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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 18, 2015.

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

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Almighty God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this House for the leadership of our Nation.

As the Members return from their various districts and our Nation enters a week which ends with Memorial Day, may we all be mindful in the busyness of life to remember our citizen ancestors who served our Nation in the armed services.

Grant that their sacrifice of self and, for so many, of life would inspire all of America's citizens to step forward, in whatever their path of life, to make a positive contribution to the strength of our democracy.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed Halls be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHABOT 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.

REGULATORY INTEGRITY PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act, and applaud its passage by the House of Representatives. This bill prohibits the EPA from using its Waters of the U.S. rule to expand its authority beyond, way beyond, congressional intent.

Waters of the U.S. is yet another executive overreach by this administration. The Clean Water Act intentionally limited the EPA's jurisdiction to navigable waters, yet Waters of the U.S. would expand Federal jurisdiction to include virtually all water flows—from ditches to prairie potholes—even on private land.

Nebraskans are concerned Waters of the U.S. could severely harm our ag economy by increasing costs and uncertainty for producers.

America's farmers and ranchers are already great stewards of the land and take numerous steps to protect our natural resources. By blocking the Waters of the U.S. rule, H.R. 1732 stops the administration's latest power grab and supports ag producers across the country.

CONGRATULATING THE HOUSTON ROCKETS AND HOUSTON ASTROS

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't take long for a Texan to brag about things that we do in Texas. But I wanted to take my 1 minute today to talk about what the Houston Rockets have done for the first time in 19 years to advance to the next level of the NBA playoffs, being a Rockets fan for as long as we have had them. I know all Houstonians and basketball fans were amazed that they came from three games behind to win.

Also, basketball is not the only thing. In fact, a couple blocks from

where the Rockets play, the Houston Astros are playing. A few years ago, we had the worst team in baseball, but they have been leading their division and just swept another home stand.

So I want to congratulate the Houston Rockets for moving forward in the playoffs and also the Houston Astros because it is a long season. We need to keep it up. But they are bringing sports history into Houston again.

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF SRI LANKA'S CIVIL WAR

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the sixth anniversary of the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka. In a brutal war that lasted 37 years, we saw nearly 100,000 people killed—many of them civilians—as a result of the tensions between the country's Buddhist majority and Hindu minority.

Since the war ended, however, corruption and ongoing human rights abuses have prevented Sri Lanka from reaching a national reconciliation.

Then in January of this year, we saw President Sirisena democratically elected with significant support from the Sinhalese, Tamil, and Muslim communities.

Mr. Speaker, on this fortuitous occasion, I call on the new government to release the 200 detained political prisoners, account for the nearly 20,000 missing civilians from the war, and end oppressive restrictions on the Tamil provinces.

This sixth anniversary serves as a reminder of Sri Lanka's war-torn past and a chance to move it toward a future of democracy, justice, and equality for all its people because only then can Sri Lanka finally achieve the stability, peace, and prosperity that it deserves.

PROTECTING NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a rule that would significantly broaden the Federal Government's power to regulate waters and adjacent lands under the Clean Water Act.

The Waters of the United States rule would give the Federal Government jurisdiction over puddles, roadside ditches, irrigation ditches, and storm and wastewater systems. Federal agencies frequently place burdensome regulations on the American public, and this rule is no exception.

Fortunately, last week, the House passed H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act, which would require the agencies to start over and develop a new rule in consultation with State and local governments and other stakeholders. This commonsense legislation prevents an out-of-touch administration from threatening the livelihood of North Carolina's farmers and saddling local governments with exorbitant compliance costs.

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:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 15, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, The Capitol,
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, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on May 15, 2015, at 3:33 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits a copy of a notice filed earlier with the Federal Register continuing the emergency with Burma first declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. REEVES,
Deputy Clerk.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114–39)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared on May 20, 1997, is to continue in effect beyond May 20, 2015. The Government of Burma has made significant progress across a number of important areas, including the release of over 1,300 political prisoners, continued progress toward a nationwide cease-fire, the discharge of hundreds of child soldiers from the military, steps to improve labor standards, and expanding political space for civil society to have a greater voice in shaping issues critical to Burma's future. In addition, Burma has become a signatory of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Additional Protocol and ratified the Biological Weapons Convention, significant steps towards supporting global nonproliferation. Despite these strides, the situation in the country continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

Concerns persist regarding the ongoing conflict and human rights abuses in the country, particularly in ethnic minority areas and Rakhine State. In addition, Burma's military operates with little oversight from the civilian government and often acts with impunity. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma.

