tier; or

(bb) determined that a facility that had previously met the criteria for a covered chemical facility under section 2101(3) no longer met the criteria; and

(ii) the basis, in summary form, for each action or determination under subclause (I); and

(iii) that is provided in a sufficiently anonymized form to ensure that the information does not identify a specific facility or company as the source of the information when viewed alone or in combination with other public information;

(C) the average number of days spent reviewing site security or an alternative security program for a covered chemical facility prior to approval; and

(D) the number of covered chemical facilities inspected:

(E) the average number of covered chemical facilities that establish a site security plan;

(F) any other information that the Secretary determines will be helpful to Congress in evaluating the performance of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

SEC. 2103. PROTECTION AND SHARING OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, information developed under 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 the protection of similar information under section 7003(d) of title 42, United States Code.

(b) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the sharing of information developed under this title, as the Secretary determines appropriate, with State and local government officials possessing a need to know and the necessary security clearances, including law enforcement officials and first responders, for the purpose of carrying out this title, provided that such information may not be disclosed pursuant to any State or local law.

(c) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH FIRST RESPONDERS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall provide to State, local, and regional fusion centers (as that term is defined in section 210A(j)(1)) and State and local government officials, as the Secretary determines appropriate, such information as is necessary to secure the safety and expeditious dissemination of such information to necessary selected individuals.

(d) ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS.—In any proceeding to enforce the section on vulnerability assessments, site security plans, and other information submitted to or obtained by the Secretary under this title, the Secretary shall disseminate information under paragraph (1) through a medium or system determined by the Secretary to be appropriate to ensure the security of the information.

(e) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code), the Secretary shall—

(A) provide the owner or operator of the facility with—

(I) not later than 14 days after date on which the Secretary makes the determination, a written notification of noncompliance that includes a clear explanation of any deficiency in the security vulnerability assessment or site security plan; and

(ii) an opportunity for consultation with the Secretary or the Secretary’s designee; and

(B) issue to the owner or operator of the facility an order to comply with this title by a date specified by the Secretary in the order, which date shall be not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary issues the order.

(2) NON-REPORTING CHEMICAL FACILITIES OF INTEREST.—Any owner or operator remains noncompliant after the procedures outlined in paragraph (1) have been executed, or demonstrates repeated violations of this title, the Secretary may enter an order in accordance with this section assessing a civil penalty, an order to cease operations, or both.

(B) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

(1) VIOLATIONS OF ORDERS.—Any person who violates an order issued under this title shall be liable for a civil penalty under section 7019(a) of title 46, United States Code.

(2) NON-REPORTING CHEMICAL FACILITIES OF INTEREST.—Any owner or operator of a facility of interest who fails to comply with, or knowingly submits false information under, any global or national commitment (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’) shall not apply to information protected from public disclosure pursuant to subsection (a)(5).

(C) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Secretary from disclosing information developed under this title to a Member of Congress.

SEC. 2104. CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.

(a) NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE.—

(1) NOTICE.—If the Secretary determines that a covered chemical facility is not in compliance with this title, the Secretary shall—

(A) provide the owner or operator of the facility with—

(i) not later than 14 days after date on which the Secretary makes the determination, a written notification of noncompliance that includes a clear explanation of any deficiency in the security vulnerability assessment or site security plan; and

(ii) an opportunity for consultation with the Secretary or the Secretary’s designee; and

(B) issue to the owner or operator of the facility an order to comply with this title by a date specified by the Secretary in the order, which date shall be not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary issues the order.

CIVIL PENALTIES.

(1) VIOLATIONS OF ORDERS.—Any person who violates an order issued under this title shall be liable for a civil penalty under section 7019(a) of title 46, United States Code.

(2) NON-REPORTING CHEMICAL FACILITIES OF INTEREST.—Any owner or operator of a facility of interest who fails to comply with, or knowingly submits false information under, any global or national commitment (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’) shall not apply to information protected from public disclosure pursuant to subsection (a)(5).

EMERGENCY ORDERS.

(1) GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (a) or any site security plan or alternative security program approved under this title, if the Secretary determines that there is an imminent threat of death, serious illness, or severe personal injury, due to a violation of this title or the risk of a terrorist
incident that may affect a chemical facility of interest, the Secretary—

"(A) shall consult with the facility, if practicable, on steps to mitigate the risk; and

"(B) shall notify the facility, without notice or opportunity for a hearing, effective immediately or as soon as practicable, to—

"(i) implement appropriate emergency security measures;

"(ii) cease or reduce some or all operations, in accordance with safe shutdown procedures, if the Secretary determines that such a cessation or reduction of operations is the most appropriate means to address the risk.

"(2) LIMITATION ON DELEGATION.—The Secretary may delegate the authority under paragraph (1) to any official other than the Under Secretary responsible for overseeing critical infrastructure protection, cybersecurity, and other related programs of the Department appointed under section 103(a)(1)(H).

"(3) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may exercise the authority under this subsection only to the extent necessary to abate the imminent threat determination under paragraph (1).

"(4) DUE PROCESS FOR FACILITY OWNER OR OPERATOR.—

"(A) WRITTEN ORDERS.—An order issued by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall be in the form of a written order

"(i) describes the violation or risk that creates the imminent threat;

"(ii) states the security measures or order issued or imposed; and

"(iii) describes the standards and procedures for obtaining relief from the order.

"(B) OPPORTUNITY FOR REVIEW.—After issuing an order under paragraph (1) with respect to a chemical facility of interest, the Secretary shall provide for review of the order under section 564 of title 5 if a petition for review is filed not later than 20 days after the date on which the Secretary issues the order.

"(C) EXPIRATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF ORDER.—If a petition for review of an order is filed under subparagraph (C) and the review under this subsection is completed by the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date the petition is filed, the order shall cease to be effective at the end of such period unless the Secretary determines, in writing, that the violation providing a basis for the action continues to exist.

"(D) RETALIATION PROHIBITED.—

"(1) A General.—An owner or operator of a chemical facility of interest or agent thereof may not discharge an employee or otherwise discriminate against an employee because the employee (or an employee acting pursuant to a request by the employee) submitted a report under paragraph (1).

"(2) EXCEPTION.—An employee shall not be entitled to the protections under this section if the employee—

"(i) knowingly and willfully makes any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or

"(ii) uses any false writing or document knowing the writing or document contains any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry.

"(2) OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to supersede, amend, alter, or affect any Federal law that—

"(1) regulates (including by requiring information to be submitted or made available) the manufacture, distribution in commerce, use, handling, sale, other treatment, or disposal of chemical substances or mixtures; or

"(2) authorizes or requires the disclosure of any record or information obtained from a chemical facility under any law other than this title.

"(3) 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, or in addition to, any regulation, requirement, or standard of performance issued under this title, or otherwise impair any right or jurisdiction of any State or political subdivision with respect to chemical facilities within that State, unless there is an actual conflict between this section and the law of that State.

"(4) SMALL COVERED CHEMICAL FACILITIES.—

"(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may, in accordance with chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, promulgate regulations or amend existing CFATS regulations to implement the provisions under this title.

"(b) EXISTING CFATS REGULATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 4(b) of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, each existing CFATS regulation shall remain in effect.

"(2) EFFECT OF EXPANSION.—Any regulation that the Secretary determines is duplicative of, or conflicts with, this title.

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

"(d) IDENTIFYING Chemicals of INTEREST; AND

"(e) DETERMINING security Risk associated with a chemical facility.

"(5) SMALL COVERED CHEMICAL FACILITIES.—

"(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘small covered chemical facility’ means a covered chemical facility that—

"(1) has fewer than 100 employees employed at the covered chemical facility; and

"(2) is owned and operated by a small business concern (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)).

"(b) PROTECTED DISCLOSURES.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit the right of an individual to make any disclosure—

"(1) protected or authorized under section 2902(b)(8) or 7211 of title 5, United States Code;

"(2) protected under any other Federal or State law that shields the disclosing individual against retaliation or discrimination for having made the disclosure in the public interest.

"(3) to the Special Counsel of an agency, the inspector general of an agency, or any other employee designated by the head of an agency to receive disclosures described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

"(4) TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS.—The Secretary—

"(A) shall review and consider the information provided in any report submitted under paragraph (1);

"(B) may take action under section 2104 of this title if necessary to address any substantiated violation of a requirement under this title identified in the report;

"(C) DUE PROCESS FOR FACILITY OWNER OR OPERATOR.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If, upon the review described in paragraph (4), the Secretary determines that a violation of a provision of this title, or a regulation prescribed under this title, has occurred, the Secretary may—

"(i) institute a civil enforcement under section 2104(a) of this title; or

"(ii) if the Secretary makes the determination under section 2104(c), issue an emergency order.

"(B) WRITTEN ORDERS.—The action of the Secretary under paragraph (4) shall be in a written order

"(i) describes the violation;

"(ii) states the authority under which the Secretary is proceeding; and

"(iii) describes the standards and procedures for obtaining relief from the order.

"(C) OPPORTUNITY FOR REVIEW.—After taking action under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall provide for review of the action if a petition for review of an order is filed within 20 calendar days of the date of issuance of the order for the action.

"(D) EXPANSION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF ORDER.—If a petition for review of an order is filed under subparagraph (C) and the review under this subsection is completed by the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date the petition is filed, the action shall cease to be effective at the end of such period unless the Secretary determines, in writing, that the violation providing a basis for the action continues to exist.

"(E) PROTECTED DISCLOSURES.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit the right of an individual to make any disclosure—

"(1) protected or authorized under section 2902(b)(8) or 7211 of title 5, United States Code;

"(2) protected under any other Federal or State law that shields the disclosing individual against retaliation or discrimination for having made the disclosure in the public interest.

"(3) to the Special Counsel of an agency, the inspector general of an agency, or any other employee designated by the head of an agency to receive disclosures described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

"(4) TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS.—The Secretary—

"(A) shall review and consider the information provided in any report submitted under paragraph (4), the Secretary promptly acknowledges receipt of the report.

"(B) may take action under section 2104 of this title if necessary to address any substantiated violation of a requirement under this title identified in the report.

"(C) DUE PROCESS FOR FACILITY OWNER OR OPERATOR.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If, upon the review described in paragraph (B), the Secretary determines that a violation of a provision of this title, or a regulation prescribed under this title, has occurred, the Secretary may—

"(i) institute a civil enforcement under section 2104(a) of this title; or

"(ii) if the Secretary makes the determination under section 2104(c), issue an emergency order.

"(B) WRITTEN ORDERS.—The action of the Secretary under paragraph (4) shall be in a written order

"(i) describes the violation;

"(ii) states the authority under which the Secretary is proceeding; and

"(iii) describes the standards and procedures for obtaining relief from the order.

"(C) OPPORTUNITY FOR REVIEW.—After taking action under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall provide for review of the action if a petition for review of an order is filed within 20 calendar days of the date of issuance of the order for the action.

"(D) EXPANSION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF ORDER.—If a petition for review of an order is filed under subparagraph (C) and the review under this subsection is completed by the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date the petition is filed, the action shall cease to be effective at the end of such period unless the Secretary determines, in writing, that the violation providing a basis for the action continues to exist.

"(E) PROTECTED DISCLOSURES.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit the right of an individual to make any disclosure—

"(1) protected or authorized under section 2902(b)(8) or 7211 of title 5, United States Code;

"(2) protected under any other Federal or State law that shields the disclosing individual against retaliation or discrimination for having made the disclosure in the public interest.

"(3) to the Special Counsel of an agency, the inspector general of an agency, or any other employee designated by the head of an agency to receive disclosures described in paragraphs (1) and (2).
SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT; REPORTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program" means—

(A) the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program initially authorized under section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–295; 6 U.S.C. 121 note); and

(B) the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program subsequently authorized under section 2105 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2;

(2) the term "Department" means the Department of Homeland Security; and

(3) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) THIRD-PARTY ASSESSMENT.—Using amounts appropriated to the Department before the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall commission a third-party study to assess vulnerabilities of covered chemical facilities, as defined in section 2101 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by section 2), to acts of terrorism.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program, including—

(A) a certification by the Secretary that the Secretary has made significant progress in the identification of all chemical facilities of interest for the purposes of section 2102(e)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2, including—

(i) a description of the steps taken to achieve that progress and the metrics used to measure the progress;

(ii) information on whether facilities that submitted their Tier 1 plans met the result of the identification of chemical facilities of interest were tiered and in what tiers those facilities were placed; and

(iii) an assessment to better identify chemical facilities of interest and bring those facilities into compliance with title XXI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2;

(B) a certification by the Secretary that the Secretary has developed a risk assessment approach and corresponding tiering methodology required under section 2105 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2;

(C) an assessment by the Secretary of the implementation by the Department of the recommendations made by the Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute as outlined in the Institute's Tiering Methodology Peer Review (Publication Number: RP12–23–02); and

(D) a description of best practices that may assist small covered chemical facilities, particularly those covered chemical facilities of interest, to achieve that progress and the metrics used to measure the progress.

(2) ANNUAL GAO REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—During the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress an annual report that assesses the implementation of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(B) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress the first report under subparagraph (A).

(C) SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the initial report required under subparagraph (B), the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress the second report under subparagraph (A), which shall include an assessment of the whistleblower protections provided under section 2105 of the Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (as added by section 2), and—

(i) describes the number and type of problems, deficiencies, and vulnerabilities with respect to which reports have been submitted under such section 2105;

(ii) evaluates the efforts of the Secretary in addressing the problems, deficiencies, and vulnerabilities described in subsection (a)(1) of such section 2105; and

(iii) evaluates the efforts of the Secretary to inform individuals of their rights, as required under subsection (c) of such section 2105.

(D) THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Comptroller General submits the second report required under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress the third report under subparagraph (A), which shall include an assessment of—

(i) the expedited approval program authorized under section 2102(c)(4) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2; and

(ii) the report on the expedited approval program submitted by the Secretary under subparagraph (B) of section 2102(c)(4).

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE; CONFORMING REPEAL.

(a) 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 enactment of this Act.

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 550 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–295; 120 Stat. 1388), is repealed as of the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 5. TERMINATION.

The authority provided under title XXI of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2(a), shall terminate on the date that is 4 years after the effective date of this Act.

SA 4001. Mrs. BOXER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the Homeland Security Workforce Strategy Act of 2004, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess the cybersecurity workforce of the Department of Homeland Security and develop a comprehensive workforce strategy for that purpose, as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(a) the term "Cybersecurity Category" means a position’s or incumbent’s primary work function involving cybersecurity, which is further defined by Specialty Area;

(b) the term "Department" means any of the common types of cybersecurity work as recognized by the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education’s National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework report; and

(c) the term "Specialty Area" means any of the common types of cybersecurity work as recognized by the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education’s National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework report.

SEC. 3. CYBERSECURITY WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY.

(a) WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Secretary shall assess the cybersecurity workforce positions located within the Department.

(b) CONTENTS.—The assessment required under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum—

(A) an assessment of the readiness and capacity of the workforce of the Department to meet its cybersecurity mission;

(B) information on where cybersecurity workforce positions are located within the Department; and

(C) information on which cybersecurity workforce positions are—

(i) performed by—

(I) permanent full-time equivalent employees of the Department, including, to the greatest extent practicable, demographic information about such employees; and

(II) independent contractors; and

(ii) vacant; and

(iii) information on—

(A) the percentage of individuals within each Cybersecurity Category and Specialty Area who received essential training to perform their jobs; and

(B) in cases in which such essential training was not received, what challenges, if any, were encountered with respect to the provision of such essential training.

(b) WORKFORCE STRATEGY.

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, develop a comprehensive workforce strategy to enhance the readiness, capacity, training, recruitment, and retention of the cybersecurity workforce of the Department; and

(B) maintain and, as necessary, update the comprehensive workforce strategy developed under paragraph (A).
(2) CONTENTS.—The comprehensive workforce strategy developed under paragraph (1) shall include a description of—
(A) a multi-phased recruitment plan, including with respect to experienced professionals, members of disadvantaged or underserved communities, the unemployed, and veterans;
(B) a 5-year implementation plan;
(C) a 10-year projection of the cybersecurity workforce needs of the Department; and
(D) any obstacle impeding the hiring and development of a cybersecurity workforce in the Department; and
(E) any gap in the existing cybersecurity workforce of the Department and a plan to fill any such gap.

SEC. 30. ELIGIBILITY FOR PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES.
Any land designated as a unit of the National Park System or a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System under this title shall not be subject to chapter 99 of title 31, United States Code.

SA 4005. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 30. PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR FEDERAL LAND ACQUISITION.
None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act (or an amendment made by this Act) may be obligated or expended to establish a new unit of the National Park System or to acquire Federal land until the date on which the Secretary of the Interior certifies that the maintenance backlog on Federal land has declined for at least 2 consecutive years.

SA 4006. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 30. DIVISION OF TAXPAYERS' CERTAIN PROVISIONS.
SEC. 5010. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDIES.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3051 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5011. NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS AND CORRIDORS.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3052 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5012. COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3056 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5013. ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS ADDITIONS AND EXTENSION AND MIDDLE FORK SNOWMELT RIVERS PROTECTION.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3060 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5014. COLUMBINE-HONDO WILDERNESS.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3061 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5015. HERMOSA CREEK WATERSHED PROTECTION.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3062 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5016. NORTH FORK FEDERAL LANDS WITHDRAWAL AREA.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3063 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5017. PINK FOREST RANGE WILDERNESS.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3064 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5018. ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AREA AND WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3065 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5019. WOVOKA WILDERNESS.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3066 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5020. WITHDRAWAL AREA RELATED TO WOVOKA WILDERNESS.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3067 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5021. ILLABOT CREEK, WASHINGTON, WILD AND SCENIC RIVER.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3071 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5022. MISSISSQUOI AND TROUT WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS, VERMONT.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3072 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5023. WHITE CLAY CREEK WILD AND SCENIC RIVER EXTENSION AND WILDERNESS.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3073 shall have no force or effect.
SEC. 5024. STUDIES OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3074 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5025. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES RELATED TO LAS VEGAS VALLEY PUBLIC LAND AND COLORADO RIVER SPOKESMAN FISH NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3092 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5026. REFINANCING OF PACIFIC COAST GROUNDFISH FISHING CAPACITY CONDITIONS MOLD.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3095 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5027. PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3096 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4007. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 5. CRITERIA FOR OCO FUNDING REQUESTS.

(a) CERTIFICATION BY DIRECTOR OF OMB. (1) IN GENERAL.—Any request of the President for funds for overseas contingency operations to be carried out by the Armed Forces (including any request for supplemental funding for a fiscal year for such purpose) shall include, for each program, project, activity, or item for which funds are so requested, a certification by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget whether such program, project, activity, or item meets one or more of the criteria specified in paragraph (3).

(b) SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION. Each certification under paragraph (1) for a program, project, activity, or item that meets more than one of the criteria specified in paragraph (3) shall specify each of the criteria which such program, project, activity, or item meets.

(c) CRITERIA. The criteria specified in this paragraph are as follows:

(A) MAJOR EQUIPMENT. That the program, project, activity, or item is for major equipment as follows:

(i) Replacement of losses that have occurred, other than—

(ii) The items already programmed for replacement in the future-years defense program, and

(iii) Accelerations of replacements.

(B) REPLACEMENT OR REPAIR TO ORIGINAL CAPABILITY TO UPGRADED CAPABILITY IF CURRENTLY AVAILABLE. That equipment returning from a theater of operations—

(i) Includes replacing by a similar end item if the original item is no longer in production; and

(ii) Excluding incremental cost of non-war related upgrades.

(C) PROCUREMENT OF SPECIALIZED, THEATER-SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT. That the program, project, activity, or item is for replacement of ground equipment as follows:

(i) Replacement of combat losses and returning equipment that is not economical to repair, including replacement of equipment to be given to coalition partners.

(ii) Replacement of in-theater stocks above customary equipping levels, if jointly determined by the Director and the Secretary of Defense to be consistent with the purposes of certification under paragraph (1).

(iii) Anticipated procurement of munitions where existing stocks are insufficient to sustain combat operations in a theater of operations, if jointly determined by the Director and the Secretary to be consistent with the purposes of certification under paragraph (1).

(D) MUNITIONS. That the program, project, activity, or item is for munitions as follows:

(i) Replenishment of munitions expended in combat operations in a theater of operations.

(ii) Procurement of training ammunition for training events unique to a theater of operations.

(iii) Replacement of combat losses by accident that occur in a theater of operations.

(iv) Replacement of combat losses by enemy action that occur in a theater of operations.

(F) MILITARY CONSTRUCTION. That the program, project, activity, or item is for military construction as follows:

(i) Construction of facilities and infrastructure in a theater of operations in direct support of combat operations.

(ii) Construction at non-enduring locations of facilities, and infrastructure for temporary use.

(iii) Construction at enduring locations of facilities and infrastructure for temporary use.

(iv) Construction an enduring locations for surge operations or major changes in operational requirements, if jointly determined by the Director and the Secretary to be consistent with the purposes of certification under paragraph (1).

(G) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. That the program, project, activity, or item is for research and development to support operations that can be delivered in 12 months.

(H) OPERATIONS. That the item is for operations as follows:

(i) Direct war costs, including the following:

(ii) Transport of personnel, equipment, and supplies to, from, and within a theater of operations.

(iii) Deployment-specific training and preparation for units and personnel (whether military or civilian) to assume their directed missions as determined by the Secretary for deployment into a theater of operations.

(iv) Within a theater of operations, incremental costs for purposes as follows:

(i) To support commanders in the conduct of their directed missions (including Emer- gency Response Programs).

(ii) To build and maintain temporary facili- ties.

(iii) To provide food, fuel, supplies, con- tracted services and other support.

(iv) To cover the operational costs of coop- eration partners supporting military missions of the United States Armed Forces.

(iii) Indirect war costs incurred outside a theater of operations, if jointly determined by the Director and the Secretary to be consistent with the purposes of certification under paragraph (1).

(I) HEALTH CARE. That the program, project, activity, or item is for health care as follows:

(i) Provision of short-term care directly related to combat.

(ii) Procurement of infrastructure that is only used during the current conflict.

(J) PERSONNEL. That the item is for pay and allowances for members of the Armed Forces as follows:

(i) Payment of incremental special pays and allowances for members of the Armed Forces and civilians deployed to a combat zone.

(ii) Payment of incremental pay, special pays, and allowances for members of the re- serve components of the Armed Forces who are mobilized to support war missions.

(K) SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND. That the program, project, activity, or item is for the United States Special Operations Command as follows:

(i) Operations certifiable under another subparagraph of this paragraph.

(ii) Equipment certifiable under another subparagraph of this paragraph.

(L) PREFORCTION SUPPLIED AND EQUIP- MENT. That the program, project, activity, or item is for procurement of prepositioned supplies and equipment for resetting in-theater stocks of supplies and equipment to pre- collect levels.

(M) SECURITY FORCES. That the program, project, activity, or item is for training, equipping, and sustaining military and po- lice forces of countries in a theater of operations.

(N) FUEL. That the program, project, activity, or item is for fuel as follows:

(i) Procurement of fuel for logistical sup- port for combat operations.

(ii) Maintenance of Defense Working Capital Funds to cover seven-day disbursements for base fuel shortfalls attributable to fuel price increases.

(b) SENATE POINT OF ORDER. (1) IN GENERAL.—In the Senate, it shall not be in order to consider any appropriations legislation, including any amendment there- to, motion in relation thereto, or conference report thereon, that includes amounts des- ignated for overseas contingency operations unless such amounts are for a program, project, activity, or other item that meets one or more of the criteria specified in subsection (a)(3).

(2) WAIVER AND APPEAL. (A) WAIVER.—In the Senate, paragraph (1) may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(B) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three- fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sus- tain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under paragraph (1).
Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title III, insert the following:

SEC. 1. INSTALLATION RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS.

(a) LIMITATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a searchable database to uniformly report in-formation regarding installation renewable energy projects undertaken since 2010.
(b) ELEMENTS.—The database established under subsection (a) shall include, for each installation energy project—
(1) the estimated project costs;
(2) estimated power generation;
(3) estimated total cost savings;
(4) estimated payback period;
(5) total project costs;
(6) actual power generation;
(7) actual power savings;
(8) actual cost savings to date;
(9) current operational status; and
(10) access to relevant business case documents, including the economic viability assessment.
(c) UPDATES.—The database established under subsection (a) shall be updated not less than quarterly.

SA 4009. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VIII, insert the following:

SEC. 2. ENHANCED WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION FOR CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES.

(a) PROHIBITION ON PREVENTION OF WHISTLEBLOWER DISCLOSURES.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2409(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing” and inserting “may not be prohibited in any way from, or discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing”.

(b) CIVILIAN CONTRACTS.—Section 4705(b) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by striking “may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing” and inserting “may not be prohibited in any way from, or discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing”.

(c) CONTRACT CLAUSE.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulation and the Defense Supply Chain Regulation to the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall be amended to require that any contract entered into after such date by an executive agency, and any sub-contractor, include the following clause: “The contractor shall not enter into any agreement with an employee performing work under such contract that would prohibit that employee from disclosing information as described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 2409(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code or section 4705(b) of title 41, United States Code, to officials described in such sections.”.

SEC. 2. AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

This title may be cited as the “Audit the Pentagon Act of 2014”.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:
(1) Section 9 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States requires all agencies of the Federal Government, including the Federal Reserve System, to provide to the Congress and the public an annual financial report that provides a clear and comprehensive statement of the Federal Reserve System’s revenue and expenditures and its overall financial performance.
(4) The financial management of the Department of Defense has been on the “High-Risk” list of the Government Accountability Office, which means that the Department is not consistently able to “control costs; ensure accurate acquisition cost estimates; control future costs and claims on the budget; measure performance; maintain funds control; [and] prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse”.
ENHANCED REPROGRAMMING AUTHORITY FOLLOWING ACHIEVEMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND MILITARY DEPARTMENTS OF AUDITS WITH UNQUALIFIED OPINION OF STATEMENT OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES FOR FISCAL YEARS AFTER 2017

(a) Department of Defense Generally.—Subject to section 06(1), if the Department of Defense obtains an audit with an unqualified opinion on its statement of budgetary resources for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2014, the limitation on the total amount of authorizations that the Secretary of Defense may obligate pursuant to a transfer authority available to the Secretary in the national interest in the succeeding fiscal year shall be $30,000,000.

(b) Military Departments, Defense Agencies, and Defense Field Activities.—Subject to paragraph (a), if a military department, defense agency, or defense field activity, as the case may be, obtains an audit with an unqualified opinion on its statement of budgetary resources for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2014, the limitation on the total amount of authorizations that the Secretary of Defense may obligate pursuant to a transfer authority available to the Secretary in the national interest in the succeeding fiscal year shall be $25,000,000.

(c) Construction.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or revise any requirement (other than a threshold amount) for notice to Congress on transfers covered by subsection (a) or reprogramming covered by subsection (b) under any other provision of law.

SEC. 05. ELIGIBILITY TO OBTAIN AUDITS WITH UNQUALIFIED OPINION OF FISCAL YEAR 2015 GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) In General.—If the Department of Defense fails to obtain an audit with an unqualified opinion on its general fund statement of budgetary resources for fiscal year 2015 by December 31, 2015, the following shall take effect:

(1) Additional Qualifications and Duties of USD (Comptroller).—(A) Qualifications.—Any individual nominated for appointment to the position of Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) under section 315 of title 10, United States Code, shall be an individual who has served—

(i) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a Federal or State agency that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such agency’s financial statements during the time of such individual’s service;

(ii) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a public company that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such company’s financial statements during the time of such individual’s service;

and has demonstrated ability to manage large and complex organizations; and

(B) Duties and Powers.—The duties and powers of the individual serving as Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) shall include, in addition to the duties and powers specified in section 8016 of title 10, United States Code, such duties and powers with respect to the financial management of the Department of Defense as the Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting in the capacity of Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense) or a successor official in the Department of Defense (acting in such capacity) may prescribe.

(2) Additional Qualifications and Responsibilities of ASA for Financial Management.—(A) Qualifications.—Any individual nominated for appointment to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management under section 8016 of title 10, United States Code, shall be an individual who has served—

(i) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a public company that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such company’s financial statements during the time of such individual’s service;

(ii) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a public company that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such company’s financial statements during the time of such individual’s service; or

(iii) as a demonstrated ability to manage large and complex organizations; and

and has demonstrated ability to manage large and complex organizations; and

(B) Duties and Powers.—The duties and powers of the individual serving as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management under section 8016 of title 10, United States Code, shall include, in addition to the duties and powers specified in section 8016 of title 10, United States Code, such duties and powers with respect to the financial management of the Department of Defense as the Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting in the capacity of Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense) or a successor official in the Department of Defense (acting in such capacity) may prescribe.

(3) Construction.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or revise any requirement (other than a threshold amount) for notice to Congress on transfers covered by subsection (a) or reprogramming covered by subsection (b) under any other provision of law.

SEC. 06. FAILURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO OBTAIN AUDITS WITH UNQUALIFIED OPINION OF FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGETARY RESOURCES.

If the Department of Defense fails to obtain an audit with an unqualified opinion on its general fund statement of budgetary resources for fiscal year 2018 by December 31, 2018, the authority in section 04(a) shall cease to be available to the Secretary of Defense and any fiscal year thereafter.

(2) Reorganization of Responsibilities of Chief Management Officer.—Effective as of January 1, 2019, the authority in section 06(1), if the Department of Defense fails to obtain an audit with an unqualified opinion on its general fund statement of budgetary resources for fiscal year 2018 by December 31, 2018, shall be transferred to the Deputy Secretary of Defense, who shall have the responsibility of the Secretary of Defense with respect to the following:

(A) The expenditure of funds, accounting, and finance.

(B) The Chief Management Officer shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe.

(C) Facilities, property, nonmilitary equipment, and other resources.

(3) Construction.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or revise any requirement (other than a threshold amount) for notice to Congress on transfers covered by subsection (a) or reprogramming covered by subsection (b) under any other provision of law.
“(D) Strategic planning, annual performance planning, and identification and tracking of performance measures.

(E) Internal audits and management analyses of the programs and activities of the Department, including the Defense Contract Audit Agency.

(F) Such other areas or matters as the Secretary may designate.

“(3) The head of the Defense Contract Audit Agency shall be under the supervision of, and shall report directly to, the Chief Management Officer of the Department.

“(d) PRECEDENCE.—The Chief Management Officer takes precedence in the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Defense, and the Under Secretary of Defense.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 132(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(I) by striking paragraph (3); and

(II) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively.

(2) The Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, after the word "defense," each place it appears in the provisions as follows:

(i) by inserting before the term "defence" each time it appears therein the phrase "the Department of Defense"; and

(ii) by inserting after the term "Secretary of Defense" each time it appears therein the phrase "the Under Secretary of Defense.";

(3) Section 136(e) of such title is amended by striking "the Secretary of defense," and all that follows and inserting "the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, the Secretary of the military departments, and the Under Secretary of Defense.";

(iv) Section 138(d) of such title is amended by inserting before the term "defence" each time it appears therein the phrase "the Department of Defense"; and

(v) Section 1351 of such title is amended by striking "the Secretary of defense," and all that follows and inserting "the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, the Secretary of the military departments, the Under Secretary of Defense, and the Director of Defense Research and Engineering.

(C) CEREMONIAL.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 4 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 132a and inserting the following new item:

"132a. Chief Management Officer.

(D) EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE.—Section 5313 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.";

(E) REFERENCE IN LAW.—Any reference in any provision of law to the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense or to the Secretary of Defense shall be deemed to refer to the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense under section 132a of title 10, United States Code, as amended by this paragraph.

(3) JURISDICTION OF DFAS.—Effective as of April 1, 2019:

(A) TRANSFER TO DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.—The Department of the Treasury, in its capacity as the Secretary of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) is transferred from the Department of Defense to the Department of the Treasury.

(B) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall administer the Defense Finance and Accounting Service following transfer under this paragraph through the Financial Management Service of the Department of the Treasury.

(C) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall jointly enter into a memorandum of understanding regarding the transfer of jurisdiction of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service under this paragraph. The memorandum of understanding shall provide for the transfer of the personnel and other resources of the Service to the Department of the Treasury and for the assumption of responsibility for such personnel and resources by the Department of the Treasury.

(D) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as terminating, altering, or revising any responsibilities or authorities of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service and the Secretary of the Treasury for the assumption of such duties and authorities in connection with the exercise of jurisdiction of the Service following transfer under this paragraph.

SEC. 97. FAILURE OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT TO OBTAIN AUDITS WITH UNQUALIFIED OPINION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS AFTER FISCAL YEAR 2018.

(a) PERMANENT CESSATION OF AUTHORITIES ON REPROGRAMMING OF FUNDS.—If a military department fails to obtain an audit with an unqualified opinion of its financial statements for fiscal year 2018 by December 31, 2018, effective as of January 1, 2019, the authorities in section 90(b) shall cease to be available to the department for fiscal year 2018 and any fiscal year thereafter.

(b) ANNUAL PROHIBITION ON EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN MDAPs PAST MILESTONE B IN CONNECTION WITH FAILURE.—

(1) Prohibitions for fiscal years after fiscal year 2017, if a military department fails to obtain an audit with an unqualified opinion on its financial statements for any fiscal year of the department as of the date of the issuance of the opinion on such audit, amounts available to the military department for the following fiscal year may not be obligated by the military department for a weapon or weapon system or platform being acquired as a major defense acquisition program for any activity beyond Milestone B approval until the department has already achieved Milestone B approval of the date of the issuance of the opinion on such audit.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) The term "major defense acquisition program" has the meaning given that term in section 2300 of title 10, United States Code.

(B) The term "Milestone B approval" has the meaning given that term in section 2366(a)(7) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 98. ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING.

The Secretary of Defense shall amend the acquisition guidance of the Department of Defense to provide for the following:

(1) The Defense Business System Management Committee may not approve procurement of any Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) business system that is independently estimated to take longer than three years to procure from initial obligation of funds to full deployment and sustainment.

(2) Any contract for the acquisition of an Enterprise Resource Planning business system shall include a provision authorizing termination of the contract at no cost to the Government if procurement of the system takes longer than three years from initial obligation of funds to full deployment and sustainment.

(3) Any implementation of an Enterprise Resource Planning system shall comply with each of the following:

(A) The current Business Enterprise Architecture established by the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.

(B) The provisions of section 2222 of title 10, United States Code.

(C) The Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting in the capacity of Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense) or a successor, and any program manager (whether in a military department or a Department of Defense Agency) for the procurement of an Enterprise Resource Planning business system if procurement of the system takes longer than three years from initial obligation of funds to full deployment and sustainment.

(D) Any contractor for the implementation of an Enterprise Resource Planning business system shall only be awarded to companies that have a history of successful implementation of other Enterprise Resource Planning business systems for the Federal Government (whether with the Department of Defense or another department or agency of the Federal Government), including meeting cost and schedule goals.

SA 4011. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 99. PROHIBITION ON EMPLOYMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF INDIVIDUALS AND CONTRACTORS WITH SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBTS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—An individual or contractor with a seriously delinquent tax debt may not be appointed to, or continue serving in, a position within or funded by the Department of Defense.

(b) SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBT DEFINED.—In this section, the term "seriously delinquent tax debt" means an outstanding Federal tax debt for which a notice of lien has been filed in public records pursuant to section 6323 of such Code, except that such term does not include—

(1) a debt that is being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement under section 6159 or section 7122 of such Code; and

(2) a debt with respect to which a collection due process hearing under section 6330 of such Code, or relief under subsection (a), (b), or (f) of section 6015 of such Code, is requested or pending.

SA 4012. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:
SEC. 4. CONSOLIDATION OF DUPLICATIVE AND OVERLAPPING AGENCIES, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the heads of other departments and agencies of the Federal Government—

(1) use available administrative authority to eliminate, consolidate, or streamline Government agencies, programs, and activities with duplicative and overlapping missions as identified in Government Accountability Office reports on duplication and overlap in Government programs;

(2) identify and submit to Congress a report setting the legislative action required to further eliminate, consolidate, or streamline Government agencies, programs, and activities with duplicative and overlapping missions as identified in the reports referred to in paragraph (1); and

(3) determine the total cost savings that—

(A) will accrue to each department, agency, and office effectuated by an action under paragraph (1) as a result of the actions taken under that paragraph; and

(B) could accrue to each department, agency, and office effectuated by an action under paragraph (2) as a result of the actions proposed to be taken under that paragraph using the legislative authority set forth under that paragraph.

SA 4013. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF US FAMILY HEALTH PLAN.

(a) TERMINATION.—The US Family Health Plan (USFHP) is hereby terminated.

(b) WIND-UP OF ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate actions to wind up the activities of the US Family Health Plan as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 4014. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 3. DATABASE ON PATIENT SAFETY, QUALITY OF CARE, AND OUTCOME MEASURES REGARDING HEALTH CARE PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DATABASE.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall develop and make available to the public a comprehensive database containing all applicable patient safety, quality of care, and outcome measures maintained, consolidated, or by the Department of Defense that are tracked by the Secretary.

(2) Updates.—The Secretary shall update the database required by paragraph (1) not less frequently than once every six months.

(3) UNAVAILABLE MEASURES.—For any measure that could otherwise be published in the database required by paragraph (1) but has not done so because such measure is not available, the Secretary shall publish notice in the database of the reason for such unavailability and a timeline for making such measure available in the database.

(4) ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that the database required by paragraph (1) is accessible to the public through the primary Internet website of the Department and through the Internet website of a Department medical center.

(b) SHARING OF INFORMATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT MEDICAL CENTERS AND DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY.—The Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate actions to facilitate and enhance sharing between the medical centers of the Department of Defense and the Defense Health Agency on information on patient safety, quality of care, and outcomes for health care provided by such medical centers, including information obtained through the measures developed pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) HOSPITAL COMPARE WEBSITE OF DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—

(1) AGREEMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the provision by the Secretary of Defense of such information as the Secretary of Health and Human Services may require to report and make publicly available and to receive and use information concerning Department of Defense medical centers through the Hospital Compare Internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services or any successor Internet website.

(2) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—The information provided by the Secretary of Defense to the Secretary of Health and Human Services under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Measures of timely and effective health care.

(B) Measures of readmissions, complications of death, including with respect to 30-day mortality rates and 30-day readmission rates, surgical complication measures, and health care related infection measures.

(C) Survey data of patient experiences, including the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems or any similar successor survey developed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

(D) Any other measures required of or reported with respect to health care facilities participating in the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

(3) UNAVAILABLE INFORMATION.—For any applicable metric collected by the Department of Defense or required to be provided under paragraph (2) and withheld from or unavailable in the Hospital Compare Internet website or successor Internet website, the Secretary of Defense shall publish a notice on such Internet website stating the reason any such metric was withheld from public disclosure and a timeline for making such metric available, if applicable.

(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SAFETY AND QUALITY METRICS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of publicly available safety and quality metrics made publicly available by the Secretary of Defense under this section to assess the degree to which the Secretary is complying with the provisions of this section.

SA 4015. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 3. LIMITATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCY EXPENDITURES ON CONFERENCES.

(a) CONFERENCE LIMITATIONS.—

(1) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT EXPENDED ON A CONFERENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—No agency may expend more than $500,000 to support a single conference, unless the head of the agency and the Chief Financial Officer of the agency submits to Congress before the conference a written certification that the conference is in the national interest, which shall include—

(i) an estimate of the total cost of the conference;

(ii) the dates of the conference;

(iii) an estimate of the number of full-time equivalent employees attending the conference;

(iv) any costs associated with planning for the conference; and

(v) an explanation of how the conference advances the mission of the agency.

(B) LIMITATION ON CONFERENCE POLICIES.—An agency may not establish or implement a policy that discourages or prohibits the selection of a location for travel, an event, a meeting, or a conference because the location is perceived to be a resort or vacation destination.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ‘‘agency’’ has the meaning given that term under section 503(a) of title 5, United States Code;

(2) the term ‘‘conference’’ means a meeting, workshop, retreat, seminar, symposium, or event that involves attendee travel.

SA 4016. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 4. ProHIBITION ON ARMY National GUARD SPONSORSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAM IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OR MOTOR SPORTS.

Section 503(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

‘‘(3) Recruiting and advertising campaigns authorized by paragraphs (1) and (2) or by another paragraph of section 561(b) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001
(as enacted into law by Public Law 106-398; 10 U.S.C. 503 note), for the purposes of branding defense articles, defense services, and training may be used to promote enlistment in military services, and training are not being provided.

SEC. 1212. INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to provide military assistance to the Government of Ukraine, including items of defense equipment, in support of the Government of Ukraine for the purpose of countering offensive weapons and reestablishing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including antitank and antiaircraft weapons, crew weapons and ammunition, counter-artillery radars to identify and target artillery batteries, fire control, range finder, and optical and guidance and control equipment, tactical troop-operated surveillance drones, and secure command and communications equipment, pursuant to the provisions of the Arms Export Control Act, and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), and other relevant provisions of law.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) a detailed description of the anticipated defense articles, defense services, and training to be provided pursuant to this section;

(2) a timeline for the provision of such defense articles, defense services, and training; and

(3) a list of defense articles, defense services, and training authorized to be provided by subsection (a) that have been requested by the Government of Ukraine but are not being provided and an explanation with respect to why such defense articles, defense services, and training are not being provided.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $350,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 to carry out activities under this section.

(2) CONTINGENT AMOUNTS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain available for obligation and expenditure through the end of fiscal year 2017.

(d) AUTHORITY FOR THE USE OF FUNDS.—The funds made available pursuant to subsection (c) for provision of defense articles, defense services, and training may be used to procure such articles, services, and training from the United States Government or other appropriate sources.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘‘appropriate congressional committees’’ means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) DEFENSE ARTICLE; DEFENSE SERVICE; TRAINING.—The terms ‘‘defense article’’, ‘‘defense service’’, and ‘‘training’’ shall mean the definitions given those terms in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794).

SA 4017. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not treated as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1212. INCREASED MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to provide military assistance to the Government of Ukraine for the purpose of countering offensive weapons and reestablishing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including antitank and antiaircraft weapons, crew weapons and ammunition, counter-artillery radars to identify and target artillery batteries, fire control, range finder, and optical and guidance and control equipment, tactical troop-operated surveillance drones, and secure command and communications equipment, pursuant to the provisions of the Arms Export Control Act, and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), and other relevant provisions of law.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) a detailed description of the anticipated defense articles, defense services, and training to be provided pursuant to this section;

(2) a timeline for the provision of such defense articles, defense services, and training; and

(3) a list of defense articles, defense services, and training authorized to be provided by subsection (a) that have been requested by the Government of Ukraine but are not being provided and an explanation with respect to why such defense articles, defense services, and training are not being provided.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $350,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 to carry out activities under this section.

(2) CONTINGENT AMOUNTS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall remain available for obligation and expenditure through the end of fiscal year 2017.

(d) AUTHORITY FOR THE USE OF FUNDS.—The funds made available pursuant to subsection (c) for provision of defense articles, defense services, and training may be used to procure such articles, services, and training from the United States Government or other appropriate sources.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘‘appropriate congressional committees’’ means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) DEFENSE ARTICLE; DEFENSE SERVICE; TRAINING.—The terms ‘‘defense article’’, ‘‘defense service’’, and ‘‘training’’ shall mean the definitions given those terms in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794).

SA 4018. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not treated as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle F—Palestinian Authority Reform

SEC. 1281. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ‘‘Palestinian and United Nations Anti-Terrorism Act of 2014’’.

SEC. 1282. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On April 19, 2014, the representatives of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Hamas, a designated terrorist organization, signed an agreement to form a government of national coalition.

(2) On June 2, 2014, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas announced a unity government as a result of the April 23, 2014, agreement.

(3) United States law requires that any Palestinian government that ‘‘includes Hamas as a member’’, or over which Hamas exercises ‘‘undue influence’’, only receive United States assistance if certain certifications are made to Congress.

(4) The President has taken the position that the current Palestinian government does not include members of Hamas or is influenced by Hamas and has thus not made the certifications required under current law.

(5) The leadership of the Palestinian Authority has failed to completely denounce and distance itself from Hamas’ campaign of terrorism against Israel.

(6) President Abbas has refused to dissolve the power-sharing agreement with Hamas even as more than 2,300 rockets have targeted Israel since July 8.

(7) President Abbas and other Palestinian Authority officials have failed to condemn Hamas’ extensive use of the Palestinian people as human shields.

(8) The Israeli Defense Forces have gone to unprecedented lengths for a modern military to limit civilian casualties.

(9) On July 29, 2014, the United States Human Rights Council adopted a one-sided resolution criticizing Israel’s ongoing military operations in Gaza.

(10) The United Nations Human Rights Council has a long history of taking anti-Israel actions while ignoring the widespread and egregious human rights violations of many other countries, including some of its own members.

(11) On July 16, 2014, officials of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) discovered 20 rockets in one of the organization’s schools in Gaza, before returning the weapons to local Palestinian officials rather than destroying them.

(12) On multiple occasions during the conflict in Gaza, Hamas has used the facilities and the areas surrounding UNRWA locations to store weapons, harbor their fighters, and conduct attacks.

SEC. 1283. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to deny United States assistance to any entity or international organization that harbors or collaborates with Hamas, a designated terrorist organization; Hamas agrees to recognize Israel, renounces violence, disarms, and accepts prior Israeli-Palestinian agreements;

(2) to seek a negotiated settlement of this conflict only under the condition that Hamas and any United States-designated terrorist groups are required to entirely disarm; and

(3) to continue to provide security assistance to the Government of Israel to assist its efforts to defend its territory and people from rockets, missiles, and other threats.

SEC. 1284. RESTRICTIONS ON AID TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY.

For purposes of section 620K of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2379b), any power-sharing government, including the current government, formed in connection with the agreement signed on April 23, 2014, between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, is considered a ‘‘Palestinian Authority’s government’’.

SEC. 1285. REFORM OF UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Until the Secretary of State submits to the appropriate congressional committees a certification that the requirements described in subsection (b) have been satisfied—

(1) the United States contribution to the regular budget of the United Nations shall be reduced by an amount equal to the percentage of such contribution that the Secretary determines would be allocated by the United Nations to support the United Nations Human Rights Council or any of its Special Procedures;

(2) the Secretary shall not make a voluntary contribution to the United Nations Human Rights Council; and

(3) the United States shall not run for a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—The annual certification referred to in subsection (a) is a certification made by the Secretary of State to Congress that the United Nations Human Rights Council’s agenda include a permanent item related to the State of Israel or the Palestinian territories.

(c) REVERSION OF FUNDS.—Funds appropriated and available for a United States contribution to the United Nations but withheld from obligation and expenditure pursuant to this section shall immediately revert to the United States Treasury and the United States Government shall not consider them arrears to be repaid to any United Nations entity.

SEC. 1286. UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NER EAST (UNRWA).

Section 301(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2222(c)) is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(c) PALESTINE REFUGEES; CONSIDERATIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR FURNISHING ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—No contributions by the United States to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for programs in the West Bank and Gaza, or to any related entity, or to the regular budget of the United Nations for the support of

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UNWRA or a successor entity for programs in the West Bank and Gaza, may be provided until the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the Department of Defense determines that—

(a) the recipient is a member of Hamas or any United States-designated terrorist group, or its member, or

(b) UNWRA has engaged in activities which were not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; or

(c) UNWRA is subject to comprehensive financial audits by an internationally recognized third party independent auditing firm and has implemented an effective system of vetting and oversight to prevent the use, receipt, or diversion of any UNWRA resources by Hamas or any United States-designated terrorist group, or their members; and

(2) the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit—

(a) findings that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirement contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; or

(b) prioritized list of projects, costs, and projected funding schedules needed to carry out the maintenance, repair, and modernization requirements.

SEC. 333. REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR LAUNCHES IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL SECURITY.

(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to congressional defense committees a report on the requirements and investments needed to modernize Department of Defense space launch facilities and supporting infrastructure at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Vandenberg Air Force Base.

(1) The results of the investigation into the failure of the radar system supporting the Eastern range in March 2014, including the causes for the failure.

(2) An assessment of each current radar and other system as well as supporting infrastructure required to support the mission requirement of the range, including back-up systems.

(3) An estimate of the annual level of dedicated funding required to maintain and modernize the range infrastructure in adequate condition to meet national security requirements.

(4) A review of requirements to repair, upgrade, and modernize the radars and other mission support systems to current technologies.

(5) A prioritized list of projects, costs, and projected funding schedules needed to carry out the maintenance, repair, and modernization requirements.

SEC. 1287. ISRAELI SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense submits to—

(1) the Committees on Appropriations, and Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committees on Appropriations, Oversight and Government Reform of the Senate.

(b) Application of Executive Schedule.