Despite this action, the United States remains committed to supporting and strengthening Burma's reform efforts and to continue working both with the Burmese government and people to ensure that the democratic transition is sustained and irreversible.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 15, 2015.*

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

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

□ 1605

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROTHFUS) at 4 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.

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.

HOMELESS VETERANS' REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 474) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 474

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 ''Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.

Section 2021(e)(F) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2015'' and inserting ''2020''.

SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES UNDER HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.

Subsection (a) of section 2021 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force.'' and inserting the following: ''reintegration into the labor force of—''

''(1) homeless veterans;

''(2) veterans participating in the Department of Veterans Affairs supported housing program for which rental assistance provided pursuant to section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)); and

''(3) veterans who are transitioning from being incarcerated.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material on H.R. 474.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 474, the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2015 would extend this very good job training and placement program for homeless veterans.

This bill would also make some commonsense changes to the program's eligibility rules by making veterans housed under the HUD-VA supported housing program and formerly incarcerated veterans eligible for HVRP.

Mr. Speaker, by making those eligibility changes, we will be offering training and placement services to groups of veterans who are largely unemployed and have significant barriers to employment. The program's history of a job placement rate of 70 percent has been recognized by many as among the best in the Federal Government and I believe warrants its continuation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in support of H.R. 474, the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2015. This bipartisan bill reauthorizes the highly successful Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program, HVRP, which provides grants to train and reintegrate homeless veterans into meaningful employment.

H.R. 474 also clarifies that in addition to homeless veterans, those participating in the HUD-VASH voucher program and those transitioning from being incarcerated are also eligible to participate in HVRP. HVRP is unique among Federal programs, as it is dedicated to providing employment assistance to homeless veterans. Other programs that we hear much about focus on needs such as emergency shelter, food, and abuse treatment.

Homeless veterans often face a variety of problems that can bar them from traditional employment pathways, including severe PTSD, histories of substance abuse, and encounters with the criminal justice system. HVRP service providers give our homeless veterans specialized intensive counseling and services to help them find a positive pathway forward, resulting in gainful employment.

This bill will not incur any direct spending costs, nor will discretionary costs be beyond the minimal.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman WENSTRUP for his hard work on this bill, as well as Ranking Member TAKANO for his efforts to advance this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support my bill, H.R. 474. I have no further speakers at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I, too, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 474. It is a good bill that will reauthorize and clarify the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Again, Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support my bill, H.R. 474, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 474.

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.

ENSURING VA EMPLOYEE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1038) to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to retain a copy of any reprimand or admonishment received by an employee of the Department in the permanent record of the employee.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1038

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 ''Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act''.

SEC. 2. RETENTION OF RECORDS OF REPRIMANDS AND ADMONISHMENTS RECEIVED BY EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 714. Record of reprimands and admonishments

''If any employee of the Department receives a reprimand or admonishment, the Secretary shall retain a copy of such reprimand or admonishment in the permanent record of the employee as long as the employee is employed by the Department.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''714. Record of reprimands and admonishments.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous material on H.R. 1038.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, currently, if a VA employee is either reprimanded or admonished for their performance, all records of those administrative punishments are removed from the employee's personnel file within 3 years and 2 years, respectively. Subsequent to the removal of these personnel actions, there is no record of their poor performance or acts regardless of how many different jobs they hold within the VA or how long they remain a VA employee.

Mr. Speaker, personnel policies and rules such as we are addressing today are part of the culture of no accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs that have contributed significantly to the recent public scandals. The list of scandals now includes the abuse of the purchase card program where some VA employees were spending $5 billion annually on goods and services without contracts, which was exposed at the Veterans' Affairs Committee hearings last Thursday.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to ensure that only the most ethical and most qualified employees who benefit from the tax dollars that support them move up through the ranks at VA. One way to assist that is to retain an employee's entire history in their personnel file. Now, no one is saying that employees can't improve their performance after being reprimanded or admonished, but managers should know the complete history of their staff or potential staff members.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in support of H.R. 1038, the Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act of 2015.

Currently, when a VA employee is reprimanded for misconduct, the paperwork describing the incident is removed from that employee's file after 3 years. Paperwork describing an incident leading to an admonishment is taken out after just 2 years. H.R. 1038 requires the Secretary to maintain all written reprimands and admonishments of any VA employee in that employee's file for the entire duration of his or her employment at VA.

As members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee work to ensure effective oversight of VA actions, it is important to maintain a record of VA employees' past misconduct. At the same time we are working toward greater accountability, we must also ensure that increased transparency does not come at the expense of fairness and the equitable treatment of VA employees.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues and all interested parties to clarify the intent of this legislation to ensure that we are not inadvertently affecting the use of negotiated settlement agreements when appropriate and that admonishments and reprimands are not wrongly used to silence whistleblowers.

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

□ 1615

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO), the author of this bill.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to come before you today to speak on behalf of this commonsense effort to ensure greater employee accountability within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We all agree that our veterans deserve the best service and care possible, and it is our responsibility to ensure that that care is provided by responsible employees.

My legislation, H.R. 1038, Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act, is a further step in this direction. As you know, the VA carries out their disciplinary actions in a tiered system, and the two most commonly used are the lower-tiered actions, admonishments and reprimands.

As the VA continues to review the findings of the recent inspector general's investigations related to data manipulation, backlogs, and excessive wait times, it is apparent that a greater number of admonishments and reprimands are being issued to at-fault employees.

However, in the current policy, these disciplinary actions remain in an employee's file for only 3 years and are then deleted. This prevents the keeping of complete employee files and doesn't allow the poor performers within the VA to be tracked or held accountable.

Veterans expect the correct disciplinary action to be administered—indeed, all taxpayers do—and not simply the issuance of a temporary written warning. Therefore, as the VA continues to issue these lower-tier disciplinary actions more heavily than others, it is important that the personnel actions remain in the employee's record while employed at the VA.

My bill requires all reprimands and admonishments remain in a VA employee's file as long as they are employed at the VA, ensuring that the VA maintains good, complete employee records and holds those who care for our veterans accountable.

There are some concerns that this legislation could negatively impact flexibility in resolving routine personnel disputes, but there is nothing in this bill that imposes new employee penalties or would affect the existing process for a VA employee to appeal a disciplinary action.

We are open to working with our Senate counterparts to ensure that nothing in this legislation prevents a VA employee's ability to dispute a disciplinary action before a reprimand or admonishment is placed in their record. It is simply another tool for the Secretary to hold employees accountable during their tenure at the VA.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will support my legislation to promote transparency and accountability where it is needed.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. COSTELLO for his work on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1038 and to work with all of us to make sure going forward that the intent of the bill is accurately realized.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 1038, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1038.

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.

SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF ACT

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1313) to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the treatment of certain small business concerns for purposes of Department of Veterans Affairs contracting goals and preferences.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1313

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 ''Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act''.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF TREATMENT UNDER CONTRACTING GOALS AND PREFERENCES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8127(h) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''rated as'' and all that follows through ''disability.'' and inserting a period; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

''(C) The date that—

''(i) in the case of a surviving spouse of a veteran with a service-connected disability rated as 100 percent disabling or who dies as a result of a service-connected disability, is 10 years after the date of the veteran's death; or

''(ii) in the case of a surviving spouse of a veteran with a service-connected disability rated as less than 100 percent disabling who does not die as a result of a service-connected disability, is three years after the date of the veteran's death.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to contracts awarded on or after such date.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on H.R. 1313.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1313 would amend title 38 to allow certain surviving spouses of service-disabled small-business owners to continue to be classified as a service-disabled veteran-owned small business for a 3-year period following the death of the veteran owner.

Current law limits the continuation to just the surviving spouses of disabled veterans rated at 100 percent by VA. By changing the law, we will enable surviving spouses of the vast majority of small businesses owned by service-disabled veterans to make the transition from a preferred VA contractor to the private sector market. This small change will also provide a large measure of financial stability to surviving spouses.

I see this as another commonsense bill, and I thank Mr. MCNERNEY for bringing it to us.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 1313, the Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act of

2015. Veterans who are rated as 100 percent disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs and who own at least 51 percent of their small business receive preferred status in the Federal contracting process.

If the veteran small-business owner passes away, the surviving family members and business partners are not allowed any time to transition away from this preferred status, thereby putting their businesses in jeopardy of losing any Federal contracts they may have. Last year, there were an estimated 500,000 of these businesses nationwide.

This bill provides a 3-year transition period during which the business would keep its preferential status and any Federal contracts associated with that status should the veteran owner pass away.

Current law does, however, allow the surviving spouse to maintain preferred status for up to 3 years following the death of a veteran owner, but only if that veteran had a 100 percent service-connected disability rating and died due to the disability.

H.R. 1313 further expands the transition period from 3 to 10 years after the veteran owner's death if the veteran were either 100 percent disabled or died from a service-connected disability.

H.R. 1313 is a fair policy that will ensure we protect the hard work and investment of our service-connected disabled veterans who own small businesses.