(1) The term ‘‘appropriate congressional committees’’ means—

(A) the Committees on Foreign Relations, Appropriations, and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Appropriations, and Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.’’.

SEC. 40. ISRAELI SECURITY ASSISTANCE. In this subsection, the term ‘‘applicable congressional committees’’ means—

(a) the Committees on Foreign Relations, Appropriations, and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(b) the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Appropriations, and Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.’’.

SEC. 1106. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON BENEFITS USING SIMULATORS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The use of technologies such as virtual reality and modeling and simulation tools provides cutting-edge, cost-effective training and technology development for members of the Armed Forces.

(2) Leveraging such technologies is an especially relevant supplement to live training given the future of declining defense budgets.

(b) Implementation.

(1) The implementation by the Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation of virtual reality and modeling and simulation tools was a coordinated effort to broaden the use of virtual training methods.

(2) Those centers use of a variety of training tools that of the Armed Forces and developers alike a realistic training experience that contributes to improved readiness and system effectiveness.

SEC. 4020. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirement contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1009. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON BENEFITS USING SIMULATORS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The use of technologies such as virtual reality and modeling and simulation tools provides cutting-edge, cost-effective training and technology development for members of the Armed Forces.

(2) Leveraging such technologies is an especially relevant supplement to live training given the future of declining defense budgets.

(b) Implementation.

(1) The implementation by the Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation of virtual reality and modeling and simulation tools was a coordinated effort to broaden the use of virtual training methods.

(2) Those centers use of a variety of training tools that of the Armed Forces and developers alike a realistic training experience that contributes to improved readiness and system effectiveness.

SEC. 4021. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirement contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 601 and insert the following:

SEC. 601. FISCAL YEAR 2015 INCREASE IN MILITARY BASIC PAY.

(a) WAIVER OF SECTION 1009 ADJUSTMENT.—

The adjustment to become effective during fiscal year 2015 required by section 1009 of title 37, United States Code, in the rates of monthly basic pay authorized members of the uniformed services shall not be made.

(b) INCREASE IN BASIC PAY.—Effective on January 1, 2015, the rates of monthly basic pay for members of the uniformed services are increased by 1.8 percent for enlisted member pay grades, warrant officer pay grades, and commissioned officer pay grades below pay grade O–7.

(c) APPLICATION OF EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE LEVEL II CEILING ON PAYABLE RATES FOR GENERAL OFFICERS.—Section 203(a)(2) of title 37, United States Code, shall be applied for rates of basic pay payable for commissioned officers in pay grades O–9 through O–10 during fiscal year 2015 by using the rate of pay for level II of the Executive Schedule in effect during 2014.

(d) INCREASE IN AMOUNT FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL.—The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 by section 421 for military personnel is hereby increased by $600,000,000.

SA 4022. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirement contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX, add the following:

SEC. 30. PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES REFORM.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO FILL.—

(1) AMENDMENT OF ENTITLEMENT LAND.—Section 6010(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

The document contains legislative text regarding various topics such as Israeli security assistance, simulation training, and adjustments to military pay. It is a part of the Congressional Record for the Senate, dated December 10, 2014.
SA 4023. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 3097. ENSURING PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE SUMMIT OF RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN IN THE HANFORD REACH NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3081 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4024. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 3097. TOLEDO BEND HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3087 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4025. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 3097. ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, CONVEYANCE OF REVERSIONARY INTERESTS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3082 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4026. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 3097. RELEASE OF PROPERTY INTERESTS IN BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND CONVEYED TO THE STATE OF OREGON FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF HERMISTON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3083 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4027. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 3097. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3087 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4028. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 3097. EXTENSION OF LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR ENLARGMENT AND COMMEMORATIVE WORK IN HONOR OF FORMER PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3094 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4030. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 3097. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES RELATED TO LAS VEGAS VALLEY PUBLIC LAND AND TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3092 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4031. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 3097. NATIONAL DESERT STORM AND DESERT SHIELD MEMORIAL.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3093 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4032. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 3097. EXTENSION OF LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR ENLARGEMENT AND COMMEMORATIVE WORK IN HONOR OF FORMER PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3094 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4033. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 3097. COMMEMORATION OF CENTENNIAL OF WORLD WAR I.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3091 shall have no force or effect.
SEC. 3097. REFINANCING OF PACIFIC COAST GROUNDFISH FISHING CAPACITY REDUCTION LOAN.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3066 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4034. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3066 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4035. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. ILLABOT CREEK, WASHINGTON, WILD AND SCENIC RIVER.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3071 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4036. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. MISSISQUI and TROUT WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS, VERMONT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3072 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4037. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. WHITE CLAY CREEK WILD AND SCENIC RIVER EXPANSION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3073 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4038. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. SOUTH AND SCENIC RIVERS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3074 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4039. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. TWIN RIVERS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3075 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4040. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR BENEFIT OF THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3077 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4041. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3098. TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE ADDITIONS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3078 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4042. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3099. HERMAN CREEK WATERSHED PROTECTION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3079 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4043. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3099. ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT CONSERVA

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3080 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4044. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3099. ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AREA AND WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3081 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4045. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3099. WOVOKA WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3082 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4046. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3099. HERMAN CREEK WATERSHED PROTECTION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3083 shall have no force or effect.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3068 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5033. VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3053 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5034. CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3054 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5035. NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3055 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5036. ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS ADDITIONS AND PRATT AND MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE RIVERS PROTECTION.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3060 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4054. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5041. CAPOVIA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3051 shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 5042. ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS ADDITIONS AND PRATT AND MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE RIVERS PROTECTION.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3060 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4055. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5046. COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3056 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4056. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5048. VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3051 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4057. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5048. VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3051 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4058. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5044. REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND WAR OF 1812 AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM.
Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3050 shall have no force or effect.
SA 4059. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. ADDITION OF ASHLAND HARBOR BREAKWATER LIGHT TO THE APOLLODORUS ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3030 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4060. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5036. NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS AND CORRIDORS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3032 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4061. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5039. OREGON CAVES NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3041 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4062. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5039. INTERNET-BASED ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3022 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4063. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5037. BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3031 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4064. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5037. CABIN USER AND TRANSFER FEES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3024 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4065. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5037. ADDITION OF ASHLAND HARBOR BREAKWATER LIGHT TO THE APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3030 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4066. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5037. BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3031 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4067. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 5037. HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, AUBURN, NEW YORK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3036 shall have no force or effect.
SA 4072. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. LAND CONVEYANCE, WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3001 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4073. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. HINCHLIFFE STADIUM ADDITION TO PATerson GREAT FALLS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3001 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4074. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3001 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4075. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK AND STEPHEN MATHER WILDERNESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3001 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4076. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. SOUTHEAST ARIZONA LAND EXCHANGE AND CONSERVATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3001 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4077. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. SEALASKA LAND ENTITLEMENT FINALIZATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3001 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4078. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. SOUTHEAST ARIZONA LAND EXCHANGE AND CONSERVATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3001 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4079. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. LAND CONVEYANCE, WAINWRIGHT, ALASKA.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3001 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4080. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. LAND CONVEYANCE, CIBOLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, ARIZONA, AND TEHACHAPI LAND MANAGEMENT LAND IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3001 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4081. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. SPECIAL RULES FOR INYO NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA, LAND EXCHANGE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3001 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4082. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. SOUTHEAST ARIZONA LAND EXCHANGE AND CONSERVATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3001 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4083. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. SOUTHEAST ARIZONA LAND EXCHANGE AND CONSERVATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3001 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4084. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees...
under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. NORTHERN NEVADA LAND CONVEYANCES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3098 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4085. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. SAN JUAN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, FEDERAL LAND CONVEYANCE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3010 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4086. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. LAND CONVEYANCE, UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST, UTAH.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3011 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4087. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LAND TO THE CITY OF FRUIT HEIGHTS, UTAH.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3012 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4088. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. LAND CONVEYANCE, HANFORD SITE, WASHINGTON.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3013 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4089. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PERMIT PROCESSING.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3021 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4090. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title XXX of division B, add the following:

SEC. 3097. BANCH A WYOMING CONSOLIDATION AND MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, section 3014 shall have no force or effect.

SA 4091. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 1209.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 10, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SR–328A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Commodity Futures Trading Commission: Effective Enforcement and the Future of Derivatives Regulation."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. BOXER. 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 December 10, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Cybersecurity: Enhancing Coordination To Protect the Financial Sector."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 10, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR–233 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Passenger Rail: Investing in our Nation’s Future."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 10, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., to hold a Subcommittee on African Affairs hearing entitled, "The Ebola Epidemic: The Keys to Success for the International Response."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 10, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SR–253 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Executive Nominations."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on December 10, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Keeping Families Together: The President’s Executive Action On Immigration And The Need To Pass Comprehensive Reform."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Deepa Ghosh, a foreign affairs fellow in my office, and Kaveh Sadeghzadeh, a natural resources fellow, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following people from my office be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 113th Congress: Master Sergeant Lavor Kirkpatrick; Interns Lee Kears, Eleanor Murphy, Morgan Mena, and Joy Demmet.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I ask unanimous consent that Jonathon Burpee, a National Park Service fellow on the staff of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the 113th Congress.

RECOGNIZING 20 YEARS SINCE THE GENOCIDE IN RWANDA

On Tuesday, December 9, 2014, the Senate adopted S. Res. 413, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, as follows:

S. Res. 413

Whereas, in the aftermath of the Holocaust, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide declaring that genocide, whether committed in a time of peace or war, is a crime under international law;

Whereas the United States was the first country to sign the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and the Senate voted to ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide on February 11, 1966;

Whereas, for approximately 100 days between April 7, 1994, and July 1994, more than 800,000 civilians were killed in a genocide in Rwanda that targeted members of the Tutsi, moderate Hutu, and Twa populations, resulting in the horrific deaths of nearly 70 percent of the Hutu population living in Rwanda;

Whereas the massacres of innocent Rwandan civilians were premeditated and systematic attempts to eliminate the Tutsi population by Hutu extremists, fueled by hatred and incitement propagated by newspapers and radio;

Whereas in addition to systematic targeting of an ethnic minority in Rwanda resulting in mass slaughter of innocent civilians, rape was also used as a weapon of war;

Whereas, despite the deployment of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) in October 1993 following the end of the Rwandan Civil War, its mandate was insufficient to ensure the protection of large swaths of the population, demonstrating the inability of the United Nations to effectively respond to the unfolding genocide and stop or mitigate its impact;

Whereas, on July 4, 1994, the Rwandan Patriotic Front, a trained military group consisting of formerly exiled Tutsis, began its takeover of the country, which resulted in an ending of the genocide, though not a complete end to the violence, including retribution;

Whereas, in October 1994, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was established as the first international tribunal with the mandate to prosecute the crime of genocide and other inhumane acts committed against individuals for war crimes, including genocide and crimes against humanity as well as the first convictions for rape as a weapon of war;

Whereas the United States supported initiatives to ensure that victims of genocide and mass atrocities are not forgotten, and has committed to work with international partners to prevent genocide and mass atrocities and identify and support a range of actions to protect civilian populations at risk;

Whereas, on July 4, 2001, the Senate adopted Concurrent Resolution 133 and the House of Representatives adopted House Concurrent Resolution 133 declaring that “the atrocities unfolding in Darfur, Sudan, are genocide”, and calling on the United States Government and the international community to take measures to address the situation immediately;

Whereas, in September 2004, the United States Government, in testimony by Secretary of State Colin Powell before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, declared the ongoing conflict in Darfur, Sudan, a “genocide” perpetrated by the government and armed factions against its own people and affecting over 2,400,000 people in Sudan, including an estimated 200,000 fatalities;

Whereas, in September 2005, the United States joined other members of the United Nations in adopting United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/1, which affirmed that the international community has a responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means to help protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity;

Whereas, in December 2011, the United States Senate unanimously passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 71, recognizing the United States national interest in helping to prevent and mitigate acts of genocide and other mass atrocities against civilians, and urging the development of a whole of government approach to prevent and mitigate such acts;

Whereas, in April 2012, President Barack Obama established the Atrocities Prevention Board within the United States inter-agency structure, chaired by National Security staff, to help identify and more effectively address mass atrocities, including genocide, as a core national security interest and core moral responsibility;

Whereas, in July 2013, the National Intelligence Council completed the first ever National Intelligence Estimate on the global risk for mass atrocities and genocide;

Whereas, in January 2014, the National Director of Intellligence testified before the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, stating that “the overall risk of mass atrocities worldwide will probably increase in 2014 and beyond, since the world will almost certainly turn to the United States for leadership to prevent and respond to mass atrocities.”

Whereas, despite measures taken by the United States Government and other governments since 1994, the international community still faces the challenge of responding to escalation of violence, atrocities, and religious-based conflict in many corners of the globe, including Syria and the Central African Republic, and the United States for leadership to prevent and respond to mass atrocities;

Whereas the United States Government and others have taken actions to address the rapidly deteriorating situation in Syria, the Central African Republic, and mass atrocities and inspire citizens and leaders worldwide to confront hatred and prevent genocide;

Whereas, in October 2014, the United States joined with other members of the United Nations Security Council to unanimously pass the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013, which was the first time the United Nations Security Council condemned the use of chemical weapons against civilians, killing more than 1,400 of his own people in August 2013; and

Whereas, in October 2014, the United Nations General Assembly passed Ban Ki-moon recommended to the United Nations Security Council the establishment of a United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic with the primary mandate to protect civilians: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the United Nations designation of April 7th as the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda; and

(2) honors the memory of the more than 800,000 victims of the Rwandan genocide and expresses sympathy for those whose lives were forever changed by this horrific event;

(3) expresses support for the people of Rwanda as they remember the victims of genocide;

(4) affirms it is in the national interest of the United States to work in close coordination with international partners to prevent and mitigate acts of genocide and mass atrocities;

(5) condemns ongoing acts of violence and mass atrocities perpetrated against innocent civilians in Syria, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Sudan and elsewhere;

(6) urges the President to confer with Congress on ongoing efforts regarding the priorities and objectives of the Atrocities Prevention Board;

(7) urges the President to work with Congress to strengthen the United States Government’s ability to identify and more rapidly respond to genocide and mass atrocities in order to prevent where possible and mitigate the impact of such events;

(8) clarifies that nothing in this resolution shall be construed as an authorization for the use of force or a declaration of war; and

(9) supports ongoing United States and international efforts to—

(A) strengthen multilateral peacekeeping capacities;

(B) build capacity for democratic rule of law, security sector reform, and other measures to improve civilian protection in areas of conflict;

(C) ensure measures of accountability for perpetrators of mass atrocities and crimes against humanity;

(D) strengthen the work of United States and international institutions, such as the Holocaust Memorial Museum, which are working to document, identify, and prevent mass atrocities and inspire citizens and leaders worldwide to confront hatred and prevent genocide.

DEATH IN CUSTODY REPORTING ACT OF 2013

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 604, H.R. 1447.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1447) to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the death of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today Senators have finally come together to pass the Death in Custody Reporting Act, which will provide important transparency to law enforcement efforts and our prison system. At a time
when our Nation is having an important conversation about police encounters that result in the loss of life, we know that hundreds of police-related deaths are unaccounted for in Federal statistics. The Death in Custody Reporting Act will require that State and Federal law enforcement officials report deaths in their custody, including those that occur during arrest. The Justice Department will then have the opportunity to analyze the data and see what we can learn from it. The American people deserve as much.

Too many communities across our country are losing faith in our justice system. This bill provides a step toward accountability, and it is my hope that it may ultimately lead to restoring some measure of trust in these communities. If we are ever able to truly embody the words engraved in Vermont marble above the United States Supreme Court building, “Equal Justice Under the Law,” then more of course must be done. I look forward to continuing these efforts in the next Congress.

The prior authorization for the Death in Custody Reporting Act expired in 2006, and after too many years of inaction, I am glad that Democrats and Republicans have come together and sent this reauthorization bill to the President for signature. My appreciation goes to Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, who sponsored and has long championed this legislation, as well Senator RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, who sponsored a Senate version.

This has been an important week for transparency. On Monday, the Senate came together to pass my bipartisan FOIA Improvement Act and I hope the House will soon take up this bill. On Tuesday, I spoke on the Senate floor in favor of the release of the executive summary of the Senate Intelligence Committee Study of the CIA’s Detention and Interrogation Program. Both of these bills did not come easily, but in both instances the interests of the American public and our values as a democracy prevailed. Today, we have again come together in the interest of transparency for the betterment of our Nation.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1493) to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1493) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SMART SAVINGS ACT

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4193, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4193) to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4193) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JAMES L. OBERSTAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4296, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4296) to designate a segment of Interstate Route 35 in the State of Minnesota as the “James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed and the motion 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 bill (H.R. 4296) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PROpane EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2014

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5705, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5705) to modify certain provisions relating to the Propane Education and Research Council.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion 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 bill (H.R. 5705) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DIGNIFIED INMENT OF OUR VETERANS ACT OF 2014

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans’ Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2822 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2822) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BENNET. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2822) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2822

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act of 2014”.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS STUDY ON MATTERS RELATING TO BURIAL OF UNCLAIMED REMAINS OF VETERANS IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

(a) STUDY AND REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—
(1) complete a study on matters relating to the interring of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration;

(2) submit to Congress a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the study required under paragraph (1), and coroner offices that possess unclaimed remains.

(b) Matters Studied.—The matters studied under subsection (a)(1) shall include the following:

(1) Determining the scope of issues relating to unclaimed remains of veterans, including an estimate of the number of unclaimed remains of veterans.

(2) Assessing the effectiveness of the procedures of the Department of Veterans Affairs for working with persons or entities having custody of unclaimed remains to facilitate interment of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration.

(3) Assessing State and local laws that affect the ability of the Secretary to inter unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries under the control of the National Cemetery Administration.

(4) Developing recommendations for such legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) Methodology.—

(1) Number of Unclaimed Remains.—In estimating the number of unclaimed remains of veterans under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary may review a subset of applicable entities as the Secretary considers appropriate, including a subset of funeral homes and coroner offices that possess unclaimed remains.

(2) Assessment of State and Local Laws.—In assessing State and local laws under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary may assess such sample of applicable State and local laws as the Secretary considers appropriate in lieu of reviewing all applicable State and local laws.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF ABDUL-RAHMAN PETER KASSIG AND CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ACTS OF THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 598, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 598) expressing condolences to the family of Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig and condemning the terrorist acts of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 598) was agreed to.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and the preamble be agreed to. (The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's Record under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2992

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I understand that S. 2992 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant legislative clerk read the bill by title for the second time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2992) to amend title 10, United States Code, to reform procedures for determinations to proceed in trial by court-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and for other purposes.

Mr. BENNET. I object to any further proceedings with respect to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF SENATE DOCUMENT

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent that the tributes to retiring Senators be printed as a Senate document and that Senators be permitted to submit tributes until December 23, 2014.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—H.R. 5471

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5471, and the bill be referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 11, 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; and that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to accompany H.R. 3979, NDAA.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. BENNET. For the information of all Senators, there will be a cloture vote on the motion to concur on the Defense authorization bill at 10:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BENNET. 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 7:55 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 11, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. STEVE SAULS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014
Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Steve Sauls, and to congratulate him on his retirement. Mr. Sauls is an outstanding individual who has served as the Vice President for Governmental Relations at Florida International University.

Steve has spent over 20 years at FIU, helping build the university into one of the top research institutions in the country. At FIU, he was instrumental in establishing and funding both the law school and medical school, and the expansion of graduate programs. His assistance has also led to millions of dollars of research funds being made available for the International Hurricane Research Center, Wolfsonian-FIU, and countless construction projects at the university.

Steve’s accomplishments include much more than just his work at FIU. He is the author of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, which was created to provide educational assistance to Mariel and Haitian refugees. In the 1980s he also provided staff support to Governor Bob Graham of Florida. He was instrumental in the resurrection of the Everglades Coalition as part of the Save the Everglades program, and the purchase of Fakahatchee Strand, which protected Florida’s panther habitat.

Having known Steve for over 20 years, and been able to work with him since my time in the Florida state legislature, I can attest that he has consistently demonstrated the highest degree of integrity, character, and professionalism. He has been dedicated to his career and has worked tirelessly for the state of Florida and FIU. Beyond that, over the years I have had the privilege of getting to know Steve on a personal level, and am honored to now call him my friend. I wish nothing but the best for Steve in the future, and again congratulate him on his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Steve Sauls for his tremendous service to Florida and FIU. Beyond that, over the years Steve has spent over 20 years at FIU, helping build the university into one of the top research institutions in the country. At FIU, he was instrumental in establishing and funding both the law school and medical school, and the expansion of graduate programs. His assistance has also led to millions of dollars of research funds being made available for the International Hurricane Research Center, Wolfsonian-FIU, and countless construction projects at the university.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Steve Sauls for his tremendous service to Florida and FIU. Beyond that, over the years Steve has spent over 20 years at FIU, helping build the university into one of the top research institutions in the country. At FIU, he was instrumental in establishing and funding both the law school and medical school, and the expansion of graduate programs. His assistance has also led to millions of dollars of research funds being made available for the International Hurricane Research Center, Wolfsonian-FIU, and countless construction projects at the university.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Steve Sauls for his tremendous service to Florida and FIU. Beyond that, over the years Steve has spent over 20 years at FIU, helping build the university into one of the top research institutions in the country. At FIU, he was instrumental in establishing and funding both the law school and medical school, and the expansion of graduate programs. His assistance has also led to millions of dollars of research funds being made available for the International Hurricane Research Center, Wolfsonian-FIU, and countless construction projects at the university.
As this chapter of his career draws to a close, I hope he enjoys a joyous and restful break in the company of good friends and family, and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

HONORING MS. SHEILA JORDAN

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary career of Ms. Sheila Jordan on the occasion of her retirement. Ms. Jordan is retiring after serving for fifteen years as the Alameda County Superintendent of Schools.

A proud native of the Bronx, Ms. Jordan graduated from Rutgers University with a B.A. in English. She went on to get her M.A. in Special Education from San Francisco State University, and is the holder of a lifetime teaching credential, a credential for teaching the learning handicapped, an Administrative Credential from California State University East Bay, and a Certificate in Executive Management from the Graduate School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley.

Prior to her service as Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Jordan served on the Oakland City Council and the Oakland Unified School District Board of Education, and was a teacher for 20 years.

During her time as Superintendent of Schools for Alameda County, Ms. Jordan has overseen the implementation of numerous programs designed to promote civic engagement and service, environmental education, arts and technology integration, math, language arts, and science. Her leadership has clarified and solidified the role of county offices of education and influenced new statewide policies. Her efforts to create a regional model have deepened the ties and accountability between school districts and county offices and inspired student success. For instance, she helped to forge a closer alliance with Chabot Space & Science Center’s education department in order to provide county and regional schools with training and support of STEM and STEAM opportunities.

Ms. Jordan has also served in numerous community service positions, including the Executive Committee of the Economic Development Alliance for Business, and the boards of the Chabot Space & Science Center, the Workforce Investment Board, United Way, and the Interagency Children’s Policy Council. She is also a former member of the Board of Directors of the East Bay Leadership Foundation, a past co-chair of the Alameda County Superior Court Children’s Waiting Room Project, and a former Fellow of the Bay Area Writing Project.

Among other honors, Ms. Jordan has received the Outstanding Educator of the Year Award, and is the past chair of the Alameda County Superior Court Children’s Waiting Room Project, and a former Fellow of the Bay Area Writing Project.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, Dr. Michael B. McCall. Dr. McCall is the Founding President and Chief Executive Officer of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). Since his appointment in 1998, Dr. McCall has honorably served as the head of a system made up of 16 colleges located on more than 70 campuses across the state, serving over 92,000 students. He recently announced his retirement, effective January 2015.

KCTCS is the largest provider of workforce training in Kentucky, serving more than 5,300 businesses and training more than 52,000 employees annually. Among his many achievements, Dr. McCall has led the KCTCS Board of Regents’ ratification or approval of more than 700 credit program options that resulted in certificates, diplomas or associate degrees. Under Dr. McCall’s leadership, KCTCS became the state’s largest provider of online learning, offering more than 77 online credentials. Other KCTCS accomplishments spearheaded by Dr. McCall include the creation of the North American Racing Academy (first college-affiliated horseracing academy in the United States), the Kentucky Coal Academy, the Kentucky Fire Commission, and the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services.

Dr. McCall has also personally received numerous awards and honors, including the Phi Theta Kappa’s prestigious State Community College Director Award of Distinction and the 2005 National Council for Continuing Education and Training’s National Leadership Award. In addition, the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development honored Dr. McCall with its 2005 International Leadership Award. Dr. McCall also received the prestigious honor of selection by the Kentucky Monthly Magazine as the 2004 Kentuckian of the Year, and on June 30, 2006, Dr. McCall completed his tenure as Board Chair of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). This marked the first time ever that a system-level president was elected chair of the AACC board.

A recent study by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems highlighted many KCTCS accomplishments achieved under Dr. McCall’s leadership. For example, KCTCS ranks 5th among the nation’s community and technical college systems in the category of “improvement over time in its outreach to younger working-aged adults without college degrees.” In addition, from 2000 to 2012, KCTCS experienced a 63 percent increase in enrollment, while at the same time, the population of KY citizens aged 18 to 34 only increased by 2%. Finally, at least one of KCTCS’s colleges has been awarded a “top ten” finish in each of the three rounds of the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

I salute Dr. McCall for his exemplary service to KCTCS, the state of Kentucky, and the nation.
He never stopped fighting for what he believed in and what he knew was right for his district, his State, or for the American people. In his long career, he guided the passage of dozens of landmark laws and shaped the transportation policy of our country for the better, creating an infrastructure system that is more efficient, more sustainable, and safer than before Jim entered politics.

He was an incredible cyclist, a skilled and passionate legislator, and a good friend. I pleased that H.R. 4926 will literally cement his legacy.

HONORING JOHN C. MANKA
HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John C. Manka. John is a very special young man who exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years John has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, John has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. John worked with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to provide five additional handicap-accessible deer blinds for organized hunts at Smithville Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending John C. Manka for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF ALARM (THE AFRICAN LEADERSHIP AND RECONCILIATION MINISTRIES) ON THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY
HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. ADERHOLT of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the work of ALARM (the African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministries) on their 20th anniversary, and especially, the President and Founder of the organization, Dr. Celestin Musekura, an ordained Baptist minister who was born and raised in Rwanda.

It is important to note that ALARM works to strengthen the church in Africa to be an instrument of change in the community by focusing on three areas: developing servant leaders, reconciling relationships, and transforming communities. ALARM is made up of three charitable organizations: 1) ALARM-Africa, which has offices in eight countries; 2) ALARM-UK; and 3) ALARM USA.

ALARM-Africa was founded after civil wars and political violence in Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, northern Uganda, and southern Sudan left a vacuum of leadership in Christian churches. These churches, once led primarily by western missionaries who were forced to flee due to the violence, needed leadership from within their own countries. These leaders needed to be trained in guiding, teaching, forgiving and reconciling, to bring healing and transformation to their communities.

In the aftermath of these crises, Dr. Musekura and his wife, Bernadette, felt called to help fill this void and to help train others in the ministry. They founded ALARM and continue to dedicate their lives to it.

Dr. Musekura received a Bachelor of Theology at Kenya Highlands Evangelical University in Kenya, a Master of Divinity at the Africa International University (AIU) in Kenya, a Master of Sacred Theology at Dallas Theological Seminary, a Master of Science in Justice Administration and Leadership at the University of Texas at Dallas, and a Ph.D. in theological studies at Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, Texas.

ALARM-Africa uses curriculum, most of which is internally developed, to equip untrained church and community leaders and reconcile hurting communities.

Since its founding in 1994, ALARM-Africa has expanded into eight countries across east and central Africa (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda) with its head office in Nairobi, Kenya. All offices are staffed by well-trained, professional African men and women who act as local missionaries to their people.

I would like to congratulate ALARM and Dr. Celestin Musekura on the occasion of this anniversary and for their dedication to this important work.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3979, PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5759, PREVENTING EXECUTIVE OVERREACH ON IMMIGRATION ACT OF 2014; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5781, CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF
HON. PETE SESSIONS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 4, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, House Report 113–646, the report to accompany H. Res. 770, the special rule that governed consideration of nearly 200 people and a beautiful landscape. In 2013, DuPont Pioneer opened a new 30,000 square foot research center near Elizabeth that focuses on soybean breeding and product development as well as corn product testing and characterization for farmers in the Delta.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Town of Elizabeth for its dedication to serving others.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR CURT OWENS
HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Curt Owens for his past two years of exemplary dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Fellow and Congressional Liaison for the Chief of Army Reserve. I am grateful that he will continue to serve the Army and Congress in his new assignment as a legislative liaison for the Programs Division of the Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison. We wish him well in his new position.

A native of Tallahassee, Florida, Major Owens earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business at Florida State University and was commissioned an infantry officer in the Army Reserve. He has earned advanced degrees in management and legislative affairs.
Curt has served in a broad range of assignments during his 20 years of service as a citizen soldier. As a lieutenant, he served as a rifle platoon leader in the 100th Infantry Battalion during combat operations in Iraq. As a captain, he served as an operations officer in a combined joint special operations task force, commanded a basic combat training company, and served as platoon trainer at the basic officer leadership course, 11th Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning, Georgia.

In 2013, following assignments as a battalion operations officer and executive officer with 1st Brigade, 98th Division, Major Owens was selected as an Army Congressional Fellow and assigned as the Defense Fellow in my office. In this role, Curt served as policy advisor on all matters relating to defense and national security. He provided me with candid advice and became a trusted source of counsel and productivity to my office.

After this, he served as a legislative liaison in the Office of the Chief of Army Reserve. In this capacity, Curt represented the Chief of Army Reserve directly with the Senate and House Armed Services and Appropriations Committees to educate and inform Senators, Representatives, and staff on critical Army Reserve issues and programs.

Throughout his twenty year career, Major Curt Owens has made positive impacts on the careers and lives of his soldiers, peers, and superiors. I am grateful that he has chosen to continue to serve as an Army leader. I join my colleagues today in honoring his dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the United States Congress as an Army congressional liaison.

Curt is accustomed to working long hours in his congressional relations work. So let me also acknowledge Curt’s wife Allison, and their sons, Grayson, Carter and Brady, thank them for their sacrifices and wish them all the best for continued success in the future.

HONORING KERRY BENTIVOLIO

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the 113th Congress comes to a close, I would like to recognize my good friend and colleague from Michigan’s 11th District, Congressman KERRY BENTIVOLIO. We grew up in the same community and went to the same schools, only to meet years later in our nation’s capital. He is one of five sons of a factory worker who put himself through college, eventually earning a Master’s Degree, worked as an automotive designer, home builder and an exceptional, highly qualified vocational and general education teacher in both private and public schools. Married for 37 years to his wife Karen he raised two wonderful children and has four grandchildren. He’s an effective legislator, a staunch defender of conservative values, and he, and his team, have provided consistent services that would be considered beyond exceptional by even the tenacious critic.

Kerry built his reputation on the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Kaleb has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.
and women, I salute the service of all in-
my office nor I expected or requested this kind
of preparation. Then, my flight to Honolulu was
found me. Upon my arrival at the HNL airport,
and they delivered
Evacuation Team, Theatre Patient Movement
Requirements Center, and Joint Patient Liai-
sion, commitment, and faith. Through emails
and phone calls, General Wong stayed in di-
rect contact with my staff every step of the way. He worked around the clock,
and I publicly express my appreciation to him.
I also publicly thank General Robert Lee,
former Adjutant General for the State of Ha-
awaii, whose quick action led to my rescue.
I thank him for his leadership, kindness, expertise,
for his calm in the eye of a storm, for his compas-
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thankful for the late Congressman Phil Burton, former Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Territorial and Insular Affairs, who I served with from 1975 to 1981. During my service as his Staff Counsel, he tasked me with drafting legislation providing for an elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor in American Samoa. Congressman Burton introduced the legislation on June 10, 1976, which the U.S. House of Representatives passed by a landslide vote of 377 to 1. The historical proceedings and debates of the 94th Congress, Second Session related to this legislation were made part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in Volume 122—Part 18, July 1, 1976 to July 21, 1976 (Pages 21785 to 23276). After the legislation passed the House, instead of sending the bill to the Senate for a vote, Chairman Burton consulted with Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton and the two agreed that a Secretariat Order should be issued authorizing the American Samoa Government to pass enabling legislation to provide for an elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Secretariat Order No. 3009 was issued on September 13, 1977, in accordance with the will of the majority of voters in American Samoa who voted in favor of electing their own Governor and Lieutenant Governor in a plebiscite that was held on August 31, 1976. Chairman Burton also tasked me with the responsibility of providing for the American Samoans to be represented in the U.S. Congress by a Delegate to the House of Representatives. Chairman Burton introduced this legislation, which later became Public Law 95–556, Oct. 31, 1978–92 Stat. 2078. The historical proceedings and debates of the 95th Congress, Second Session related to this legislation were made part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in Volume 124—Part 25, October 3, 1978 to October 6, 1978 (Pages 33129 to 34486). I will always be thankful for the opportunity I had to participate in such an historic undertaking for and on behalf of the people of American Samoa.

After I completed my service with Congressman Phil Burton, the late Senate President Paramount Chief Leleti Toaola encouraged me to continue serving in the Army to continue the “dust and toil” or, as he put it, “la i le pefu ma savaiali le ma’aama, meaning come home and more fully feel the suffering and pain of our people so that I might serve them more completely. I followed his advice and served the people of American Samoa as Deputy Attorney General from 1981 to 1984, and as Lieutenant Governor from 1985 to 1988. As I look back over my life, had I not returned to American Samoa to live and serve among our people, it would have been impossible for the people to have entrusted me to represent their interests for nearly 40 years. Because of the work that I did in Congress, I became the first Asian Pacific American in U.S. history to serve as Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives’ Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. This was an unexpected honor and an honor that belongs only to the people of American Samoa, not to me. When I left for Vietnam in 1967, I was uncertain if I would return alive. By the grace of God, I did return and went on to serve in the Army Reserve as a Captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps and was a proud member of the 100 Battalion 242nd Unit, Honolulu Unit, in World War II. By God’s grace, I returned to Vietnam in 2007, for the first time in nearly 40 years after having served in Nha Trang as a young soldier in the height of the Tet Offensive. I returned in my official capacity as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs’ Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment and, in returning, I found a people I love. This is why I have repeatedly called for the United States to clean up the mess it left behind and to stop the right wing interests of Agent Orange. I was not aware of the many side effects caused by Agent Orange exposure but now, as I take, I urge anyone exposed to seek treatment. Agent Orange is a silent killer. From 1961 to 1971, the U.S. military sprayed more than 11 million gallons of Agent Orange in Vietnam, exposing millions of civilians and soldiers to dioxin, a toxic contaminant known to be one of the deadliest chemicals made by man. I was exposed during my service in Nha Trang. Like hundreds of thousands of veterans in the U.S. and Vietnam, I suffer from the side effects of Agent Orange, including heart and kidney disease. Sadly, many veterans and civilians have lost their lives because of Agent Orange exposure, and many continue to suffer from its debilitating effects. Before it is too late, it is my sincere hope that the U.S. government will do its part to help Hawaii, and I hope that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will lead the way.

After serving in the U.S. House of Representatives for all these years, I now go forward with faith that my life has been so, I again express my love for the American people of American Samoa. I thank them for the opportunity they gave me to wear out my life in their service, and I hope I will be remembered for doing my best. As I begin a new chapter, I thank my staff in American Samoa, especially Faiiva Alex Godinet, as well as my Washington, DC staff, including Dr. Lisa Williams, Vili Le’i, Tavita Richmond, Leilani Pimentel, Ta’afiaga Sapogutale and Jennifer Elliott. I thank them for their loyalty and dedication to me, to this institution and to the people of American Samoa. I also thank other members of my staff who served with me in the past and present, and I also recognize Cari Schemm and Cathy Barnhardt as well as my Washington, DC staff, including other members of my staff who served with me in the present and past, and I also recognize Cari Schemm and Cathy Barnhardt whom I have relied on and appreciated. At this time, I pay special tribute to my wife, Antonina Hinanui Cave Hunkin. I am forever grateful that Hina is my companion in this life and in the life to come. I thank her for standing by my side during my recovery and throughout my many years of service. I love and appreciate her, and I always will. Hina and I express our profound love for our children and their spouses: Temanuata Jessie Tuliu’a’i Hunkin and her husband Michael Lausser, Taualaitufanuaimeaatamili’i O’reoae Hunkin and her husband Fredrick Kolotau Vaitu’ula, Nfai’a Ra’imana David Sama, especially Ma’amua Alekia Ri’i’iga, Vaimoana Kealoa Hunkin, Leonne Lia’ina Hunkin and her husband Taufui-e-valu Vakapuna. We also express our love for our grandchildren: Tutehau Jeremiah Torres Hunkin, Leonne Kilsilitakokholovea Leigoaioiamunua’ala Vaitu’ula, Tamatao Eni Nakita Vaitu’ula, Feletiiki Kolotau Sebastianski Vaitu’ula, Kenzo Kiyozo Nagashima Banno Vaitu’ula, Taimana Kenese Rivera Hunkin, Taitatea Hinaniu Rivera Hunkin, Maiana Ve’i Hina Taimalietane Vakapuna, and others yet to come. We pay special tribute to the following people: Eni Fatumati Hunkin and Taualaitufanuaimeaatamili’i Manu, and David Montague Cave and Georgina Popoua Bambridge. We also extend our love to my sisters, Dr. Salusalumolameleleilemateunu’u Hunkin-Finau, Masinaaota Magalei, my brother Albert, as well as my siblings Tuliu’a’i, Arlene, and Taulainuamaitagata who have since passed away. We also express our love for my sister Diane, my late sister Suzie, my late brother Patrikia. From Hina and I, we extend our love to the Hina and the family and friends of Eni Fatumati Hunkin and Taulainuamaitagata who was in charge of the Vikeeltu’a’i Hunkin and the late Vikeeltu’a’i Victory Hunkin and the late Dexter Bunton to Caveshoward as the other side of the veil. Hina and I believe that the best is yet to come. Until we meet again, Fa’atele’a ma i sofu’a.

HONORING MR. AUBREY O’NEAL DENT JR., M.D.

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mr. Aubrey O’Neal Dent. Dr. Dent was a beloved husband, father, brother, and friend. With his passing on October 29, we look to Dr. Dent’s personal legacy of leadership, service, and the outstanding quality of his life’s work.

Born on May 7, 1934 in Roanoke, Virginia, to Aubrey O’Neal and Lillian Gertrude Dent, Dr. Dent was the only boy and the oldest of four children. After graduating from Lucy Addison High School, he went on to Howard University, where he was a proud member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity and received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1963. Dr. Dent married Carol Hayden Johnson at All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington, D.C., and that same year, he joined the Civil Rights Movement, proudly taking part in the March on Washington.

At that time, Dr. Dent served as a Major in the United States Army at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. His experience there drove him to enroll in College of Medicine at Howard University, where he would graduate four years later with a medical degree. After he graduated, he moved with his wife, Carol, and his daughter, Gina, to San Francisco. It was there, at the UCSF Medical Center at Mount Zion, that he completed his residency in psychiatry.

With his residency completed, Dr. Dent established a private practice specializing in general psychiatry that he maintained for 26 years. Working in the Presidio, he continued to serve his country as an active reservist in the United States Army Reserve. Later, he took a position at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville. Moreover, Dr. Dent served as Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the School of Medicine at UCSF.

As a past president of both the Golden Gate Medical Association and the John Hale Medical Society, and his affiliation with the Black Psychiatrists of America and the National Medical Association, Dr. Dent was an active member of his professional community. Dr. Dent dedicated himself to mentoring young students and professionals though his active participation in The Beta Upsilon Boule of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, attending Howard University’s Homecoming each year to be reunited with old pudge brothers and friends.
On a personal note, Aubrey was a dear friend and loyal supporter. I will always remember his kindness and his concern for people who deserved a second chance. I will always remember him as a kind, gentle, loving, and brilliant human being who gave so much to others.

Today, California’s 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual, Dr. Aubrey O’Neal Dent. His dedication and efforts have impacted so many lives throughout the state of California. I join all of Aubrey’s loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 9, I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “NAY” on #552 and “YEA” on #553.

HONORING LATONYA DENISE COTTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a determined young lady, LaTonya Denise Cotton. Ms. Cotton has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to make a positive difference in her community.

LaTonya is the author of a historical novel called “A Small Peyton Place in a Town Called Anguilla.” She has plans to make a movie based on the novel. LaTonya has served as a volunteer through the AmeriCorps program as a career trainer in Sharkey County.

LaTonya has been a devoted member of Union Chapel Baptist Church in Anguilla, MS for thirty one years. She is the proud parent of two girls, Dominique and Sumonia Cotton. She enjoys time with family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. LaTonya Denise Cotton for her dedication to serving her community.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN RALPH HALL

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is no one like Texas Congressman RALPH HALL. Congressman RALPH HALL is the oldest serving member of Congress, the oldest person ever to serve in the House of Representatives, the oldest person ever to cast a vote. Mr. HALL is also the last remaining Congressman who served our nation during World War II.

And for all of his accomplishments, I would like to thank and congratulate RALPH more one time for his service to the country and his leadership in the Texas Congressional Delegation.

Born in Fate, Texas on May 3, 1923, HALL did not know what his successful future which was ahead of him. At the age of 19, HALL enrolled into the U.S. Navy where he served as a lieutenant and combat aircraft carrier pilot from 1942 to 1945 during World War II.

After serving for three years, HALL then went on to finish college and received his LL.B. from Southern Methodist University in 1951. He was admitted to the Texas Bar, and practiced law in Rockwall.

Mr. HALL also participated in the business side of Rockwall where he took part in serving as President/CEO of Texas Aluminum Corp., General Counsel of Texas Extrusion Co., Chairman of Lakeside News, Inc., and was a founding member of Lakeside National Bank in Rockwall where he currently serves as Chairman of the Board.

RALPH had the calling to serve Texas in the political arena in Texas politics, a combat sport. So he began his public service from 1950 to 1962 when he served as County Judge of Rockwall County, Texas. Mr. HALL also served as President of the State Judges and Commissioners Association in 1958–1959.

From 1962 to 1972, Mr. HALL was elected and served as a Texas State Senator where he served as President Pro Tempore in 1968–1969.

Congressman RALPH HALL was first elected to serve the 4th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1980 and has been re-elected to each succeeding Congress.

On November 27, 2012, Congresswoman HALL became the oldest member in the U.S. House of Representatives to ever cast a vote. The following month, December 23, 2012, he became the oldest-serving Member of the U.S. House of Representatives in recorded history.

Congressman HALL always ensured to serve his people and made sure their voice was heard on different issues throughout Congress. His vision and leadership continues to influence the Congress, on both sides of the aisle admire. His dedication and love for his public service illustrates how success is attainable when mixed with hard work and determination, along with a love of America and of course, Texas.

And that’s just the way it is.

HONORING THE KING INSTITUTE

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Leader NANCY PELOSI, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, Congresswoman ZOE LOFREN, Congresswoman KATHY HONDA, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER and Congressman ERIC SWALWELL, to recognize the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute (King Institute) located at Stanford University. Led by Stanford University historian Dr. Clayborne Carson, the King Institute is preserving and promoting the legacy and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Before the King Institute was officially founded in 2005, Coretta Scott King approached Dr. Clayborne Carson in 1985 to become the director of the King Papers Project. This Project was established as a long term effort to publish Dr. King’s sermons, speeches, correspondences, writings and other materials.

The King Institute is the largest online archive of Dr. King’s writings that were previously inaccessible, including the Martin Luther King Jr. Encyclopedia, which was published in 2008.

The King Papers Project plans to release 14 volumes of The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr. by 2027. The first volume was published in 1992 and they have subsequently released six more. This Project is one of the few documentary archiving projects in the nation that focuses on the life of an African American leader.

Moreover, the King Institute prepares and provides educators with the Liberation Curriculum, a document-based set of lesson plans and online educational resources emphasizing the modern African American freedom struggle using nonviolence as the means to achieve positive social change and justice in the United States and other movements globally.

Additionally, the King Institute’s Global Outreach program includes outreach Dr. King’s work to a variety of countries, including China and India. By holding public events and by emphasizing the visionary ideas of Dr. King on a global
scale, these programs increase awareness of Dr. King's thoughts and life's work.

We are proud that the King Institute resides in such a prestigious academic institution. The Institute is a vital part of our national discourse, inspiring future generations to build upon Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy to achieve equality for all.

Therefore, on behalf of the residents of the Bay Area, we recognize the King Institute's work to preserve the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We wish the King Institute and Dr. Clayborne Carson the best as they continue to promote Dr. King's beliefs of social justice and racial equality.

IN HONOR OF JOHN DAVID DUKE LANE, SR.

HON. SANDFORD D. BISHOP, JR. OF GEORGIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen and valued peach farmer of Middle Georgia, Mr. John David Duke Lane, Sr., who sadly passed away on Thursday, December 4, 2014 at the age of 87.

Although he was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Mr. Lane had long since planted his roots firmly into Georgia soil. Following his graduation from Gordon Military College in Barnesville, Georgia, Mr. Lane studied at the University of Georgia, where he became a member of the Chi Phi fraternity. He married the former Caroline Martin, and the young couple decided to return to Middle Georgia and help Mr. Lane's grandfather, John David Duke, run the family business at Diamond D Farm, which Mr. Duke founded in 1908.

Mr. Lane, or “Big Duke” as he was known, took the reins and the farm thrived under his leadership for many years. Mr. Lane, alongside his father, Dave Lane, founded Lane Packing Company, which is now a state-of-the-art facility and one of the most modern and efficient packinghouses in the industry. It has the capacity to pack and ship up to one million 25-pound cartons of peaches per season.

Mr. Lane was an innovator and made a name for himself in the agricultural community of Middle Georgia, so much so that the Georg ia Peach Council bestowed upon him the title of “Mr. Peach” in 2002. He was one of the first people in Georgia to see the potential of agricultural tourism. The packinghouse has covered walkways where visitors can stroll and watch as peaches are being packed. It also has a restaurant and a large gift shop, which draws more than 200,000 visitors a year. His children and grandchildren continue to operate the packinghouse and the farm, now known as Lane Southern Orchards, one of the largest peach-growing operations in Georgia.

An avid outdoorsman, Mr. Lane enjoyed hunting and fishing and spent 44 years salt water fishing in Homosassa, Florida. In addition, he was fascinated by Indian artifacts and maintained an impressive collection of authentic arrowheads. But his greatest joy was roaming the farm, overseeing the growth and harvesting of the crops.

George Washington Carver once said, “No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it.” Mr. Lane has done just that, leaving behind a great legacy of leadership in the peach-growing community of Middle Georgia. His great contributions to our state’s reputation as the “Peach State” will live on as long as Americans and people from all over the world enjoy our delicious and succulent Georgia peaches.

Mr. Lane is preceded in death by his daughter, Anne Lane Tribble, and brother, David Lane. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Rose Garrett Lane; sons: Duke, Jr., Bobby, and Stevie Lane; stepchildren, Coleman and Lauren; and his beloved grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the Middle Georgia community in honoring the great John David Duke Lane, Sr. His leadership, wisdom, and keen business savvy helped make Middle Georgia’s peach-growing industry the success that it is today. Mr. Lane was a remarkable man and a blessing to the state of Georgia and the nation at large. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

GENERAL LEAVE

HON. BARBARA LEE OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 532–533. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on #532, yes on #533.

HON. SAM GRAVES OF MISSOURI IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Devin Tyler McGuire. Devin is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 412, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Devin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Devin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Devin has become a Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow and earned the rank of Fire-Builder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Devin has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Devin built a backpack and painted a storage shed for the Smithville Baseball and Softball League.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Devin Tyler McGuire for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING REV. JEFFREY C. CHAMBLESS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INSTALLATION AS PASTOR OF MOUNT MORIAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS OF NEW YORK IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rev. Jeffrey C. Chambless on the occasion of his installation as pastor of Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church on December 12th in Buffalo, New York. Rev. Chambless was ordained and baptized in Rockville Centre, Long Island and became an active member of the Shiloh Baptist Church at the age of 10 under the leadership of the late
Rev. Dr. Morgan M. Days, Jr. His early life of service included appointments as a junior trustee, deacon and usher board president. He later relocated to Buffalo and attended Canisius College, majoring in Pre-Law with a minor in Religious Studies. His educational pursuit also included a major in Police Services while attending Erie Community College.