I would like to thank Chairman WENSTRUP and Ranking Member TAKANO of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for their support of this bill and Mr. MCNERNEY for bringing it to us.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I, again, reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY).

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to thank Chairman WENSTRUP and Ranking Member TAKANO for their continued work on behalf of our Nation's veterans and for bringing these commonsense bills to the floor today.

Small businesses are the economic drivers in our communities, and we must give them opportunities they need to grow and prosper. Veteran entrepreneurs, in particular, are some of the most apt at starting, managing, and growing small businesses.

In the United States, there are about 5 million veteran-owned businesses and an estimated 500,000 service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. A service-disabled veteran-owned small business is one that must be at least 51 percent directly owned and controlled by one or more service-disabled veterans.

The Federal Government established procurement contracting goals for small businesses in 1978 and set aside 3 percent of the total value of all Federal contracts for veteran-owned small businesses. Although some Federal agencies meet these goals, there are no penalties for not meeting the 3 percent small business procurement goal. The VA is diligent, on the other hand, in meeting this goal.

Under current law, if a veteran who was rated 100 percent disabled and owned a service-disabled veteran-owned small business passes away, the surviving spouse has 10 years to transition the business away from service-disabled veteran-owned small business status for contracts that the company has with the VA.

However, if the veteran businessowner was rated at less than 100 percent disabled or dies of a nonservice-connected injury, the surviving spouse has only 1 year to transition the business for contracts with the VA.

Unfortunately, this is not enough transition time for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses whose owner passes away and was rated at less than 100 percent disabled to reposition the business, putting many service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses at a disadvantage. We need to correct this deficiency in the law.

That is why I introduced H.R. 1313, the Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act. My bill allows the service-disabled veteran-owned small business, whose principal owner passes away and was rated at less than 100 percent disabled at the time of death, with a reasonable 3-year transition period from service-disabled veteran-owned small business status with the VA.

It is only right that we provide our heroes and their families and the employees with flexibility and certainty to ensure their businesses continue to thrive. The loss of a veteran businessowner is already tragic enough for their families and can put service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses at severe risk of closing or downsizing because of the loss of Federal contracts.

H.R. 1313 is supported by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, AMVETS, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, The American Legion, and Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. In addition, the VA said, at a subcommittee hearing on March 24 of this year, that the bill is a reasonable approach.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in passing this commonsense bill and support veteran-owned small businesses across the country.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1313, to ensure that our service-connected disabled-veteran small-business owners are able to leave a legacy for their families and coworkers when they pass away.

At this point, I don't have any other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Once again, Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 1313, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1313.

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. WENSTRUP. 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.

BOOSTING RATES OF AMERICAN VETERAN EMPLOYMENT ACT

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1382) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in awarding a contract for the procurement of goods or services, to give a preference to offerors that employ veterans, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1382

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 ''Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act'' or the ''BRAVE Act''.

SEC. 2. PREFERENCE FOR OFFERORS EMPLOYING VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 8128 the following new section:

''§ 8129. Preference for offerors employing veterans

''(a) PREFERENCE.—In awarding a contract (or task order) for the procurement of goods or services, the Secretary may give a preference to offerors that employ veterans on a full-time basis. The Secretary shall determine such preference based on the percentage of the full-time employees of the offeror who are veterans.

''(b) ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES FOR MISREPRESENTATION.—(1) Any offeror that is determined by the Secretary to have willfully and intentionally misrepresented the veteran status of the employees of the offeror for purposes of subsection (a) shall be debarred from contracting with the Department for a period of not less than five years.

''(2) In the case of a debarment under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall commence debarment action against the offeror by not later than 30 days after determining that the offeror willfully and intentionally misrepresented the veteran status of the employees of the offeror as described in paragraph (1) and shall complete debarment actions against such offeror by not later than 90 days after such determination.

''(3) The debarment of an offeror under paragraph (1) includes the debarment of all

principals in the offeror for a period of not less than five years.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 8128 the following new item:

''8129. Preference for offerors employing veterans.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on H.R. 1382, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, to improve employment opportunities for veterans and business opportunities for the companies that employ them, H.R. 1382, as amended, would require the Secretary to consider the number of veterans working for an offerer in the decision to award a contract.

Under the bill, the Secretary may give a preference to such employers based on the percentage of the workforce made up by veterans. The bill would also provide the Secretary with debarment authority for any offerer who willfully and intentionally misrepresents the number of veterans they employ.

Mr. Speaker, the unemployment rate among certain age groups of veterans still exceeds their nonveteran peers, and this is one commonsense step to increase job opportunities for veterans of all ages.

I thank Miss RICE for her hard work on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1382, as amended, the Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act, or BRAVE Act, of 2015.

According to the April 2015 Bureau of Labor Statistics report, almost 7 percent of post-9/11 veterans are unemployed, which is higher than the national average.

□ 1630

These men and women have dutifully served their country. Now it is our job as Members of Congress to craft policies that will improve and increase employment opportunities for them. This includes improving the Federal contracting process to incentivize private sector companies to hire more veterans when they come home.

The Department of Veterans Affairs establishes long-term contracts with private sector businesses to provide veterans medical equipment, supplies, services, and other things. Currently, the VA gives preference for these contracts to veteran-owned small businesses, but it does not give preference to businesses that actively employ veterans. This bipartisan BRAVE Act allows the VA to consider the proportion of veterans employed by a prospective contractor when awarding those Federal contracts. It also encourages and incentivizes current VA contractors to employ more veterans.

H.R. 1382 deters companies from exaggerating the number of veterans they employ in order to become more competitive for procurement, requiring debarment for any company that knowingly misrepresents its proportion of veteran employees.

H.R. 1382 does not require offsets nor does it add any burdens on taxpayers. This bipartisan legislation will reward companies who hire veterans, thus incentivizing the private sector recruitment of veteran employees. It is, indeed, a win-win-win policy for the private sector, for the Federal Government, and, most importantly, for the veterans, themselves.

I want to thank Miss RICE, who is the sponsor of this bill, Chairman MILLER for bringing it to the floor, and Dr. WENSTRUP and Mr. TAKANO—the chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity—for their work on the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Miss RICE), who is the sponsor of this important legislation.

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 1382, the Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act.

I doubt there is a single Member of this body who would disagree that American veterans—men and women who have stepped up to protect our country and preserve the freedom that we cherish—deserve our full support when they have completed their service. They deserve the opportunity to find a good job, to support themselves and their families. They deserve the opportunity to succeed in civilian life, to adapt their extraordinary skills, training, and experience in order to thrive in a civilian workforce, and to continue making a meaningful contribution to our economy.

We have seen real progress in adding veterans to the workforce, but we cannot be satisfied with that progress while so many men and women still struggle to find the good jobs they deserve. We cannot be satisfied when the unemployment rate among post-9/11 veterans remains higher than the national average. We cannot be satisfied if even a single American veteran who wants to work is not given the opportunity to do so—is left jobless, homeless, forgotten, and abandoned by the country he or she served.

Unemployment among veterans is not only a stain on the character of our country, it is not only a dereliction of the promise we make to the people who risk their lives to protect us; it is a missed opportunity.

Veterans have received the most advanced and sophisticated training the world has to offer. They have unique skills and experience. They know how to work as members of a team. They know how to succeed in the most difficult conditions. They know how to get the job done, whatever that job may be. They received that training, they developed those skills, and gained that experience because we invested in them as servicemembers, and we would be foolish not to double down on that investment. We would be foolish not to invest in them as veterans—invest in their potential to adapt their training and skills and experience so they may use it to thrive in a civilian workforce and contribute to our economy.

We need businesses in the private sector to recognize the benefit of having veterans in their workforces. We need businesses to recognize that it is in their self-interest to actively seek out and employ veterans, not as an act of charity, but because they are excellent workers who know how to get the job done and how to bring out the best in their fellow employees. That is why it is so important that we pass H.R. 1382.

This legislation will make the kind of investment that Members of both parties can be pleased to support—the kind that costs no money. The Department of Veterans Affairs is already authorized for $19 billion in total procurement and contracting spending. This legislation will simply ensure that, when the Secretary of the VA is awarding those contracts, he has the authority to give preference to businesses with high concentrations of full-time veteran employees, businesses that make it a priority to actively seek out veterans and provide them with meaningful full-time employment.

As has been noted, the VA can already give such preference to veteran-owned businesses, as it should. We should give that same advantage to contractors who actively invest in veterans, who recognize their value and their potential to thrive in the civilian workforce.

Such companies do exist, and this legislation will reward them for their commitment to giving veterans the opportunities they have earned. But in doing so, in creating such an advantage, this legislation will also create an incentive for other contractors to do the same, to be proactive, to make it a priority to seek out veterans who are looking for employment. In time, I have no doubt that they will recognize the value of investing in veterans as they will find themselves with a more productive, efficient, and effective workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give a special thanks to my colead sponsor on the other side of the aisle, Congressman PAUL COOK, a combat veteran who served 26 years and retired as a colonel from the United States Marine Corps.