Led by his family to Zion Missionary Baptist Church, this determined and dedicated man continued to embrace a life of service through his work on the Deacon Board, as Youth Pastor and then Interim Pastor. His impressive engagement with leadership and civic and community involvement includes membership with the Baptist Ministers Conference of Buffalo, NY and Vicinity, Delegate to the National Baptist Convention, Chaplain at Erie County Medical Center and Kaleida Health System, member of the Board of Directors for Teens In Progress (TIP) Youth Organization, Regional Committee for the New York State Department of Health AIDS/HIV Institute and Say Yes to Education Buffalo Clergy Task Force. Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church was founded in September 1960 by the late Rev. Anthony Benson, Sr. Their congregation has continued to grow for more than fifty years and through the guidance of several pastors. Under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Robert E. Baines Jr., valuable programs were started at the church including the Women’s Ministry, the Senior Citizens Ministry and the Drug Abuse Program. Mount Moriah moved to its current location on Northampton Street in Buffalo in 1994 where fellowship flows to this day.

Since accepting this leadership position, Rev. Chambless’s ministry has added new members and appointed two deacons. His many gifts and ability to bring his practical experience to serve the needs of people in the Church as well as the community will continue to yield growth, goodwill and guidance to his congregation and the City of Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, it is in that spirit of service, that I rise with great pride today to extend my personal achievements.

Mrs. Mary Lee Taylor is that she was one of the original pioneers who lead the effort to bring the Head Start program to Charleston and across Tallahatchie County. Her list of fighting for the citizens of Tallahatchie County and surrounding communities goes on to include road improvements in the Black community, and bringing electricity and telephone service to the Black communities.

Her son, Mervyn, said his mother wasn’t just active locally but also overseas. She traveled to poverty stricken areas on mission trips. Mrs. Taylor was also an active member in her church, St. Paul Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. She served as president of the local missionary, president of the Northern District Episcopalian diocese, and missionary president of the northern and southern Mississippi C.M.E conferences.

Mrs. Taylor is the widow of the late Mr. Jimmy M. Taylor. She now lives in the Blue Cane Community, right outside of Charleston. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Mary Lee Taylor a pioneer in her community who has helped to pave the way for others, like you and me, to come along.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ASSOCIATION FOR TALENT DEVELOPMENT (ATD)

HON. JAMES P. MORAN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Association for Talent Development (ATD) as the largest association dedicated to the talent development profession and recognize them for their annual Employee Learning Week, held from December 1st through the 5th.

Members of ATD come from more than 100 countries and connect locally with 125 U.S. chapters, international strategic partners, and global networks. They work in thousands of organizations of all sizes, in government, as independent consultants, and as suppliers.

Established in 1943 as the American Society for Training Directors, ATD is now a global leader in the talent development field. As businesses seek competitive advantages and growth, talent development professionals are the ones who help lead the way. When an organization’s best asset, its employees, have the skills they need to help achieve business growth, ATD serves this important community of professionals with research and resources.

To further these goals, ATD has declared December 1st through December 5th, 2014, as “Employee Learning Week” and designated time for organizations to recognize the strategic value of employee learning. I applaud ATD and its members for their dedication to developing knowledgeable and skilled employees during Employee Learning Week.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting policies that commit to maintaining a highly skilled workforce.
HONORING LANDON MONTGOMERY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. MONTGOMERY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Landon Montgomery, a 14-year-old young man from the Columbus, Georgia community in honoring Georgia State Representative Calvin Smyre for his decades of leadership at Synovus. He was a member of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Deployed to the Middle East, he bravely served his country and returned to the United States with an Honorable Medical Discharge.

After his tenure in the Army, Kassig attended Hanover College and Butler University. During this time, he also trained as an Emergency Medical Technician. In 2012, after seeing the suffering of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, he left higher education to use his medical training by providing humanitarian aid to those affected by the ongoing conflict in Syria. He founded a non-profit, Special Emergency Response Assistance (SERA), to provide Syrian refugees with medical supplies, medical assistance, clothing and food. Kassig also taught trauma care skills to others and thus spread his knowledge and good works to countless people.

The compassion and selflessness that Kassig displayed is an inspiration to his fellow Hoosiers and everyone who dreams of a more peaceful world. The danger he faced did nothing to temper his resolve to help those who needed it most. Kassig and SERA were dedicated to providing acute logistical support and assistance in areas too difficult for other humanitarian organizations to effectively operate. Abdul-Rahman Peter Edward Kassig will be remembered as a young man of tremendous courage and integrity by family and friends from Indiana and across the globe. I join people of all faiths in praying for the comfort of those who mourn his death and a more peaceful world for all to live in.

HONORING REVEREND THADDEUS J. WILLIAMS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. WILLIAMS of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Thaddeus J. Williams, a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi.

Reverend Thaddeus J. Williams is married to the former Teresa L. Buckner and the father to four children: Sam, Dante', Philip, and Alexandra. He is a Licensed and Ordained Minister of the Gospel and currently serves as Minister of Membership Assimilation at Greater Fairview Baptist Church.

Reverend Williams currently enrolled in Mississippi Baptist Seminary and Bible College pursuing a Master in Christian Education. He earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Mississippi Valley State University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Mississippi in 1991. He is a graduate of the Mississippi Certified Public Manager Program, the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Leadership Yazoo City's Inaugural Class in 1992, and the 200
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Inaugural Class of FOCUS—DMH’s Succession Planning/Accelerated Leadership Development Program.
Reverend Williams organized and has facilitated T and T (Thad and Teresa) Food/Outreach Ministry since 2000 where they have received both national and local recognition for their service to the community including the 2014 “WJTV Jefferson Award” and the 2013 Southern Christian Services “Hands of Providence Award.”
Reverend Williams has served as Chaplain for the Mississippi Valley State University National Alumni Association, employed with the State of Mississippi since 1992 and currently with Mississippi Department of Mental Health’s Central Office where he was voted by his peers as the 2012 Employee of the Year.
Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Thaddeus J. Williams.
25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JESUIT MARTYRS OF EL SALVADOR
HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014
Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, in mid-November I was privileged to participate in the 25th Anniversary observance of the Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador. On November 16, 1989, the Salvadoran military carried out a joint operation with the specific purpose to enter the campus of the Jesuit-administered University of Central America José Simeón Cañas (the UCA) and murder the university rector and several of its faculty. That evening, members of the Salvadoran Army shot and killed six Jesuit priests, including the rector, along with two women, a housekeeper and her teenage daughter, who were being sheltered at the university that evening.
This year I traveled to El Salvador as part of a delegation led by the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), which included many presidents and officials of U.S. Jesuit colleges and universities. It was a very moving experience, one that strengthened both my faith and my commitment to stand up for human rights everywhere, including in my own country.
I was invited to participate in one of the forums organized by the UCA as part of the 25th Anniversary events. The Legacy of the Jesuits on U.S. Foreign Policy toward El Salvador and Central America and on the Society of Jesus
Forum at the UCA: 25th Anniversary Observance of the Jesuit Martyrs
University of Central America José Simeón Cañas
Saturday, November 15, 2014
10:00 AM–12:00 PM
REMARKS BY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Thank you for that very kind introduction. I am here this morning to offer my gratitude to God, to the Jesuits of El Salvador, and especially those who have served and those who continue to serve here at the UCA. You have been my friends, my mentors and my teachers. How I think, what I believe, how I view and evaluate what is going on in the world has been shaped by my relations with the Jesuits, here and elsewhere.
The UCA itself was founded in the spirit of liberation. It is named after a Salvadoran priest, José Simeón Cañas, who as a congressman in the Legislative Assembly championed and achieved the abolition of slavery in Central America in 1824. Abraham Lincoln did the same in the U.S. Proclamation until forty years later, in 1866. So it’s right that we in the United States look to and work with the UCA to advance human rights, human dignity, freedom and equality.
Many people look upon the deaths of Fathers Ignacio Ellacuria, “Nacho” Martínez Baró, Segundo Montes, Juan Ramón Moreno, and Rosario Chocoy in El Salvador in the 1980s as tragedy. But the Jesuits of El Salvador, and especially the poor, rightfully deserve a life that benefits all Salvadorans, not just the wealthy few?
President Sanchez Ceren is in Washington right now, and he and the other Central American presidents met with U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden yesterday. I hope that the Obama Administration and the U.S. Congress will decide to make long-term investments in youth, in development, and in citizen security. I hope they will embrace the positive lessons learned from USAID’s recent report on youth gangs. As they work on these proposals, I hope the U.S. and Salvadoran governments will make sure that programs are designed in partnership with community and affected communities—a real partnership.
We in the U.S. government need to be committed to reforming and strengthening institutions, and we have to make sure that our partners in Central America, most especially the regional governments, are also genuinely committed to using these investments for real institutional reform, and for development that benefits youth and marginal communities. We need to make sure that civil society and affected communities are wholly integrated into designing and evaluating these projects. And when I look around the region, I feel like the most potential for creating those variants of sensitive and genuine partnerships is here in El Salvador.
Such long-term investments not only need to be made, they will need to be sustained. I am very concerned that the Administration, and especially the new U.S. Congress, will try to do everything “on the cheap.” And meanwhile, the questions remain whether we in the United States, and not just our own laws, as well as international humanitarian law, and welcome those who come to our border in need of protection? Or will we continue to spend money increasing border security, expanding detention facilities, denying immigrants legal counsel,
streamlining deportation proceedings, and overwhelming, rather than strengthening, our immigration courts?

My country owes a great deal to the hundreds of thousands of Salvadorans who have made the United States their home. They are great assets to our local communities, working hard, opening small businesses, investing in the future, and all while continuing to invest in their families and former communities here in El Salvador. It reminds me a lot of my own Irish-Polish immigration heritage.

I learned a great deal about El Salvador from refugees in 1983 who told my former boss, Moakley, and me. I believe that Salvadoran children and families telling similar stories about why they are trying to escape gang violence and criminal threats may one day make a difference today. Policymakers need to understand this reality. It also requires a commitment to invest in new policies, new ideas, new approaches—both here in El Salvador and in the United States.

When we deal with criminal and gang violence in the United States, we know we need to deal with education, social services, prevention programs, and with jobs and opportunities for young people. I don’t know why anyone believes it’s any different here. The FMLN in El Salvador made great progress. When I first traveled to El Salvador, the FMLN was in the mountains, settling differences through the barrel of a gun. Since then, Salvadoran people have just elected its second president from the FMLN political party. Peace has made a tremendous difference. The Salvadoran people’s commitment to peace has made a tremendous difference. And today, political disputes are settled in the political and public arena. I and I am able to honor the legacies of the Jesuit martyrs, and to know that their memory and their example continue to influence so many people, even now, 25 years after their murders.

I am also proud that we will be presenting today later a gift from the Moakley Foundation in Massachusetts for the UCA. I still believe that one of the best investments we can make in El Salvador is to support this university. Future leaders of El Salvador are being educated here today—maybe one of you or one of us. Peace will be present at El Salvador one day, or a financial leader, or a teacher whose students will change the world, or a social worker who will work with communities in the model that lifts thousands of Salvadorans out of poverty and into a dignified life. It is all possible, here at the UCA.

Education is the great liberator. The history of the UCA—and the lives and work of the Jesuit community—have long stood for an engaged and educated society, able to transform itself for the good of all people. This is why universities throughout Central America and around the world have created partnerships with the UCA. The University is a place where new ideas, new visions, and new leadership come to be nurtured and to flourish. And the UCA has always been where the voices of the poor were amplified—not just during the war, but in the hard work of advancing and consolidating the peace.

We all know there is no quick fix to the problems facing El Salvador. But many of the solutions to those problems are ones that the Jesuits and the UCA have advocated for as long as I can remember. All people deserve to be free of violence. Investigate in one poor means listening to those who live in marginal communities and letting them decide how best to address the many problems that affect their lives. Certain anti- gang initiatives and criminal networks require strong police and judicial systems. But it also requires that those institutions be free of corruption, transparent, respectful of basic human rights, able to carry out their duties at a decent living wage, and in harmony with the Judeo communities that rely on their protection.

The good news is that there are solutions, and we basically know what they are. I believe all the actors and policymakers to do the right thing for the majority of Salvadorans, especially the poor, we can all make a difference. And I rely on the UCA and its friends in El Salvador and the United States to remain committed and engaged, and to help show us the way.

In 1982, in a speech at Santa Clara University, Father Elías Aliarcia spoke eloquently about the role of the university. He began by saying:

“Our historical reality—the reality of El Salvador, the reality of the Third World, provide skills for the unskilled, to provide science for those who have no science; to provide skills for the unskilled, to be a voice for those who have no voice; to give intellectual support for those who do not possess the academic qualifications to promote and legitimize their human rights.

I do not mean to be presumptuous by quoting Fr. E. Aliarcia to all of you who work and study at the UCA, but for me, those words resonate even more today. They did then and they do today. How can we look at the agony and desperation of so many Salvadorans and Central Americans and not feel called upon to come together in solidarity with them, their families and their communities? I strongly believe—and it is one of the most important legacies of the Jesuit martyrs—that we are here to help the least among us. For me, this is the most important mission—for governments, for churches, for universities, for all of us. As President Eisenhower, at The College of the Holy Cross, a Jesuit college in my home town of Worcester, wrote earlier this week, the challenge for all of us is in creating the next chapter.”

When I think of the lives and the deaths of those who we honor and who bring us together for this reflection, I believe that if they were still here with us, experiencing El Salvador’s current reality, they would be calling us to the same commitment, built on the same ideals.

These eight individuals—six priests, two women—were martyred for a reason. What they stood for is very powerful. As long as I live I will be inspired by their words and by their example.

It is a powerful legacy. Let us build upon it together. Let us create the next chapter. Thank you.

HONORING JACKSON REXFORD

HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jackson Rexford. Jackson is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 206, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Jackson has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jackson has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jackson has led his troop as the Patrol Leader and also became a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and a Brotherhood Member of the Order of the Arrow. Jackson has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jackson constructed four raised planters for Susquehanna Baptist Church in Independence, Missouri. All of the food produced in these planters will be provided to the church’s food pantry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in commending Jackson Rexford for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PROTECTING VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF
HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, the National Defense Authorization Act provides critical legal authorities for our men and women in uniform. It provides for their pay, addresses issues of mental health and suicide, protects victims of sexual assault and ensures they are well equipped and trained to conduct the missions that the country asks of them. I am proud that my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee and in the House could come to bipartisan agreement on this legislation to ensure that our Armed Forces remain the best in the world. It is not perfect, but this year’s NDAA is an example of how we can work together to keep the American people safe, save tax payer dollars and make sure our men and women in uniform get the support they deserve.

However, I remain concerned about the provision included in the NDAA to provide for authorization through 2016 for the equipping and training of Syrian rebels.

There still remain too many questions about the long term implications of arming and equipping rebel forces and how this action fits into our broader strategy of destroying ISIS. I believe, without a detailed discussion on what sanctions the Syrian rebels entails, that this kind of authorization will lead to a much longer and costly level of engagement. Congress has failed to properly discuss and weigh the long
term consequences of this military action. As a Member of Congress, it is my responsibility to make sure we don’t commit resources, the most precious of which are our men and women in uniform, with no comprehensive plan for our involvement. Congress needs to debate and develop a new Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) before authorizing one piece of that strategy that will inevitably lead to further involvement across multiple national borders.

PREVENTING EXECUTIVE OVERREACH ON IMMIGRATION ACT OF 2014

HEAR WHAT I HEAR: THANKING THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS CHRISTMAS

HON. PETE SESSIONS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our Armed Forces and their families, on this Christmas and holiday season of giving. Their gifts to our Nation are of the greatest. Let’s keep them in our prayers this Christmas and holiday season. I submit this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

HEAR WHAT I HEAR
Pray for peace, people everywhere
Listen to what I say I say
The child, the child, sleeping in the night
he will bring us goodness and light
he will bring us goodness and light
Do you hear what I hear, I hear
This Christmas our troops are coming home,
to their loved ones where they belong
To be near
Do you hear what I hear
I hear
All those most poignant tears,
of all those who’ve lost their loved ones so very dear
So dear
Who will be alone year after year
After year
Never again to be near
To be near
All of those little boys and girls,
who’ve lost all their best friends in the world
In the world
Do you see what I see
I see
All those amputees,
who gave all four strong arms and legs,
as for you and me what they gave
What they gave
And all those physical therapists who inspire these
To dig in deep
Dig in deep
Do you see what I see
All those selfless ones,
whose eyesight is now gone,
all for the price of freedom they paid
They paid
Do you know what I know
I know
How inside them all so grows,
the scars of war upon them so
PTS something on that outside which doesn’t show
Do you know what I know
Our Armed Forces,
are our most brilliant of all souls
Whose hearts are made of gold,
and their families so
And their families so
Let us bring them silver and gold
Silver and gold
All in our hearts that we hold,
that we hold
Do you know what I know
All those doctors and nurses so,
who from death have so stole
So stole
Giving all those families hope
Giving them peace and such hope
As all across America in hospitals their dedication shows
Shows
Do you see what I see
I see
On this Christmas Eve
how much we owe to all of these
How great they are so all indeed
With a voice as big as the sea
as big as the sea
Found in all their deeds
In this season
of the birth of the Prince of Peace,
please remember him and all of these
Because they too bring us goodness and light,
they bring us goodness and light

By: Albert Caswell
longest-serving congressman in Minnesota history.

During his over thirty years of service to our state, Jim always put Minnesotans first. He was a public servant above all else. He had a gifted mind and an uncanny memory that helped him to master a number of languages, including Haitian Creole. Jim’s passion for helping people get from one place to another safely was contagious and his vision for Minnesota’s future lives on as the projects he fought for as chairman of the Transportation Committee remain in Minnesota today.

After the Interstate 35 Bridge collapsed in Minnesota, Jim authored legislation which authorized $255 million without delay to begin the recovery and rebuilding process. His effective leadership was essential in that time of crisis. In addition to helping rebuild the I-35 Bridge, Jim was responsible for the Gitchi-Gami trail along Lake Superior’s North Shore, the lakewalk in Duluth, and the 120-mile long Paul Bunyan bike trail.

Jim Oberstar embodied the Minnesotan values of public service, selflessness and compassion. His actions and energy are deeply missed. For these reasons, I support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING JOHN ALTON MILLER, JR., FACHE FOR A RECORD OF SERVICE

HON. JEFF DUNCAN
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and career of Mr. John A. Miller, Jr. for his 41 years of involvement with AnMed Health System and with the local community in South Carolina. John began his career with AnMed Health in 1973, eventually becoming its Chief Operating Officer (COO) in 1978 and serving as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from 1998 to the present. I have appreciated John’s expert views on healthcare policy and economic development over the years.

Anchored by AnMed Health Medical Center in downtown Anderson, South Carolina, AnMed Health is one of the largest employers in South Carolina’s Third Congressional District with over 500 physicians and nearly 4,000 employees. The 690-bed, not-for-profit health system is one of the state’s largest not-for-profit independent health systems and serves South Carolina, Georgia, and North Carolina.

AnMed Health also serves as a local hub of medical education, partnering with institutions such as Clemson University, Anderson University, The Medical University of South Carolina, and AnMed Health’s own Family Medicine residency program in the training of future healthcare professionals, which has graduated over 300 family doctors since 1975.

John began his career with AnMed Health in 1973 after graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, serving in the U.S. Navy and completing a Masters of Health Science on Mr. McKillop in early 2014. Harry was a long-time member of the Knights of Columbus, a former Grand Knight of the New World Council 9903 in McKinney, and a member of the 4th Degree Assembly 2266 in Plano. Children of the Fourth Degree Attending District Attending District Attending Elementary School in Melissa, Texas.

Harry was also honored by the McKinney Fire Department as an Honorary Battalion Chief. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Rebecca Sue, and their daughters, Mary (husband Seth) and Tony, six children from his first marriage: Linda, Laurie, Jeff, Wayne (and wife Mary), Allison, and Tracey, as well as 22 grandchildren: Aaron, Andrew, Kittredge (and husband Jack), Kelly (husband Ken), Finnian, Vivienne, Ryan, Tessa, Maxwell, Jacob (and wife Catherine), Lauren, Kenny, Elizabeth, Lara, Tara (and husband Shane), Nick, Ben, Daniel (and wife Samantha), Michael (and wife Hannah), and Emily, and 9 great-grandchildren: Denver, Isabella, Sage, Sean, Maddox, Canyon, Noble, Leighton, and Olive, among 17 nieces and nephews and his stepchildren, Carol and Donald.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his wife of 19 years, Rose, and his dear friend of mine.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Harry Emmet McKillop of McKinney who passed away November 7 at the age of 92. Harry was a passionate family man, global humanitarian, a dedicated patriot, and a dear friend of mine.

The child of Harry and Cecilia (née D’Ozzeville) McKillop, Harry was born January 2, 1922 in New York, New York. Harry served his country as a naval officer aboard the USS Phoenix in the South Pacific during World War II. A graduate of St. John’s University with a degree in law, Harry worked throughout the world in the airline industry working his way up to the executive level with United Airlines, after which he served as Vice President for Braniff International and Vice President with American Airlines overseeing a thirty year span. Hired in 1958 by Ross Perot, Harry helped Perot launch Electronic Data Systems before being appointed as President of Alliance International Airport—International Division by Ross Perot, Jr. In addition to a lifetime career in the aviation industry, Harry dedicated more than 40 years of unselfish service to Americans in need around the world—most notably by continuing the search for and return of missing POWs and MIAs in many countries including Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Iran, and Iraq.

Harry’s tireless work included managing logistics for Ross Perot’s trip of the wives of American POWs to Vietnam to provide supplies and relief to the POWs. For his devotion to humanitarianism and patriotic service, in 2007 President George W. Bush awarded Mr. McKillop with the Harry McKillop Irish Spirit Award to honor the life and work of his friend for his commitment to “Irish Spirit” in 2003. Among those to receive the award are Jean Kelly of Speedwell Trust, Rev. Bill Shaw of 174 Trust, and Richard Moore of Children in Crossfire. In honor of his work and his philanthropic work, three of Harry’s passions have received international recognition: the Harry McKillop Irish Spirit Award to honor the life and work of his friend for his commitment to “Irish Spirit” in 2003. Among those to receive the award are Jean Kelly of Speedwell Trust, Rev. Bill Shaw of 174 Trust, and Richard Moore of Children in Crossfire. In honor of his work and his philanthropic work, three of Harry’s passions have received international recognition: the Harry McKillop Irish Spirit Award to honor the life and work of his friend for his commitment to “Irish Spirit” in 2003. Among those to receive the award are Jean Kelly of Speedwell Trust, Rev. Bill Shaw of 174 Trust, and Richard Moore of Children in Crossfire. In honor of his work and his philanthropic work, three of Harry’s passions have received international recognition: the Harry McKillop Irish Spirit Award to honor the life and work of his friend for his commitment to “Irish Spirit” in 2003. Among those to receive the award are Jean Kelly of Speedwell Trust, Rev. Bill Shaw of 174 Trust, and Richard Moore of Children in Crossfire.

John has contributed to the advancement of the healthcare industry on a local, regional, state, and national level over the past four decades by serving in a leadership capacity with such organizations as the American Hospital Association, the American College of Healthcare Executives, the South Carolina Hospital Association, and many others. While he is leaving his leadership post, he will still remain active with AnMed Health and various national and local organizations.

AnMed Health has led AnMed Health from a community hospital to a comprehensive health system, encompassing five hospitals, a modern cancer center, a comprehensive cardiac care center, a Level II trauma center, a cardiac and orthopedic center, three outpatient surgery centers, a family medicine residency program, two minor cares, two retail pharmacies, and a network of physician practices. John’s knowledge and understanding of the changing healthcare landscape and his ongoing dedication to the organization and the community have ensured the continued realization of AnMed Health’s founder Jennie Gilmer’s vision to bring comprehensive and quality healthcare to the Anderson community. While at the helm of AnMed Health, he has continued to encourage the achievement of the gold standard for the health system by lending support to AnMed Health in its achievement of Magnet designation for nursing excellence by earning Top 100 recognitions by organizations such as Thomas Reuters and Becker’s Hospital Review, U.S. News and World Reports Best Regional Hospital, and numerous accreditations from the Joint Commission and other national organizations.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HARRY EMMET MCKILLOP

HON. RALPH M. HALL
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of Harry Emmet McKillop of McKinney who passed away November 7 at the age of 92. Harry was a passionate family man, global humanitarian, a dedicated patriot, and a dear friend of mine.