I also think it is important to note that this bill has the support of several major veteran service organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my support for another bill that I am proud to cosponsor, Dr. WENSTRUP'S legislation—H.R. 474, the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act.

The HVRP provides critical support to help reintegrate homeless veterans into the workforce and to address the underlying issues that so often lead to life on the streets—services ranging from job training, job placement, and career counseling to clothing, housing, transportation, and treatment for mental health and substance abuse disorders. This program has been successful, and passing a 5-year reauthorization will secure its future and allow State and local agencies to plan long-term programming.

I thank Dr. WENSTRUP for his leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to give H.R. 474 their full support.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1382, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I don't have any additional speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 1382, as amended, and I thank Miss RICE for presenting this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1382, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WENSTRUP. 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.

VETERAN'S I.D. CARD ACT

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 91) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue, upon request, veteran identification cards to certain veterans, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 91

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 ''Veteran's I.D. Card Act''.

SEC. 2. VETERANS IDENTIFICATION CARD.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Currently, veteran identification cards are issued to veterans who have either completed the statutory time-in-service requirement for retirement from the Armed Forces or who have received a medical-related discharge from the Armed Forces.

(2) A veteran who has served a minimum obligated time in service, but who does not meet the criteria described in paragraph (1), does not receive a means of identifying the veteran's status as a veteran other than using the official DD–214 discharge papers of the veteran.

(3) Goods, services, and promotional activities are often offered by public and private institutions to veterans who demonstrate proof of service in the military but it is impractical for a veteran to always carry official DD–214 discharge papers to demonstrate such proof.

(4) A general purpose veteran identification card made available to a veteran who does not meet the criteria described in paragraph (1) would be useful to such veteran in order to demonstrate the status of the veteran without having to carry and use official DD–214 discharge papers.

(5) The Department of Veterans Affairs has the infrastructure in place across the United States to produce photographic identification cards and accept a small payment to cover the cost of these cards.

(b) PROVISION OF VETERAN IDENTIFICATION CARDS.—Chapter 57 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 5705 the following new section:

''§ 5706. Veterans identification card

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall issue an identification card described in subsection (b) to any covered veteran who—

''(1) requests such card;

''(2) was discharged from the Armed Forces under honorable conditions;

''(3) presents a copy of the DD–214 form or other official document from the official military personnel file of the veteran that describes the service of the veteran; and

''(4) pays the fee under subsection (c)(1).

''(b) IDENTIFICATION CARD.—An identification card described in this subsection is a card that—

''(1) displays a photograph of the covered veteran;

''(2) displays the name of the covered veteran;

''(3) explains that such card is not proof of any benefits to which the veteran is entitled to;

''(4) contains an identification number that is not a social security number; and

''(5) serves as proof that such veteran—

''(A) honorably served in the Armed Forces; and

''(B) has a DD–214 form or other official document in the official military personnel file of the veteran that describes the service of the veteran.

''(c) COSTS OF CARD.—(1) The Secretary shall charge a fee to each veteran who receives an identification card issued under this section, including a replacement identification card.

''(2)(A) The fee charged under paragraph (1) shall equal an amount that the Secretary determines is necessary to issue an identification card under this section.

''(B) In determining the amount of the fee under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure that the total amount of fees collected under paragraph (1) equals an amount necessary to carry out this section, including costs related to any additional equipment or personnel required to carry out this section.

''(C) The Secretary shall review and reassess the determination under subparagraph (A) during each five-year period in which the Secretary issues an identification card under this section.

''(3) Amounts collected under this subsection shall be deposited in an account of the Department available to carry out this section. Amounts so deposited shall be—

''(A) merged with amounts in such account;

''(B) available in such amounts as may be provided in appropriation Acts; and

''(C) subject to the same conditions and limitations as amounts otherwise in such account.

''(d) EFFECT OF CARD ON BENEFITS.—(1) An identification card issued under this section shall not serve as proof of any benefits that the veteran may be entitled to under this title.

''(2) A covered veteran who is issued an identification card under this section shall not be entitled to any benefits under this title by reason of possessing such card.

''(e) ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure that any information collected or used with respect to an identification card issued under this section is appropriately secured.

''(2) The Secretary may determine any appropriate procedures with respect to issuing a replacement identification card.

''(3) In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall coordinate with the National Personnel Records Center.

''(4) The Secretary may conduct such outreach to advertise the identification card under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(f) CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall not be construed to affect identification cards otherwise provided by the Secretary to veterans enrolled in the health care system established under section 1705(a) of this title.

''(g) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'covered veteran' means a veteran who—

''(1) is not entitled to retired pay under chapter 1223 of title 10; and

''(2) is not enrolled in the system of patient enrollment under section 1705 of this title.''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5705 the following new item:

''5706. Veterans identification card.''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on H.R. 91, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Thankfully, many of the Nation's businesses offer discounts to our servicemembers and veterans. Unfortunately, unless a servicemember is a qualified military retiree, the DOD does not issue an ID card as proof of service. That means millions of veterans cannot take advantage of those discounts or proudly share evidence of their honorable service. This bill would change that by directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue a veteran's ID card to any veteran who requests such card and who is not entitled to military retired pay nor is enrolled in the VA health care system.

The bill would require the card to display the veteran's name and photograph, and it would serve as proof that the veteran honorably served in the Armed Forces. This bill would also require the Secretary to determine a fee to be charged that would cover all costs of producing the cards and of managing the program. The bill also specifies that the card does not entitle the holder to any VA benefits.

I thank my colleague Mr. BUCHANAN for his efforts on this commonsense legislation.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 91, the Veteran's I.D. Card Act, as amended.

This bill directs the Secretary to issue, upon a veteran's request, a veteran's identification card. In most instances, a veteran must be enrolled with the VA to receive a VA ID card or to utilize his or her DD–214 to prove military service. Many veterans are hesitant to carry around their DD–214s, which may contain personal health information. A veteran's ID card would provide those veterans with the ability to prove their service without the need to constantly have to produce official documents like their DD–214 forms.

Issuing an optional veteran's ID card is a simple way to provide a reliable and convenient method for our Nation's heroes to prove their honorable service and veteran status.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN).

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Veteran's I.D. Card Act.

This is bipartisan legislation I have introduced which will allow all veterans to receive an ID card through the VA.

Over the years, I have heard from countless veterans from Florida and across the country who have expressed frustration about their ability to document their service. This will allow them to document their service by getting ID cards. The ID card won't quite replace the DD–214, but they won't have to carry around the paperwork with them if they are looking to use it in the future. It will also help to cut down on identity theft.

One of the biggest things for veterans in our area is it will help with jobs and opportunities in terms of their not having to carry the paperwork. They will have proof of their service for their employers. It will also provide discounts from a lot of our businesses in the area. A lot of businesses offer veterans discounts, but veterans don't have the documentation. As a result, many times, they don't get the benefits. One of the biggest benefits is that there is no cost to the taxpayers, which is a big thing for a lot of people.

One other thing I just wanted to mention is that many of our veterans have served our country proudly, and this will help validate their service from that standpoint.

On behalf of the 70,000 veterans in my district, of the almost 2 million veterans in Florida and of the 22 million veterans in the country, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation to help our American heroes.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 91, as amended, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, H.R. 91, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 91, the Veteran's I.D. Card Act.

This legislation is a commonsense proposal to permit veterans to show their service without hassle and inconvenience. Upon enactment, the bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to issue a photo identification card to veterans who request it. The identification card serves as proof of honorable military service.

In the First District of Iowa, many of my constituents—including veterans of World War II, the Korean war, and Vietnam war—would benefit from the existence of such a card. The card would increase veterans' access to available military service discounts at commercial establishments. The Veterans I.D. Card Act, an overwhelmingly bipartisan bill and supported by AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Veterans for Common Sense, makes proving veteran status easy, expedient, and credible.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to enact this commonsense legislation that assists veterans in receiving all the recognition and benefits they deserve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 91, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WENSTRUP. 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.

□ 1645

VULNERABLE VETERANS HOUSING REFORM ACT OF 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1816) to exclude from consideration as income under the United States Housing Act of 1937 payments of pension made under section 1521 of title 38, United States Code, to veterans who are in need of regular aid and attendance.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1816

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 ''Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. EXCLUSION FROM INCOME.

Paragraph (4) of section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and any amounts'' and inserting '', any amounts'';

(2) by striking ''or any deferred'' and inserting '', any deferred''; and

(3) by inserting after ''prospective monthly amounts'' the following: '', and any expenses related to aid and attendance as detailed under section 1521 of title 38, United States Code''.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON AWARDS AND BONUSES PAID TO EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 705 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–146; 38 U.S.C. 703 note) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following '', except that the dollar amount limitation applicable under this section for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020 shall be such dollar amount as reduced by $10,000,000''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous materials on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 1816, the Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act of 2015. I strongly urge my colleagues to support its passage.