The child of Harry and Cecilia (née D’Ozzeville) McKillop, Harry was born January 2, 1922 in New York, New York. Harry served his country as a naval officer aboard the USS Phoenix in the South Pacific during World War II. A graduate of St. John’s University with a degree in law, Harry worked throughout the world in the airline industry working his way up to the executive level with United Airlines, after which he served as Vice President for Braniff International and Vice President with American Airlines overseeing a thirty year span. Hired in 1958 by Ross Perot, Harry helped Perot launch Electronic Data Systems before being appointed as President of Alliance International Airport—International Division by Ross Perot, Jr. In addition to a lifetime career in the aviation industry, Harry dedicated more than 40 years of unselfish service to Americans in need around the world—most notably by continuing the search for and return of missing POWs and MIAs in many countries including Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Iran, and Iraq. Harry’s tireless work included managing logistics for Ross Perot’s trip of the wives of American POWs to Vietnam to provide supplies and relief to the POWs. For his devotion to humanitarianism and patriotic service, in 2007 President George W. Bush awarded Mr. McKillop with the Harry McKillop Irish Spirit Award to honor the life and work of his friend for his commitment to “Irish Spirit” in 2003. Among those to receive the award are Jean Kelly of Speedwell Trust, Rev. Bill Shaw of 174 Trust, and Richard Moore of Children in Crossfire. In honor of his work and his philanthropic work, three of Harry’s passions have received international recognition: the Harry McKillop Irish Spirit Award to honor the life and work of his friend for his commitment to “Irish Spirit” in 2003. Among those to receive the award are Jean Kelly of Speedwell Trust, Rev. Bill Shaw of 174 Trust, and Richard Moore of Children in Crossfire. In honor of his work and his philanthropic work, three of Harry’s passions have received international recognition: the Harry McKillop Irish Spirit Award to honor the life and work of his friend for his commitment to “Irish Spirit” in 2003. Among those to receive the award are Jean Kelly of Speedwell Trust, Rev. Bill Shaw of 174 Trust, and Richard Moore of Children in Crossfire.

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Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Harry Emmet McKillop and the positive impact he had upon his community and communities around the world. He was a man of faith, family, generosity, and selflessness and I believe we can all learn from his example.
ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF
HON. DAVE CAMP
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, our nation encourages personal savings in a number of ways throughout the tax code and now with the ABLE Act we are adding one more, specifically for individuals with disabilities. As we acknowledge through this legislation the importance of saving for individuals with disabilities and their families, it is important to place this policy in context and ensure the public and policymakers appreciate the continued need for effective asset tests in means-tested programs.

The ABLE Act explicitly ignores ABLE account balances and withdrawals for purposes of determining eligibility for Medicaid and other means-tested programs; under the SSI program, the first $100,000 in account balances is not counted as resources and withdrawals, except for those relating to housing, are not counted as income. This treatment is designed to provide generous new incentives to save for individuals with disabilities and their families, which current policy limits.

It would be a mistake for the public and future policymakers to argue that similar treatment should be afforded all low-income individuals under existing means-tested programs. Indeed, recent advances in administering resource limits suggests that such tools should be used more aggressively in making proper determinations about whether other individuals have sufficient resources of their own before asking taxpayers for government benefits. These advances rebuff recent claims that administering resource limits is overly time consuming and burdensome, and suggest that State and Federal agencies are increasingly able to apply these limits in a cost-effective and efficient manner. For example, on March 11, 2011, the Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee heard testimony from the Social Security Inspector General about the use of electronic tools such as the Access to Financial Institutions (AFI) program, which allows the Social Security Administration to automate the process of checking for assets, limiting the burdens on recipients and field office employees who administer the program.

Another argument for ensuring the use of effective resource limits for non-disabled individuals involves program cost. Especially if able-bodied individuals have significant assets or other resources on which to depend, they can and should be expected to use those resources first to support themselves before turning to taxpayer support. The alternative would be a significant expansion of taxpayer spending on able-bodied individuals who have significant personal resources they can and should turn to first for support. Recent years have seen examples of that through significant degradations in the effectiveness of the resource test in the food stamp program.

As of November 2010, thirty-three states and D.C. excluded the value of all vehicles in making food stamp eligibility determinations and in the last five years nearly every state has chosen to not have an asset test for food stamp benefits at all. Not surprisingly, due to these changes and other factors, the food stamp program has grown from 17 million recipients in the year 2000 to nearly 48 million recipients today, at four times its former cost to taxpayers. In July 25, 2012 testimony before the Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee, Professor Doug Besharov of the University of Maryland described this phenomenon as “eligibility creep,” or “the process through which programs are successively expanded through a series of small steps, many of whose impacts are imperceptible at the time.”

Future policymakers need to protect against such eligibility creep and continue to ensure that limited taxpayer dollars are properly targeted to individuals needing assistance. Just as the ABLE Act allows parents to ensure sufficient resources are available to support their disabled children after they no longer can do so, we need to be good stewards of taxpayer-funded programs to ensure they are sustainable in the future. Continuing to effectively and efficiently administer income and resources limits, especially with regard to able-bodied individuals, is critical to achieving that goal.
Incorporated’s five programming categories: National Trends and Services, The Arts, Services to Youth, International Trends and Services, and Health and Human Services.

The National Trends and Services facet of the Columbus (GA) Chapter champions the idea of empowering both the individual and the community through events such as a week-long community celebration that illustrates the positive impacts of diversity and multiculturalism. Displayed everywhere from government centers to schools to churches, The Links, Incorporated promotes ethnic pluralism in the community.

In addition, The Links were the first to gather local black entrepreneurs and prospective customers together in order to explore shared interests and encourage the potential for reciprocal benefits. The organization also takes the time to honor the lifeblood of local communities: trash collectors, school bus operators, postal carriers, and cafeteria workers. It seeks to recognize every aspect of a community, understanding that everyone deserves respect and gratitude for the vital roles they play in keeping our community afloat.

The International Trends and Services arm of the Columbus (GA) Chapter brings resources to countries across Africa through building and providing clean birth kits to those in Uganda and survival kits to women in Haiti. The organization’s dedication to classical and international service showcases the depth of its commitment to community betterment through public service.

The Columbus (GA) Chapter has instituted numerous programs under its Services to Youth facet, including a mentor program for kids in kindergarten to young adults in college. Additionally, Services to Youth promotes the values of higher education by raising interest in STEM education and career paths by awarding scholarships, creating endowments, and supporting Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

In line with its mission to promote cultural awareness through The Arts program, the Columbus (GA) Chapter partners with a number of arts institutions, such as museums, art councils, and educational institutions to reinforce the importance of a strong minority presence in the art community.

Last, but certainly not least, the Health and Human Services facet of the Columbus (GA) Chapter works to implement and maintain community services to address the disparities in health conditions negatively impacting minorities. In this regard, the Columbus (GA) Chapter proudly attends and serves on the finance committee of the Galena Missionary Baptist Church in Tutwiler, Mississippi which Ellis joined at eight years of age.

Through the wisdom and strong leadership of its past fourteen presidents, the Columbus (GA) Chapter has given back so much to the African-American community and, in turn, the community as a whole. Today, the Chapter is led by current President, Olive Gibson Vidal-Kendall, and consists of 33 spirited and outstanding members who provide over 1,500 hours of service each year.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing 50 years of incredible and inspiring work by the Columbus (GA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. The incorporation of this organization has provided to the greater Columbus community are immeasurable and there is no doubt in my mind that The Links, Incorporated will continue its worthy mission of promoting hope and prosperity for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I was traveling with President Obama and was unable to be present for Roll Call Vote numbers 552 and 553, the Motion to Recommit and Final Passage of H.R. 5781, The California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on Roll Call 552 and No on Roll Call 553.

HONORING ATTORNEY WILL ELLIS PITTMAN
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Attorney Will Ellis Pittman.

Attorney Pittman was born and raised in Tutwiler, MS. Mr. Pittman is 51 years old. He is the owner and managing member of Pittman & Associates, PLLC law firm in Clarksdale, Mississippi where he also serves as the first African-American County Prosecutor for Coahoma County. Attorney Pittman also serves as the board attorney for the Tunica County Board of Supervisors and is the first African-American to represent the Tunica County Board of Supervisors. Attorney Pittman is recognized amongst his community, his community, and his colleagues as a man of wisdom, service, a generous spirit, and passion. He regularly attends and serves on the finance committee of the Galena Missionary Baptist Church in Tutwiler, Mississippi which he grew up in and joined at eight years of age.

Ellis attended and graduated from public high school in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. After earning his high school diploma, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. While in the Marine Corps, Ellis married his high school sweetheart, and they had two (2) children. After being honorably discharged from the Marine Corps, Ellis returned to his hometown in Tutwiler.

However, he was unable to find employment anywhere in the delta area. Ellis returned to work and earned a living on the plantation in Tallahatchie County where he grew up. Ellis worked six (6) sometimes seven (7) days a week to provide food, shelter, and the bare necessities for his family. He always knew that if given the right opportunity, he would be able to provide them with a better way of life.

After working one full year and saving every penny that he could, Ellis departed for Dallas, Texas where he obtained a job with a janitorial service, cleaning grocery stores at night. With two months Ellis saved enough funds for a deposit on a room at an apartment. He then returned to Mississippi to get his wife and child and they returned to Dallas, Texas. Within six months, the store at which Ellis was employed took notice of his hard work and daily attendance and the store manager offered him a job as an apprentice baker that provided health insurance, dental, and vision benefits for both him and his family. With this break, Ellis used the extra earnings to provide a better place for them to stay.

Within six months, Ellis had worked his way from an apprentice baker to a journeyman baker and was able to provide his family with the kind of things that he had always dreamed of having.

Although he excelled in his employment, Ellis realized that in order to do more for his family he would have to obtain a college education. At the same time, Ellis desired to return home to be with his elderly father who became ill. So, he applied for and was hired with the Department of Corrections as a correctional officer trainee.

He then made plans to attend Mississippi Valley State University to obtain a college degree. Prior to applying to Mississippi Valley State University, the Pittman’s home caught on fire in which Ellis received second and third degree burns over a large portion of his body. His wife received severe burns as well. After a month, she passed away from the injuries she sustained from the fire. Ellis remained in the Greenville Burn Center for a month and a half before he was released. After a short period of time, he returned to his place of employment at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. The home that he had purchased for his family had burned down, so the Department of Corrections provided Ellis with the ground for him and his two minor sons to live.

At this point, he made the decision not to attend Mississippi Valley State University due to the drive because he would have to commute. Being a single parent and still having to work, Ellis applied to Delta State University which was closer to where he was living at the penitentiary and he could make the daily commute. He commuted five days a week for three years until he graduated from Delta State University with a degree in criminal justice and political science.

Prior to graduation from Delta State University, Ellis applied to law school at Mississippi College, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, and the University Of Mississippi School Of Law. He was accepted at all three law schools. However, he chose to attend the University of Mississippi—School of Law due to the financial aid available for African-American applicants. After obtaining his law degree and license to practice law, Ellis returned to the Mississippi Delta from Memphis, Tennessee and opened Pittman Law Office in Clarksdale, Mississippi in 1996 where he continues to practice to this day.

Ellis has given countless young lawyers, that have recently graduated with no experience and unable to find a job, a position at his law office to give them a start. He realized that most people will do well if given the chance which he learned from personal experience when he needed someone to give him a chance. There has never been an attorney that a newly admitted lawyer came to Ellis looking for job and was turned down for employment.

Ellis’ practice has included representing countless individuals in cases for excessive force, employment discrimination, criminal defense, family law, as well as personal injury and wrongful death.

Attorney Will Ellis Pittman’s work ethic, passion, dedication, dependability, and service
have made him synonymous with being one of the best, if not the best, attorney around. At the end of the day, Ellis is recognized for his service to God, his family, his country, his community, and the people that seek his help.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Attorney Will Ellis Pittman for his dedication to serving this great state and country.

HONORING SHARON MENDOZA DOUGHTY
HON. JARED HUFFMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Sharon Mendoza Doughty, who passed away on November 19, 2014 following a long battle with cancer. A pioneering rancher, conservationist, teacher, winemaker and a natural leader, Ms. Doughty was a positive force within the local community.

Sharon Doughty grew up on her parents’ historic B Ranch on the Point Reyes Peninsula. After the passing of her second husband, Bill Bianchini Jr., in the early 1980s, she took over the daily operations of their 800-acre dairy. Transitioning from a career as an accountant and teacher, Sharon Doughty became a full-time rancher with the help of her close family and friends.

Through her comprehensive knowledge of the dairy trade, Ms. Doughty became a natural leader within the Northern California dairy community and leaves behind a long legacy of positive impacts. The depth of her commitment to Marin County agriculture united fellow ranchers and helped to propel their products into national markets. A dedicated advocate for the preservation of local agricultural lands, Ms. Doughty served two terms as the president of the Marin Agricultural Land Trust and one term as a member of the California Coastal Commission. She selflessly devoted her time and expertise to the Marconi Conference Center in Marshall, and among her many honors, in 2007, Ms. Doughty was named the “Woman of the Year” for California’s 6th Assembly District for her exceptional community leadership.

Mr. Speaker, Sharon Doughty’s life teaches us that one woman can make a substantial difference. Her efforts will not soon be forgotten as much of her legacy lives on all around us in Marin County and beyond. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to her today and express our deepest condolences to her husband Steve; daughters Kathleen von Raesfeld and Karen Taylor; brothers Joseph Mendoza Jr. and James Mendoza; grandchildren Audrey and Nina von Raesfeld, Camilla, William Joseph, and Eva Taylor; and nephew Will Clark.

JAMES L. OBERSTAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

SPEECH OF
HON. PETER A. DEFAZIO
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, December 8, 2014

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, Jim Oberstar was a true gentleman of the House who ably represented Minnesota’s 8th District for 36 years. He was a fixture of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Jim started as staff in the 1960s, became a Member in the 1970s, then served as Chairman of the Committee from 2007 to 2011. I was blessed to work, and sometimes ride, alongside Jim for many years. He worked to improve transportation in Minnesota and across the country, it is fitting that a portion of Interstate Highway 35 be renamed in his honor.

As a tireless advocate on transportation issues, Jim earned well-deserved admiration in many circles, including in my home state of Oregon. He accompanied me on tours to advocate for increased infrastructure investment. Jim truly understood the importance of investment as a way to create American jobs, improve safety, and build roads, bridges and transit systems to accommodate a 21st Century economy. His passion and leadership are evident in projects across the country.

Jim was also an avid cyclist, and I am grateful I had the opportunity to show him my state in 2007 during the Cycle Oregon event. He was one tough athlete, easily outpacing cyclists half his age. Jim was a champion of the road in more ways than one.

Like many people in Washington, DC, Minnesota and beyond, I feel fortunate to consider Jim not only my colleague and a mentor, I only wish he had lived long enough to share all of his knowledge with the rest of us.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE JAMES M. BATZER FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A JUDGE FOR THE 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MICHIGAN

HON. BILL HUIZENA
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HUIZENA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable James M. Batzer and his commendable service to Benzie and Manistee counties as a Circuit Court Judge.

Judge Batzer served West Michigan as a circuit court judge for 30 years. His commitment to the people of West Michigan has been exemplified through his long and illustrious career.

After graduating from Wayne State University with his Juris Doctor, Judge Batzer chose to remain in Michigan to practice. Before his election to the 19th Circuit Court, Judge Batzer worked a number of different jobs helping Michigan’s youth. From 1968–1975, he served as a Children’s Protective Services Worker as well as a Juvenile Delinquency Case Worker. He then went on to become a Teaching Fellow at the Detroit College of Law, where he taught legal research and writing to first-year law students. In 1979, Judge Batzer served as an Assistant Attorney General for the state of Michigan as well. Judge Batzer was later elected to the 19th Judicial Circuit Court on January 1, 1985. Judge Batzer has proven his dedication to the courts of Michigan throughout his career, and he has been a respected and prominent figure in the law community. From 1989–1995, he served as a Member of the State Bar Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions, and he served as Chair of the committee from 1993–1995. He has also been a member of the Northwest Michigan Community Corrections Advisory Board from 1989–2010. Judge Batzer will later night in 2016. The last re-contest of trial court judges in Michigan by the Detroit Free Press, and was also profiled by the college textbook, Criminal Justice in America.

Judge Batzer stands as a shining example of the Michigan Judicial System. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Judge James Batzer for his service to the state of Michigan.

IN HONOR OF STANLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE’S NURSING PROGRAM

HON. RICHARD HUDSON
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Stanly Community College’s Annie Ruth Kelley Associate Degree Nursing Program for being ranked #1 in the United States by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing for schools of nursing that lead to entry-level Registered Nurse licensure. Stanly Community College’s Annie Ruth Kelley Associate Degree Nursing Program ranks first among 1,904 programs in the United States.

This innovative program utilizes unique education techniques such as instant messaging, flipped classroom opportunities, adaptive testing, and simulated clinical experiences in a simulation hospital. All of these techniques lead graduates of SCC’s nursing program to be well-prepared to serve those in need across the region.

A strong education system is important to empowering our nation and Stanly Community College’s Nursing Program is setting a standard of excellence that should be commended.

The impact that the Stanly Community College Nursing Program has on our local communities, and the state of North Carolina, is undeniable.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on December 1, 2014, on Roll Call #532 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 5629—Strengthening Domestic Nuclear Security Act of 2014, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 1, 2014, on Roll Call #533 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3438—National Laboratories Mean Nuclear Security Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 2, 2014, on Roll Call #534 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass S. 2040—Blackfoot River Land Exchange Act of
2014, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 2, 2014, on Roll Call #535 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5050—May 31, 1918 Act Repeal Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 2, 2014, on Roll Call #536 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 3572—To revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 2, 2014, on Roll Call #537 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5739—No Social Security for Nazis Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 2, 2014, on Roll Call #538 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and H.R. 3240—Regulation D Study Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 2, 2014, on Roll Call #539 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 2366—World War I American Veterans Centennial Commemorative Coin Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 2, 2014, on Roll Call #540 on H. Res. 766, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5771) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions and make technical corrections, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 647) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On December 3, 2014, on Roll Call #541 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and H.R. 5769—"To authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.", I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 3, 2014, on Roll Call #543 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 5771, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 3, 2014, on Roll Call #544 on Passage of H.R. 5771—Tax Increase Prevention Act, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 3, 2014, on Roll Call #546 on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On December 4, 2014, on Roll Call #547 on H. Res. 770—Rule providing for consideration of the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with an Amendment to H.R. 3979—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, H.R. 5759—"Preventing Executive Overreach on Immigration Act," and H.R. 5781—California Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On December 4, 2014, on Roll Call #548 on H. Res. 758—Strongly condemning the actions of the Russian Federation, under Vladimir Putin, which has carried out a policy of aggression against neighboring countries aimed at political and economic domination, as amended, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 4, 2014, on Roll Call #549 on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 5759, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 4, 2014, on Roll Call #550 on Passage of H.R. 5759, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

On December 4, 2014, on Roll Call #551 on the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment with an Amendment to H.R. 3979, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 4, 2014, on Roll Call #552 on H. Res. 759—Strongly condemning the actions of the Russian Federation, under Vladimir Putin, which has carried out a policy of aggression against neighboring countries aimed at political and economic domination, as amended, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

On December 4, 2014, on Roll Call #553 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5769, I am not recorded because I was absent for medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.
CONGRATULATIONS TO EDINA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS’ TENNIS CHAMPS!

HON. ERIC PAULSEN
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend the Edina High School girls’ tennis team on their 2014 Minnesota State Championship.

The Edina Hornets clinched the state tennis team title with a strong performance top to bottom in their 6–1 victory over Prior Lake. Senior Caitlyn Merzbacher and Freshman Sophia Reddy led the way in Singles play, but it took a complete team effort to take home the title.

Credit goes to Coach Steve Paulsen, who now can now count this as his 19th state title, including 18 in a row. With such a consecutive title streak on the line, it’s easy to see these Edina athletes have no problem coping with pressure.

Tennis is a game with tremendous ups and downs that takes focus, mental toughness, and an ability to overcome mistakes. Edina’s success is a testament to the time spent day after day honing those skills.

What makes it even more impressive is that these Hornet athletes are able to thrive at their sport while still meeting their academic, family, and social commitments. Family and friends should be tremendously proud of what these girls have accomplished.

It is my pleasure to honor and congratulate the Edina High School girls’ tennis team on bringing home another state title!

IN HONOR OF SHIRLEY MCDOWELL’S CAREER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shirley McDowell of Concord, North Carolina for her faithful work as Executive Director at Hospice and Palliative Care of Cabarrus County. Upon retiring she will have served 28 years building a team of caregivers that have served our community during times when families have confronted terminal illness.

Under Shirley’s leadership, Cabarrus County’s Hospice service has grown into a strong program that effectively helps those in need. She guided this program through all of the changes in healthcare over the years and directed Hospice through acquisition of land for a permanent building and the construction of the Tucker Hospice House in Kannapolis.

The impact that Shirley has had on our community is profound, and we are grateful for her commitment to help those in need. I am proud to represent Shirley McDowell and we are thankful for her years of service.

HONORING ISAAC PALMER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable person, Mr. Isaac Palmer.

Mr. Isaac Palmer was born on May 23, 1914 in Sharkey County, Mississippi, the oldest of nine children born to the late Reverend Littleton and Frances Nathaniel Palmer. Mr. Palmer was married to the late Vera Lee Bell Palmer for over 50 years. He has eight children: Betty, Geraldine, Odell, Isaac Lavelle, Nina, Patricia, David (deceased) and Fred (deceased).

Mr. Palmer wanted to attend school badly; but, he had to leave school when he was twelve years old, in the 6th grade, to work on the farm and help provide for his younger sisters and brothers. However, he didn’t let this stop him. He learned to read, write and speak more fluently by studying the Holy Bible. Mr. Palmer was a “jack of all trades”, doing things like driving tractors, farming, welding and being a mechanic, just to name a few.

At an early age, Mr. Palmer accepted Christ as his Savior. He was an active member of New Hope Baptist Church in Blanton, Mississippi, where he served as Senior Deacon and Superintendent of the Sunday school for many years. During this time, he led many children, friends and acquaintances to Christ. He has been and remains a laborer for Christ for more than 85 years.

Though Mr. Palmer only had a 6th grade education, he remains passionate about helping and encouraging his children and other young people to get as much education as possible. To help out, he would drive his own children to and from Alcorn and Jackson State Universities, as well as their friends who lived in the area (free of charge), after working all day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Isaac Palmer for his dedication to serving and giving back to his family and community.

HONORING JOE GERGELA

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Palme Gergela, who will retire at the end of this year from his position as the Long Island Farm Bureau’s Executive Director, a position he has held for 26 years.

Joe’s highly effective advocacy for Long Island agriculture was first cultivated early in his life, harvesting potatoes and other vegetables with his father and grandfather. He came to know the satisfaction of a hard day’s work and the vital role family plays in a working farm, which form the backbone of the economy and tradition of Long Island’s East End. In doing so, Joe celebrated the rich agricultural heritage that has been the pride of eastern Long Island since the 1600s. But he also learned the struggles farming families face, which strengthened his resolve to fight for our farming communities as the leader and chief advocate of the Long Island Farm Bureau.

At the helm of the Farm Bureau, Joe has worked tirelessly for the over 600 farms covering nearly 36,000 acres of land in Suffolk County, in which my district lies, and the thousands of acres of farming land in Nassau County. During my tenure in Congress, Joe has been a trusted and valued counsel upon whom I have relied for expert knowledge of agricultural and environmental policy. I enjoyed my regular visits that Joe coordinated for me with board members of the Long Island Farm Bureau that became known as “coffee with the congressman,” which I found to be invaluable forums. These annual coffee meetings gave me the opportunity to hear directly from East End farmers who imparted first-hand accounts of their success and challenges with issues relating to water quality, open space preservation, the Farm Bill, immigration reform and access to affordable labor, and how we could work together to maintain Long Island’s robust agricultural footprint.

Joe has been an invaluable resource to my staff and me, providing real life knowledge about working farms but also helpful insight on public policy. He has helped my office build meaningful relationships with the agriculture community and has always been ready to assist when there were opportunities to work together. Most recently, Joe helped coordinate a visit to Long Island for the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, to focus USDA’s attention on our land, wineries, farm stands, related small businesses, and the hard-working Long Islanders behind these successful, growing ventures.

Mr. Speaker, I have been proud to call Joe a friend and colleague for many years now. I know there will be many farmers, small businesses, and Suffolk County residents who will miss his tenacious dedication to farming and farmers on Long Island. On behalf of New York’s First Congressional District, I congratulate Joe on his years of outstanding service and his many accomplishments with the Long Island Farm Bureau, and I wish him well in his retirement and his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE SIXTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

HON. BILL POSEY
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. POSEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on December 20, 2014, Brevard County families, businesses and local community organizations will gather together to celebrate the Sixth Annual Christmas Extravaganza, a wonderful event, which will take place at the Max K. Rodes Park in West Melbourne, will provide an uplifting message of hope during this Christmas season as so many families are still facing difficult challenges.

The House at Palm Bay, Brevard County Parks & Recreation and their business partners have recognized the importance of providing a positive venue for residents and children to celebrate Christmas.

What makes the Christmas Extravaganza so special is that there is no cost to attend—everything is absolutely free to the public. From cotton candy and hot dogs, to live music performed by the Bay West Church Band, and...
fun activities for children, such as face painting, rock wall climbing, bounce houses, and a robotics demonstration. The sponsors of this annual event have committed to serving others during this Christmas season and giving back to their community in order to make a difference in someone's life.

This year, over sixty local businesses and organizations have made donations of food, gift certificates, equipment, cash and goodie bags. Toys for Tots will again make donations of toys for local children while the Sheriff, law enforcement officials and firemen have all volunteered their time. Florida Institute of Technology has partnered with The House at Palm Bay’s Christmas Extravaganza team to provide free trolley rides for children and adults alike. Also, this year the Heritage High School Marching Band will be performing along with members of The House at Palm Bay’s drama team which will provide their rendition of the Music Box, a Musical Drama for all ages.

Senior Pastor Ken Delgado of The House at Palm Bay said, “The essence of Christmas is about sacrificial giving. Parents do everything possible, to their own hurt, to bless their families. What an honor it is to see the business community sacrificially coming together to create a moment where families can find love, hope and joy—it’s the example of the love, hope and joy that was expressed through the life of Jesus Christ 2000 years ago.”

The Cities of Palm Bay and Melbourne have issued proclamations of support for this year’s Christmas Extravaganza and the Brevard County Commission passed a resolution commending these efforts and encouraging families to attend.

I salute all those who have given so much to make the Annual Christmas Extravaganza possible, and applaud all the communities across our great nation who have seized upon this opportunity to spread the Christmas spirit through good deeds and charitable acts.

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANKS

HON. LEE TERRY
OF NEBRASKA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to recognize the 25th anniversary of a grant program that has benefited thousands of individuals and families across the country—the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLBank) system’s Affordable Housing Program (AHP). The AHP is a flexible source of grants designed to help community-based lenders and their partners develop affordable housing solutions for very low- to moderate-income individuals and families.

The AHP receives its funding through annual contributions of 10 percent of the FHLBanks’ net income. The Federal Home Loan Banks have awarded over $5.1 billion in AHP funds since Congress created the program in 1990. These funds represent the largest single source of private grant dollars available for housing and community development in the country.

By developing affordable housing—and creating sustainable communities in the process—AHP funds have a long-term, positive economic impact. Many projects are designed for seniors, the disabled, homeless families, first-time homeowners and others with limited resources. More than 845,157 housing units have been built using AHP funds. And I’m happy to say that the Federal Home Loan Bank system is the largest single funding provider to Habitat for Humanity, an organization that I have strongly supported during my 16 years in Congress.

Created by an act of Congress in 1932, the Federal Home Loan Banks are 12 regional cooperative banks that community-based financial institutions utilize to make home loans, small business loans and agriculture loans in every corner of the country. The Affordable Housing Program. As Congress contemplates the future of housing finance, I encourage members of Congress and the Administration to look to the Federal Home Loan Banks as an example of a system that works well.

AN IRANIAN OPPOSITION GROUP’S FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

HON. TED POE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you may not know it, but there is a group that, like the United States, thinks the Supreme Leader of Iran needs to go. They are a group of Iranians called the MEK. They want their countrymen to be free from the oppressive regime that has ruled with an iron fist since 1979. But the MEK is locked up in a prison-like camp in Iraq. 112 of its members have been killed.

How we came to this point is a story worth telling. After the Iranian revolution, the MEK opposed the Supreme Leader. So the newly installed Islamic regime systematically arrested and executed members of the MEK. The MEK fled and found refuge in Iraq. They built a home in the middle of the desert in a place called Camp Ashraf. In August 2002, the MEK disclosed two previously unknown nuclear facilities in Iran.

The Natanz enrichment facility and Arak heavy water facility triggered the IAEA inspection of Iranian sites for the first time. After the U.S. invaded Iraq in 2003, the MEK gave over all of its weapons to the U.S. Army 4th Infantry Division. In return, the U.S. promised to protect the MEK, labeling them “protected persons” under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

On January 1, 2009, U.S. forces handed control over to the Iraqi Security Forces. Then Prime Minister Maliki was beholden to Tehran so when the Supreme Leader asked him to crack down on the MEK, he obeyed. Maliki either allowed or facilitated two deadly attacks on the defenseless residents living in Camp Ashraf. In July 2009, 11 residents were killed and 500 more injured. Two years later, in April 2011, the Camp was attacked again. Videos would show Humvees running over residents and snipers shooting at residents as they ran for their lives. The attackers were not trying to talk. They were trying to kill. And they succeeded. 36 residents were killed and 345 injured.

I and other Members of Congress met with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in June 2011. The meeting that was supposed to last 20 minutes but went for 2 hours came to an abrupt halt when our delegation asked to see Camp Ashraf where the MEK members lived. Maliki’s mood immediately changed and he said that there was no way we were going to see the Camp. Maliki did not allow us to go because he had something to hide.

After pressure from the Government of Iraq and the U.S. Government, the remaining residents agreed to be transferred to Camp Hurriya near Baghdad as the UN worked to resettle them in some other country besides Iraq or Iran. But a new camp would still not keep them safe—not even under the thumb of an Iranian regime that wanted to decimate the MEK. On three more occasions in 2013, 65 more unarmed residents were killed and over 600 injured. The UN has now resettled 600 residents, but there are still 3,200 living in squalid conditions in Camp Hurriya. They are confined to the Camp, not allowed to leave.

Lawyers and family members cannot visit them. After a series of rocket attacks killed many of them, residents dug trenches and slept inside them because they had no other way to protect themselves. These conditions are worse than an American prison. This is no way to treat thousands of people who have risked their lives for three decades so that their countrymen may know the sweet taste of freedom. One day, I believe, we will not be talking about ensuring Iranian freedom fighters like the MEK have another country to live in. One day, the Supreme Leader will supremely fall.

Democracy and freedom will once again flourish in Iran. And the freedom fighters, who have now been fighting for decades, can finally return home to join their families and their countrymen in building a new, peaceful Iran.

And that’s just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH OF MARY PARKS NATONSKI

HON. RICHARD HUDSON
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pepper and David Natonski on the birth of their beautiful daughter. Mary Parks Natonski was born on her Thanksgiving Day due date at 7:02 a.m., November 27th, 2014, weighing 8 pounds, and measuring 21 and ½ inches long. She was born to Pepper Pennington Natonski and David Richard Natonski, my Chief of Staff and KEVIN YODER’S (KS–03) Chief of Staff respectively. I must admit, she clearly has her mother’s punctuality—and her father’s size.

Mary Parks gets her name from her two remarkable great-grandmothers, Mary Allen and
Mary Pennington, and her late great-aunt, Mary Natonski. Parks comes from her great-grandfather, Wayman Parks Allen. She is the first grandchild for grandparents General and Mrs. Richard Natonski, and Cass and Cindy Pennington. Proud great-grandparents include Sadie Natonski, Mary Pennington, and Wayman and Mary Allen.

Mary Parks Natonski joins a wonderful family who are devoted to her well-being and will empower her for a bright future.

HONORING THE BOTHELL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SUZAN K. DEBENE
OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Ms. DEBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2014 Bothell High School football team. On December 6, the Cougars won the 4A Washington State football championship, finishing their outstanding season with a perfect record of 14–0. I congratulate them on this exemplary achievement.

The resounding 24–14 victory over the defending champions, Chiawana High School, left no doubt that Bothell is the state’s best team. This championship win is especially remarkable for the Cougars, as it is the football team’s first state title in school history.

I would like to give special recognition to Caleb Meyer, Damani St. John-Watkins, and Ross Bowers, for their exceptional performances in Saturday’s game. Meyer and St. John-Watkins both capped the season with over 100 yards rushing, but it was quarterback Ross Bower’s score with 6 seconds remaining in the 3rd quarter that grabbed the headlines. On a scramble from 5 yards out, Bower landed in the end zone, giving the Cougars a commanding lead. Bower’s score would ultimately secure the win, propelling Sunnys back into an inclusive society and government.

At the moment the Iraqi army barely exists on paper. The main Iraqi force currently fighting ISIL, Asaib Ahi al-haq, is incredibly hostile to the U.S. and was attacking our troops up to the last day of the U.S. occupation of Iraq. The enemy of our enemy is not always an ally.

That is why it is so critical that Congress be presented with a detailed plan of this “train and equip” operation including who it is that we are arming before we vote and this authorization fails to do that.

Most importantly what we are voting on today is a small part of President Obama’s larger strategy to go to war with ISIL. No President can declare war without Congress. If the U.S. is going to war with ISIL as it appears that we are, then my colleagues need to vote on an AUMF. The American people did not elect us to punt the responsibility for matters of war and peace to the President. The purpose of an AUMF is to lay out in detail the scope, plan, purpose, and duration of a military operation and to provide both classified and non-classified briefings to Congress and allow them to debate and express their opinions on the merits of this. Absent an AUMF from Congress, we are committing our troops up to an open ended war, decided by the President about which we have little to no details.

Despite my disagreements with the President on defense policy, members of our armed forces must be adequately funded and get the services they deserve. The bill includes increased funding for the National Guard, a 1% pay raise for our troops, and additional funding for mental health screenings and psychological services for those who have served and suffer from post traumatic stress disorder. Additionally, this bill prevents the re-instatement of the A-10 Warthog, the least cost effective close air-support weapons system than the F–35 Joint Striker, contains funding for nuclear non-proliferation activities, and acquisi-
HONORING MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church Canton, Mississippi. The population of Madison County, Mississippi has been predominantly African-American since 1840. Prior to 1865, some members of the African-American population, most of whom had arrived in the county as slaves, were permitted to attend worship services, to be baptized and to be married in the area churches. They were also allowed to join established white congregations.

Early county records indicate that slaves were a part of the church communities. The Old Madison Presbyterian Church, the First Presbyterian, and the First Baptist listed a total membership of one hundred and thirty-four. Of the one hundred and thirty-four, the number of slaves and the other thirty-four were whites.

After the Civil War and freedom, African-Americans naturally desired to establish their own houses of worship. In 1865, the newly freed members of the congregation of First Baptist Church were baptized at the railroad culvert, or Rev. Williams, pastor of the Colonel Baptist Church were baptized at the railroad culvert. Out of this group, the location of a pivotal moment in our state’s civil rights struggle. In her autobiography, Coming of Age in Mississippi, Ann Moody notes that Mount Zion was the biggest Negro church in Canton and the center of the local marching movement.

On Friday, May 29, 1964, on the church lawn, six hundred community and church members witnessed the near death beating of McKinley Hamilton, a young African-American man. As a result, eighty church members marched on the Madison County jail in one of the first protest marches in Canton. Mount Zion became known as the “Church of Refuge”. In 1968, twelve hundred students from Rogers High School marched because they were outraged over the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A group of parents led them to Mount Zion. Rev. Parker opened the doors of the church to them, thus saving them from injury by law enforcement officers waiting for them on Hickory Street in front of High’s Funeral Home.

Dr. W. J. Johnson, our twelfth and present pastor, has served for twenty-nine years. His words have power through the Holy Spirit. Under Dr. Johnson’s leadership, the church has continued its growth. For example, the church has been air-conditioned, carpeted throughout, a fellowship hall and recreation center built and equipped, four parking lots purchased and surfaced, restrooms were remodeled, a lounge installed, pews padded, a new intercom system purchased, speakers installed in the pulpit and choir loft, additional chairs purchased for the choir and seating areas in the wings, two new copiers, computer, storage room, and a fifteen passenger van and twenty-seven passenger bus were also purchased. The stained glass windows were repaired, and the pastor study was moved upstairs.

We now have a summer recreation program. Our membership is approximately 500 and still growing. The church is one of the most monumental, intact, and historic resources associated with the Canton African-American Community. As a result of this, the church was recently placed on the registry of Historical Buildings.

Our aim is to give every God-seeking person an opportunity to receive salvation. The church clearly reflects the importance of the social and religious life of the African-American community from its birth in 1865 up to the present. Let us resolve to make service to Christ a priority in our lives. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

A TRIBUTE TO MARIE E. THOMPSON, AUDREY B. LESNES, WILLIAM J. “BILLY” BARKER AND THE STAFF OF THE SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. MIKE McIntyre

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. McIntyre. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Marie E. Thompson, Audrey B. Lesenes, and William J. “Billy” Barker, my most senior staff, for their steadfast service, longevity of commitment and passionate performance in serving the constituents of the Seventh Congressional District of North Carolina.

These individuals have served faithfully with me throughout my entire Congressional career, and their exemplary service has truly made a difference in the many lives which they have impacted by their professional, prompt, and persistent service. Marie Thompson’s work on constituent services is unparalleled and has inspired other Congressional Offices to emulate her distinguished service. Audrey Lesene’s mastery of multiple responsibilities, sharp insight, and valuable institutional knowledge have been greatly admired. Billy Barker’s practical working knowledge and unfailing work ethic have been integral to the respect he has earned throughout our district by citizens everywhere.

These three individuals have proudly and graciously given their very best in the service of their country and our district, and I am grateful for their work and their friendship. Indeed, they—along with the many others who have served in our Congressional office over these past 18 years—have proven that teamwork and loyalty demonstrate the true dedication and determination they possess and the devotion to the people that they have given.

May God bless them and all of our staff, both past and present, for their strong, distinguished service to the people with purpose and passion—and for which our country, the people of our district, and I will forever be grateful.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CONGRESSMAN HERMAN BADILLO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. Rangel. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with grief to honor the passing of Herman Badillo, great New Yorker, a great friend and a man that worked honorably for this country. I fondly remember walking down 116th street, the border line of Harlem and East Harlem, as we
shared the great plans we had for our districts and this great nation. Herman and I were part of the 1970 Congressional freshman class. Herman was also the man who gave Percy Sutton, David Dinkins, Basil Paterson, and me the special label: the Gang of Four. He was always driven and persistent, called himself “the first Puerto Rican everything,” and won the respect for being a fighter. Congressman Herman Badillo will be truly missed.

My friend, Herman Badillo, will always be remembered as America’s first Puerto Rican-born Congressman and a fixture in New York City politics for four decades, championing civil and human rights, jobs, housing and educational reforms. Born in Caguas, P.R., on Aug. 21, 1929, Herman was the only child of Francisco and Carmen Rivera Badillo. Upon moving to the continental United States, he learned English and was an excellent student at Haaren High School in Manhattan. Being a hard worker since a young age, he labored as a dishwasher, bowling pinsetter, and accountant and graduated with high honors from City College in 1951. Herman went on to graduate from Brooklyn Law School as valedictorian in 1954, then settled into law practice in New York. Badillo served his community as a public servant on many fronts. Besides his election to four terms in Congress, he was a city commissioner, the Bronx borough president, a deputy to Mayor Edward I. Koch, a counsel to Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, a candidate for state and city comptroller, and for many years a trustee and then board chairman of the City University of New York.

I was honored to serve with Herman during his seven years in Congress in the 1970s, when he championed key civil rights, anti-poverty programs, voting rights and bilingual education. Herman has been a treasure to the people of our community as well as a true testament to the American Dream. Herman Badillo will forever remain in our hearts.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EDEN PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. ERIK PAUSLEN OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. PAUSLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend the Eden Prairie High School Football Team on winning the Minnesota State Championship.

The Eagles capped off an undefeated 13-0 season with a hard-fought victory over Totino-Grace at U.S. Bank Stadium. Senior running back Will Rains led the way with 230 yards rushing and 3 touchdowns, but the victory by Mike Grant’s unit was a complete team effort.

With their backs against the wall, the Eagles dug deep to claw their way back and win their fourth consecutive big school title.

Football is a unique sport in that every play requires 11 teammates working in unison to be successful. It takes perfect execution combined with skill and, of course, a large amount of toughness to make a deep playoff run and win a title.

Eden Prairie’s commitment to excelling on the gridiron is even more noteworthy when combined with the requirements of a student-athlete. Maintaining commitments in the classroom, with their families, and fitting in a social life is not easy for a group of teenagers—but these young men were able rise to the occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I’d like to once again congratulate the Eden Prairie Eagles for bringing home the state title!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,826,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,993,213,058,619.35. We’ve added $7,366,336,009,706.27 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING HEAVENLY ANGELS DAYCARE CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Heavenly Angels Daycare Center.

The Heavenly Angels Daycare Center opened on August 8, 2006 with Mrs. Emma Bell as owner and director, in Port Gibson, Claiborne County, Mississippi on Church St. Mrs. Bell loves children and started Heavenly Angels Daycare Center with 8 enrolled from 6 months to 3 years old. She also had an After School Program with 6 children up to 12 years old.

Through the years, the Heavenly Angels Daycare Center has grown and in 2008 a Pre-K Center was added to include better equip children who started in the center to be able to successfully start 1st grade.

Heavenly Angels Daycare Center has been progressing for 8 years with a current full capacity of 87 children, who are enjoying the process of learning and the After School Program has 27 children.

Mrs. Bell, because of her hard and diligent work at Heavenly Angels Daycare Center has received a trophy honoring her as Businesswoman of the Year.

Mrs. Bell has been married for 25 years to a husband that loves and supports her. They have 5 children: 4 boys and 1 daughter, Janice, who has worked with Heavenly Angels Daycare Center since its opening and graduated from Jackson State University with a Business Degree.

Heavenly Angels Daycare Center’s slogan is: To look, listen and learn and every child succeeds. Mrs. Bell stated that “When they come through our doors, we make sure that they get the learning that they need. They all are smart children.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Heavenly Angels Daycare Center for caring and educating children.

HONORING DAVE CUELLAR

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dave Cuellar of Veterans Helping Veterans for his outstanding volunteer work with New Mexican veterans.

A Vietnam veteran himself, Mr. Cuellar had a distinguished career as a Gallup police officer after serving his country in the Army. Before retiring as a police lieutenant, he helped to protect and serve Gallup for over 22 years. In 2003, Mr. Cuellar was inspired to help start Veterans Helping Veterans, an organization dedicated to providing informational and social support for veterans in the Gallup area. The group provides critical help to veterans navigating the Veteran Administration’s benefit and healthcare systems. More importantly, Mr. Cuellar has created a welcoming network run by veterans for veterans. His group is all inclusive, working with veterans young and old, from all backgrounds and all branches of the military to create a voice for all veterans.

Words alone cannot express our full appreciation and gratitude for the service of our veterans, and the deeds of volunteers like Mr. Cuellar help make a difference in the lives of our veterans who often face many challenges when they return home from active duty. Veterans Helping Veterans is a great example of a remarkable volunteer organization that is having a positive impact in the community. I thank Dave Cuellar for both his service and for his work with Veterans Helping Veterans.

HONORING CHARLES B. RANGEL OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Congressman Cuellar of Veterans Helping Veterans on his extraordinary leadership as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

With conviction and passion, she defended the change we have all worked so diligently to achieve since the CBC was founded in 1971. Throughout her career in Congress, MARCIA’s passion for the advancement of the least among us, regardless of race, color or creed, has served her constituents in Cleveland well. This tireless advocacy made her an excellent choice for the CBC chair. During her tenure, she was fearless in promoting the goals of the CBC and advancing our fight to confront critical issues that are confronted by the communities we represent. Her staff certainly impressed us with their unparalleled work ethic, enthusiasm, responsibility, and flexibility to meet the needs of so many Members. They demonstrated great aptitude in communicating urgent matters to us in a timely and effective manner.

The Chairwoman was unwavering in her strength as she gracefully tackled the harsh political battles we were confronted during this Congress. She has left a huge imprint in the CBC and will be missed by all of us who have come to
Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Poth High School Women's Volleyball Team for their ninth state championship win under the leadership of Coach Patti Zenner.

On Saturday, November 22nd, the Poth Pirettes emerged victorious over Brock High School during the UIL Class 3A State Final. This was a defining match for the Pirettes, marking their fourteenth appearance at the state tournament and ninth state championship win. With this recent victory, the Poth Pirettes are now tied for the second most championship wins in state history. Pirettes Volleyball Senior Alyssa Kruse was awarded Most Valuable Player of the championship.

Mr. Speaker, this is a momentous occasion for Poth High School and I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the Poth Pirettes Women's Volleyball Team for its record-setting victory. I thank you for this time.

INTRODUCING THE AFRICAN DESCENT AFFAIRS ACT IN RECOGNITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill recognizing persons of African descent on the occasion of the December 10, 2014 launch of the International Decade for People of African Descent.

As our country fights to realize justice for Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Aiyana Jones, John Warner, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and many others, we must not forget the names—Stephen Lawrence, Oury Jalloh, Mark Duggan, Zyed Benna, Bouna Traore, and many others—who are victims of similar injustices in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

The International Decade provides an opportunity to join efforts with countries around the globe to, over the next 10 years, develop and implement national strategies honoring the vast contributions of people of African Descent and to combat continuing issues of prejudice and discrimination such as those currently gripping our nation.

To these efforts, I have introduced the African Descent Affairs Act. The Act seeks to improve the situation of people of African descent around the world by establishing within our State Department a Global Office of African Descent Affairs to establish global foreign policy and assistance strategies for people of African descent. Furthermore, it creates a “President Obama Fund” to support anti-discrimination and empowerment efforts by African descent-led civil society organizations, and requires annual State Department human rights reports to include a section on discrimination faced by people of African descent. U.S. foreign policy strategies such as these have improved the situation of vulnerable groups internationally and would greatly assist in responding to increasing levels of prejudice and discrimination faced by people of African descent around the globe.

The International Decade reaffirms the importance of inclusion and the full and equal participation of people of African descent around the world in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life. I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the collective history and achievements made by people of African descent on the occasion of the launch of the Decade by supporting the African Descent Affairs Act.

HONORING RAINBOW LEARNING & DAYCARE CENTER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable Rainbow Learning & Daycare Center. Rainbow, opened in June 2007, is operated by the owner/director, Mrs. Pernada Jackson. The hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Rainbow’s mission is to provide child care services and a safe learning environment that focuses on the developmental needs of the children. The center serves families in Leland, Mississippi, and the surrounding towns.

Rainbow strives to provide a quality early childhood education program filled with love and compassion for children. They believe that children are the most important resource and that the early childhood experiences are crucial in the development of their future.

Rainbow’s belief is that the family is the strongest influence in the child’s growth and development. They extend the child’s home experience and provide new and different experiences of value. Rainbow’s program is based on the knowledge that children learn best through play and active hands-on activities. Using developmental appropriate materials to stimulate and explore their potential is their goal.

Growth occurs in developmental stages and each stage must be offered, encouraged and supported. Rainbow’s classrooms are arranged in an environment that presents maximum opportunities for cognitive development, discovery learning and an awareness of cultural diversity. They offer clean and spacious learning centers that offer a wide variety of materials to stimulate and explore their potential is their goal.

Rainbow’s learning environment will empower children and enhance self-esteem by creating an atmosphere where social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development can take place. By encouraging children to learn and develop at their own level, they will gain the confidence of self-importance. Rainbow offers children guidance and understanding, so they will have the opportunity to explore their world in a safe and controlled environment.

Rainbow provides nutritional meals and snacks. All meals meet the nutritional guidelines set by the USDA.

Each caregiver receives on-going training through staff meetings and during early childhood conferences and workshops that are held throughout the year. All Rainbow employees are trained in Pediatric CPR and First Aid. Rainbow accepts all children regardless of race, color, creed, and sex, religious or ethnic backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Rainbow Learning & Daycare Center for its dedication to serving others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON BARBER
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I missed two recorded votes on December 9. I would like to indicate at this point how I would have voted if I had been present for those votes.

On Roll Call No. 552, on Motion to Recommit the California Emergency Drought Relief Act 2014, I would have voted “aye.” On Roll Call No. 553, passage of the California Emergency Drought Relief Act 2014, I would have voted “nay.”

IN HONOR OF NEW MEXICO STATE TREASURER JAMES B. LEWIS

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James B. Lewis, who is retiring after a career devoted to public service. Most recently, Mr. Lewis served as New Mexico State Treasurer, a position he held for the last 8 years.

Mr. Lewis’ long and distinguished career includes serving our country in the Army and serving New Mexico in many notable positions, such as Chief of Staff to Governor Bruce King, Chief Clerk and Chief Executive Officer of the New Mexico State Corporation Commission, Director and Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, President of the National Association of State Treasurers, and immediate past President of the National Association of State Auditors, Controllers, and Treasurers. In 1986, Mr. Lewis became the first African American to be elected to a statewide office in New Mexico, and is also the first and only African American to be appointed and then elected to office three times.

His tenure in the Treasurer’s office will be remembered for his efforts to increase transparency and raise public awareness and understanding of this important office and the
role it plays in our great state. Treasurer Lewis automated the warrant and collateral compli-
ance system, established the Remote Elec-
tronic Banking System, signed the first joint
Powers Agreement enabling the Ramah Nav-
ajo Chapter to invest in the Local Government
Investment Pool, and implemented the new
state Linked Deposit program.

The State Treasury plays a vital role in pro-
tecting state monies deposited in New Mexi-
cos’s financial institutions and promoting a sta-
ble state economy, and as Treasurer, Mr. Lewis led that effort with distinction. While Mr. Lewis was not for the state of New Mexico, I wish him all the best as he embarks on this next chapter, and I congratulate him on his distinguished career.

RECOGNIZING DR. MICHAEL B.
MCCALL
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Michael B. McCall, the Founding President of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). Since 1998, Dr. McCall has served as system President. His exemplary service has greatly benefited community colleges throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky, including Jefferson Community and Technical College, which is in my Congressional district.

Under Dr. McCall’s leadership, KCTCS has become the largest provider of post-secondary education in Kentucky. This year, KCTCS enrolled more than 92,000 students and remains the largest provider of workforce training in the Commonwealth, serving more than 5,300 businesses and training more than 52,000 employees every year.

Recently, a study by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems reviewed many of the accomplishments achieved under Dr. McCall stewardship and found that “Relative to most other public com-

munity and technical college systems in the U.S., KCTCS has improved dramatically on the key measures of student participation and completion. Enrollment in the system has nearly doubled since 2001 and its production of college credentials has increased by more than 400 percent.”

Dr. McCall has spent the last fifteen years dedicated to improving Kentucky’s workforce and economy by leading the transformation of KCTCS. I would like to thank Dr. McCall for his commitment to improving the lives of Ken-
tucky families and for his service to the Com-
monwealth. I wish you the best in your retire-
tment.

RECOGNIZING ROBERTO GALVEZ
JUNIOR
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Roberto Galvez Junior of Laredo, Texas. Mr. Galvez was born in 1971 in Nuevo La-
redo, Tamaulipas to parents Roberto Galvez Martinez and Gloria Irma Alcala de Galvez. As the eldest of three brothers, Mr. Galvez studied in Mexico up until high school. For decades, Mr. Galvez has been involved in broadcasting for both Mexico and the United States in radio and television. He began his career as a sports correspondent in 1990, and then became a sports broadcaster for KLDO Univision Laredo in 1998. From 2008 to 2010, Mr. Galvez became editorial di-
rector for the popular magazine “Mas Accion;” where he emphasized the importance of ath-
letics in Laredo and the surrounding region. Since 2010, Mr. Galvez has worked as Sports Director and Anchor for Telemundo La-
redo Channel 25. Motivated by a desire to give back to his community, he has collected toys for underprivileged children during the holidays for the past 15 years.

Mr. Roberto Galvez has been honored with the “Best Sports Anchor” national award from the Mexican Federation of Sports Newscasters for his important work in sports journalism. Ad-
ditionally, he has been named the best sports reporter in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas by this organization and will receive the award in a ceremony in Torreón, Coahuila in February, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the oppor-
tunity to recognize Roberto Galvez Junior for his many accomplishments and great con-
tributions to the Laredo area. I thank you for this time.

HONORING JUDGE IVORY E.
BRITTON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker,
I rise today to honor Judge Ivory Britton, a
Justice Court Judge of District 2; who is a na-
tive Jacksonian.

Judge Britton was reared on Tougaloo Street in the Virden Addition Community. Judge Britton attended Brinkley Elementary School, which is now Walton Elementary School, and graduated from Brinkley High School. He attended the University of Mississippi, University of Judicial Court, National Judicial College, Reno, NV, National Judges Association, American Judges Association, and National Center for State Courts.

As a Justice Court Judge Britton works hard to ensure fair and equal treatment for all litig-
ants of his court. He has increased his knowledge of the judicial process to enable citizens to easily use the Justice Court Sys-

tem. Judge Britton will continue to be fair and accessible to all citizens and be knowledgeable and obedient to the laws of The State of Mississippi.

Judge Britton is married to Liza Britton and they have three children: Perry, Dexter and Tabatha. He is a member of Cape Chapel M. B. Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Judge Ivory E. Britton.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN
DINGELL ON HIS RETIREMENT
SPEECH OF
HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, December 9, 2014

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ex-
press my respect and appreciation for Congres-
sman John Dingell and his 59 years of service in the United States House of Rep-
resentatives. Congressman Dingell served with honor, dignity, and distinction, fighting for each and every day of his service in the United States. He served Michigan and for our entire country. While Mr. Dingell is retiring, Debbie Dingell was elect-
ed this year to represent Michigan’s 12th Con-
gressional District in the next Congress. Like her husband, I know she will make the people of Michigan proud, and I look forward to work-
ing with her.

As a veteran of World War II and the long-
est-serving Member of Congress, Mr. Dingell understands the meaning of service. He de-
voted himself to expanding opportunities for all Americans and to helping more families achieve the American Dream. He was a leader in the fight to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and helped create Medicare in 1965. An advocate for public safety, Mr. Dingell wrote
the 1990 Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, protecting the health of Americans and the environment.

Mr. DINGELL’s tireless efforts will leave an indelible mark on our country and in Congress. I am thankful for his service and proud to call him a colleague and a friend. While we will miss his leadership, we can follow Mr. DINGELL’s example and honor his legacy by putting aside our differences and working together to tackle our nation’s challenges.

I wish Mr. DINGELL and his family all the best.

IN HONOR OF REGIS PECOS
HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Regis Pecos, who has dedicated his career to working on behalf of his community and the people of New Mexico.

I have had the honor of knowing Regis for many years as he served as Chief of Staff to my father, Ben Luján, Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives. Regis was more than just a trusted advisor, he was a friend to my father and to our whole family.

Regis has spent much of his career helping to advance the interests of the people of New Mexico, and has continually been a strong advocate for Native American communities in our state. Regis served his pueblo as both Governor and Lieutenant Governor and went on to work as Executive Director at the New Mexico Office of Indian Affairs for 16 years and under four different governors. While in this important position, he helped gain the support of the New Mexico State Legislature for the State Indian Child Welfare Act.

Regis’ passion for Tribal public policy and community issues extends beyond his time in government. In 1997, he co-founded the Santa Fe Indian School Leadership Institute, an organization dedicated to creating systemic change within Tribal communities. The Leadership Institute helps create a dialogue on the important policy issues facing Indian Country and also gives youth community members important exposure and education on Native issues.

The knowledge and passion that Regis has brought to his endeavors on behalf of the people of New Mexico will be greatly missed as he leaves the Roundhouse. But I know that whatever the next chapter brings for Regis, he will always remember his deep roots and always work to build a brighter future for his community and his state. It is with great honor that I congratulate Regis on his many years of service and wish him continued success.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2014 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
DECEMBER 17
2:30 p.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone.
**Daily Digest**

**Senate**

**Chamber Action**

_Routine Proceedings, pages S6467–S6581_

**Measures Introduced:** Five bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2993–2997, and S. Res. 596–598.

**Measures Reported:**

- S. 182, to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Anchorage, Alaska, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversion interest to the City, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–289)
- S. 398, to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women’s History Museum, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–290)
- S. 776, to establish the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness in the State of New Mexico, to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of National Forest System land in the State, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–291)
- S. 841, to designate certain Federal land in the San Juan National Forest in the State of Colorado as wilderness, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–292)
- S. 1328, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the archeological site and surrounding land of the New Philadelphina town site in the State of Illinois. (S. Rept. No. 113–293)
- S. 1419, to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–294)
- S. 1750, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States and political subdivisions of States providing for the continued operation, in whole or in part, of public land, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System in the State during any period in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture is unable to maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations. (S. Rept. No. 113–295)
- S. 1971, to establish an interagency coordination committee or subcommittee with the leadership of the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, focused on the nexus between energy and water production, use, and efficiency, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–296)
- S. 2031, to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–297)
- S. 2104, to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown. (S. Rept. No. 113–298)
- S. 2379, to approve and implement the Klamath Basin agreements, to improve natural resource management, support economic development, and sustain agricultural production in the Klamath River Basin in the public interest and the interest of the United States, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–299)
- S. 2602, to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–300)
- S. 2873, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acknowledge contributions at units of the National Park System, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–301)
- H.R. 885, To expand the boundary of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, and for other purposes. (S. Rept. No. 113–302)
- H.R. 1241, to facilitate a land exchange involving certain National Forest System lands in the Inyo National Forest. (S. Rept. No. 113–303)
Report to accompany S. 2094, to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel. (S. Rept. No. 113–504)

S. 1317, to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2014 through 2016 and for other purposes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Measures Passed:

Coast Guard Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. 2444, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2015, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto:

Boxer (for Rockefeller/Thune) Amendment No. 3997, in the nature of a substitute.

Boxer (for Rockefeller) Amendment No. 3998, to amend the title.

National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center Act: Senate passed S. 2519, to codify an existing operations center for cybersecurity, after withdrawing the committee amendment, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Boxer (for Carper) Amendment No. 3999, in the nature of a substitute.

Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act: Senate passed H.R. 4007, to recodify and reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto:

Boxer (for Carper) Amendment No. 4000, in the nature of a substitute.

Critical Infrastructure Research and Development Advancement Act: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2952, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess the cybersecurity workforce of the Department of Homeland Security and develop a comprehensive workforce strategy, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto:

Boxer (for Carper) Amendment No. 4001, in the nature of a substitute.

Boxer (for Carper) Amendment No. 4002, to amend the title.

FAA Modernization and Reform Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. 2614, to amend certain provisions of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, and the bill was then passed.

Death in Custody Reporting Act: Senate passed H.R. 1447, to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies.

American Savings Promotion Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3374, to provide for the use of savings promotion raffle products by financial institutions to encourage savings, and the bill was then passed.

Smart Savings Act: Senate passed H.R. 4193, to amend title 5, United States Code, to change the default investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan.

James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway: Senate passed H.R. 4926, to designate a segment of Interstate Route 35 in the State of Minnesota as the “James L. Oberstar Memorial Highway”.

Propane Education and Research Enhancement Act: Senate passed H.R. 5705, to modify certain provisions relating to the Propane Education and Research Council.

Dignified Interment of Our Veterans Act: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 2822, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on matters relating to the burial of unclaimed remains of veterans in national cemeteries, and the bill was then passed.

Condolences to the Family of Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig: Senate agreed to S. Res. 598, expressing condolences to the family of Abdul-Rahman Peter Kassig and condemning the terrorist acts of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

House Messages:

Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 3979, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, taking action on the following motions and amendments proposed thereto:
Pending:
Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Page S6470

Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Reid Amendment No. 3984 (to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill), to change the enactment date.

Reid Amendment No. 3985 (to Amendment No. 3984), of a perfecting nature.

Reid motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Reid Amendment No. 3986, to change the enactment date.

Reid Amendment No. 3987 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 3986), of a perfecting nature.

Reid Amendment No. 3988 (to Amendment No. 3987), of a perfecting nature.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, December 11, 2014.

Pages S6539, S6581

Retiring Senators Tributes—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the tributes to retiring Senators be printed as a Senate document and that Senators be permitted to submit tributes until December 23, 2014. Page S6581

Bill Referral—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5471, to amend the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify how clearing requirements apply to certain affiliate transactions, and the bill be referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Pages S6539, S6581

Messages from the House: Page S6539
Measures Referred: Page S6539
Measures Placed on the Calendar: Pages S6540, S6581
Enrolled Bills Presented: Page S6540
Additional Cosponsors: Page S6541
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S6541–43
Additional Statements: Pages S6538–39
Amendments Submitted: Pages S6543–78
Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S6578

Privileges of the Floor:

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:55 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2014. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S6581.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, focusing on the effective enforcement and the future of derivatives regulation, after receiving testimony from Timothy Massad, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

CYBERSECURITY

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine cybersecurity, focusing on enhancing coordination to protect the financial sector, after receiving testimony from Brian Peretti, Director, Office of Critical Infrastructure Protection and Compliance Policy, and Valerie Abend, Senior Critical Infrastructure Officer, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, both of the Department of the Treasury; Phyllis Schneck, Deputy Undersecretary for Cybersecurity, National Protection and Programs Directorate, and William Noonan, Deputy Special Agent in Charge, Secret Service, Criminal Investigation Division, Cyber Operations Branch, both of the Department of Homeland Security; and Joseph M. Demarest, Jr., Assistant Director, Cyber Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

PASSENGER RAIL

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security concluded a hearing to examine passenger rail, focusing on investing in our nation’s future, after receiving testimony from Peter M. Rogoff, Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; Anthony R. Coscia, Amtrak, New Brunswick, New Jersey; John Previsich, SMART–Transportation Division, North Olmsted, Ohio; and Ray B. Chambers, Association of Independent Passenger Rail Operators, Washington, DC.

EBOLA EPIDEMIC

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on African Affairs concluded a hearing to examine the Ebola
epidemic, focusing on the keys to success for the international response, after receiving testimony from Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Monrovia; Paul Farmer, Partners in Health, Boston, Massachusetts; E. Anne Peterson, World Vision, Washington, DC; Pape Gaye, IntraHealth International, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and Javier Alvarez, Mercy Corps, Portland, Oregon.

NOMINATIONS
Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Michelle K. Lee, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and Daniel Henry Marti, of Virginia, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION
Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President’s executive action on immigration and the need to pass comprehensive reform, including S. 744, to provide for comprehensive immigration reform, after receiving testimony from Elizabeth H. Shuler, AFL–CIO, Washington, DC; Christopher H. Schroeder, Duke University Program in Public Law, Durham, North Carolina; John C. Eastman, Chapman University’s Dale E. Fowler School of Law, Orange, California; Jan C. Ting, Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Astrid Silva, Las Vegas, Nevada.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 24 public bills, H.R. 1, 5825–5847; and 6 resolutions, H.J. Res. 130; H. Con. Res. 122–124; and H. Res. 777–778 were introduced. Pages H9043–45

Additional Cosponsors: Page H9045

Reports Filed: A report was filed today as follows:
H. Res. 776, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 83) to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–655). Page H9043

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Jolly to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H8933

Recess: The House recessed at 11:19 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. Page H8942

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Aaron McEmrys, Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Arlington, Virginia. Page H8942

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 261 yeas to 155 nays with 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 556. Page H8968

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014: S. 1691, to amend title 5, United States Code, to improve the security of the United States border and to provide for reforms and rates of pay for border patrol agents; Pages H8945–51

Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015: Concedured in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4681, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, by a 2⁄3 yea-and-nay vote of 325 yeas to 100 nays, Roll No. 558; Pages H8951–62, H8991–92

Transportation Security Acquisition Reform Act: Concedured in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2719, to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, by a 2⁄3 yea-and-nay vote of 425 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 559; Pages H8968–73, H8992–93
Aviation Security Stakeholder Participation Act: Concluded in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1204, to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 416 yeas to 5 nays, Roll No. 560;

Pages H9873–75, H9893–94


Pages H9014–15

United States Cotton Futures Act: H.R. 5810, to amend the United States Cotton Futures Act to exclude certain cotton futures contracts from coverage under such Act;

Pages H9015–16

Naval Vessel Transfer Act: S. 1683, to provide for the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients;

Pages H9017–19

Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014: S. 2142, to impose targeted sanctions on persons responsible for violations of human rights of antigovernment protesters in Venezuela and to strengthen civil society in Venezuela; and

Pages H9020–23

Feed the Future Global Food Security Act of 2014: H.R. 5656, amended, to authorize the Feed the Future Initiative to reduce global poverty and hunger in developing countries on a sustainable basis.

Pages H9023–28

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, promote sustainable agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.”.

Page H9028


Pages H9862–67, H9875–91

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in H. Rept. 113–654 shall be considered as adopted.

Page H9862

H. Res. 775, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (S. 2244), was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 231 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 554, after the previous question was ordered.

Pages H9866–67

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Tuesday, December 9th:

Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act of 2014: S. 1000, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a crosscut budget for restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 416 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 555.

Pages H9867–68

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of our brave men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, their families, and all who serve in our armed forces and their families.

Page H9868

Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act of 2014: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table H.R. 1281, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and concur in the Senate amendment.

Page H9894

Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and pass S. 2521, to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, to provide for reform to Federal information security.

Pages H9894–98

Providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 3979: The House agreed by unanimous consent to H. Con. Res. 123, to provide for a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 3979.

Page H8998

Providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5771: The House agreed by unanimous consent to H. Con. Res. 124, to provide for a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 5771.

Page H8998

Coast Guard Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and pass S. 2444, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2015 through 2016.

Pages H9002–14


Page H9016

Denouncing the use of civilians as human shields by Hamas and other terrorist organizations: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and agree to the amendments of the Senate to H. Con. Res. 107, denouncing the use of civilians as human shields by Hamas and other terrorist organizations.

Pages H9016–17
Insurance Capital Standards Clarification Act of 2014: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass S. 2270, to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Pages H9019–20

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Supporting America’s Charities Act: H.R. 5806, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent certain expiring provisions related to charitable contributions.

Pages H8998–H9002

National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics—Reappointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s reappointment of the following individual on the part of the House to the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics for a term of four years: Dr. Vickie M. Mays, Los Angeles, California.

Pages H9039–40

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today and messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H8942, H8968 and H9028.

Senate Referrals: S. 1474, S. 2614, S. 2519, and S. 2444 were held at the desk.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, December 11.

Page H9017

Quorum Calls—Votes: Seven yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H8966–67, H8967, H8968, H8991, H8991–92, H8992–93 and H8993. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EXAMINING FDA’S ROLE IN THE REGULATION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD INGREDIENTS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Examining FDA’s Role in the Regulation of Genetically Modified Food Ingredients”. Testimony was heard from Michael M. Landa, Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration; and public witnesses.

COUNTERING ISIS: ARE WE MAKING PROGRESS?

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Countering ISIS: Are We Making Progress?”. Testimony was heard from Brett McGurk, Deputy Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, Department of State.

RUSSIAN ARMS CONTROL CHEATING AND THE ADMINISTRATION’S RESPONSES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade; and Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services, held a joint hearing entitled “Russian Arms Control Cheating and the Administration’s Responses”. Testimony was heard from Rose Gottemoeller, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Department of State; and Brian McKeon, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Policy, Department of Defense.

THE UNITED STATES AS AN ARCTIC NATION: OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HIGH NORTH

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats held a hearing entitled “The United States as an Arctic Nation: Opportunities in the High North”. Testimony was heard from Admiral Robert Papp, Jr., USCG, Retired, Special Representative for the Arctic, Department of State; and public witnesses.

AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL: THE WAY FORWARD IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN (PART III)

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa; and the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, held a joint hearing entitled “After the Withdrawal: The Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan (Part III)”. Testimony was heard from Jarret Blanc, Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Department of State; Donald L. Sampler, Assistant to the Administrator, Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development; and Mr. James Soiles, Deputy Chief of Operations, Office of Global Enforcement, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice.

THE IMPACT ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF THE RELEASE OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN MINORS AND THE NEED FOR CONSULTATION AND NOTIFICATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security held a hearing entitled “The Impact on Local Communities of the Release
of Unaccompanied Alien Minors and the Need for Consultation and Notification”. Testimony was heard from the following Representatives: Barletta, Olson, Smith of Nebraska, and Crowley; Leonard Scarcella, Mayor of Stafford, Texas; Thomas M. Hodgson, Sheriff of Bristol County, Massachusetts; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING EPA’S MANAGEMENT OF THE RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD PROGRAM

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Health Care and Entitlements held a hearing entitled “Examining EPA’s Management of the Renewable Fuel Standard Program”. Testimony was heard from Janet G. McCabe, Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, Environmental Protection Agency.

ADDRESSING THE BACKLOG IN THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT PROCESS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, U.S. Postal Service, and the Census held a hearing entitled “Addressing the Backlog in the Federal Employee Retirement Process”. Testimony was heard from Kenneth J. Zawodny, Jr., Associate Director of Retirement Services, Office of Personnel Management; Donna Seymour, Chief Information Officer, Office of Personnel Management; Valerie C. Melvin, Director, Information Management and Technology Resource Issues, Government Accountability Office; and a public witness.

SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL, TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO ASSEMBLE A TEAM OF TECHNICAL, POLICY, AND FINANCIAL EXPERTS TO ADDRESS THE ENERGY NEEDS OF THE INSULAR AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY ACTION PLANS AIMED AT PROMOTING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE ENERGY, INCLUDING INCREASING USE OF INDIGENOUS CLEAN-ENERGY RESOURCES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on the Senate amendment to H.R. 83, to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes [Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015]. The committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a rule that provides for the consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 83. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 83 with an amendment consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–59 modified by the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion. The rule provides that the Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides 80 minutes of debate on the motion, with 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. In section 2, the rule provides that upon adoption of the motion specified in section 1, H. Con. Res. 122 (enrollment correction to the title) shall be considered as adopted. In section 3, the rule provides that the chair of the Committee on Appropriations may insert in the Congressional Record at any time during the remainder of the second session of the 113th Congress such material as he may deem explanatory of the Senate amendment and the motion specified in the first section of the resolution. In section 4, the rule waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against any resolution reported from the Rules Committee through the legislative day of December 12, 2014. Testimony was heard from Chairman Rogers of Kentucky, Chairman Kline, and Representatives Lowey, Price of North Carolina, George Miller of California, Salmon, Polis, King of Iowa, Deutch, Gohmert, Norton, Bachmann, McClintock, Duncan of South Carolina, Gosar, Huelskamp, Mulvaney, Ribble, and Clawson.

AN UPDATE ON THE SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM AND ORION: MONITORING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION’S DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION CAPABILITIES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Space held a hearing entitled “An Update on the Space Launch System and Orion: Monitoring the Development of the Nation’s Deep Space Exploration Capabilities”. Testimony was heard from Bill Gerstenmaier, Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and Cristina Chaplain, Director, Acquisition
and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office.

U.S. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS: INTEGRATION, OVERSIGHT, AND COMPETITIVENESS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled “U.S. Unmanned Aircraft Systems: Integration, Oversight, and Competitiveness”. Testimony was heard from Peggy Gilligan, Associate Administrator for Aviation Safety, Federal Aviation Administration; Matthew Hampton, Assistant Inspector General for Aviation Audits, Department of Transportation; Gerald Dillingham, Director of Civil Aviation Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

HEARING 2

Select Committee on Benghazi: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Hearing 2”, relating to reviewing efforts to secure U.S. diplomatic facilities and personnel. Testimony was heard from Greg Starr, Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security, Department of State; and Steve Linick, Inspector General, Department of State.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Environment and Public Works: with the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, to hold a joint oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the President’s executive order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider an original resolution to authorize the limited use of the United States Armed Forces against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, S. Con. Res. 38, expressing the sense of Congress that Warren Weinstein should be returned home to his family, S. Res. 595, recognizing Nobel Laureates Kailash Satyarthi and Malala Yousafzai for their efforts to end the financial exploitation of children and to ensure the right of all children to an education, an original resolution commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day, H.R. 4573, to protect children from exploitation, especially sex trafficking in tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known child-sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, S. 2922, to reinstate reporting requirements related to United States-Hong Kong relations, the nominations of Antony Blinken, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of State, Leslie Berger Kiernan, of Maryland, as an Alternate Representative of the United States of America, to the Sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and lists in the Foreign Service, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: with the Committee on Environment and Public Works, to hold a joint oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the President’s executive order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Joan Marie Azrack, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Loretta Copeland Biggs, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, Elizabeth K. Dillon, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, and Michael P. Botticelli, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House


Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “The Future of Nuclear Energy”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Full Committee, business meeting to approve the second annual activities report for the 113th Congress; hearing entitled “Evaluating Federal and Community Efforts to Eliminate Veteran Homelessness”, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
9:30 a.m., Thursday, December 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 3979, Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act. At 10:30 a.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 a.m., Thursday, December 11

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 83—Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Subject to a Rule).

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