H.R. 1816, legislation that has been long championed by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK), is designed to help some of our Nation's greatest heroes, our disabled veterans, better afford the housing and medical care they desperately need.

To do so, H.R. 1816 would change how the Department of Housing and Urban Development calculates a disabled veteran's income for its Section 8 and public housing programs by exempting their service-related disability benefits and expenses related to in-home care. In other words, right now HUD is counting the aid and attendance disability payments of those heroes as income that could pay for housing, when it really should only be used to pay for their medical care.

CBO has estimated there are about 2,000 veterans that would be impacted by this change. This legislation will ensure that we don't punish low-income disabled veterans who are seeking or receiving housing assistance simply because of the disability benefits.

Fixing the income calculation of disabled veterans is not only a matter of fairness, it is also a matter of common sense. Many of these disabled veterans require extensive care and assistance to perform basic daily functions such as bathing, eating, and dressing. These aid and attendance payments are designed only to cover the costs of the in-home care they require to meet those needs, and it is wrong to ask these veterans to use that money for any other purpose.

The housing challenges faced by disabled veterans are great, and I commend Mr. HECK for his hard work to bring this issue and an appropriate fix for it to our attention.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HECK for his leadership on this bill. As a former veteran, he has a deep understanding of these issues. I also thank Mr. LUETKEMEYER, who is the chair of our Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance and one of our most active members on the committee, having served not only as a community banker, but as a community regulator.

I am very pleased to rise in strong bipartisan support of H.R. 1816, the Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act of 2015. This bill will bring a measure of fairness to our government's treatment of severely disabled veterans. The bill excludes the payments that disabled veterans receive for in-home aid and attendance from being considered as income when determining their eligibility for HUD housing assistance.

Under current law, these in-home aid and attendance payments are wrongly counted as disposable income, which makes it harder for disabled veterans who receive these payments to qualify for the Federal housing assistance which they deserve. These payments are absolutely not disposable income; rather, they are payments that are medically necessary to enable disabled veterans to perform everyday functions, functions that, if not for their extraordinary sacrifice, would not require in-home aid payments in the first place.

Thousands of veterans across our country are unable to qualify for Federal housing assistance, such as Section 8 rental assistance, because these payments are improperly counted as income. Let's be clear. These are veterans who have suffered life-changing injuries and who are now severely disabled as a result of their service to our country. It is their service and their sacrifice made in the name of peace and freedom that have made this the great Nation that it is today.

For our great Nation to turn around and make it harder for these veterans because of their service-related disabilities to qualify for housing assistance is grossly unfair and something that should be swiftly rectified. That is what this bill does. It rights a wrong in our Federal housing policy and gives the veterans the respect and support that they deserve.

I applaud my colleague, Mr. HECK, who has served this country as a veteran. For three times, he has brought this bill to this floor. It has passed on suspension three times. I really applaud his persistence in pursuing this commonsense fix that will help thousands of veterans that deserve the aid and the assistance from HUD to rightfully get it. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I now yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri and the gentlewoman from New York for their support.

I rise today to encourage my colleagues to support the bipartisan H.R. 1816, the Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act of 2015. This bill would remove an unnecessary barrier that prevents our disabled wartime veterans from receiving the housing assistance they so critically need.

This body recognized the importance of this issue when it unanimously passed substantially similar bills, H.R. 6361 and H.R. 1742, during the 112th and 113th Congresses. Unfortunately, these bills were not considered by the Senate. I am hoping the third time is the charm.

Quite simply, H.R. 1816 prevents the Department of Housing and Urban Development from considering a veteran's aid and attendance benefits as income when calculating their eligibility for housing assistance. The aid and attendance benefit is an enhanced pension provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to our Nation's wartime veterans who are severely disabled and have little or no income.

Veterans eligible for this benefit are those requiring the aid of another person in order to perform their activities of daily living, such as bathing, eating, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting themselves from the hazards of their daily environment.

In order to receive this benefit, our severely disabled veterans must first establish their eligibility for a low-income pension, which requires an annual adjusted gross income of less than $12,868 for a single veteran with no dependents. Once eligibility is determined, low-income disabled vets can receive roughly an additional $8,600 in aid and attendance benefits annually to help defray the cost of their medical care. This is an important point. This aid and attendance benefit is for medical care. It is not discretionary income; it is not for groceries; it is not for transportation, utilities, or anything else.

As you can imagine, these low-income veterans struggle daily to keep the lights on, put food on the table, and keep a roof over their heads. Add to that the exorbitant cost of paying for a personal care attendant, and it becomes increasingly difficult for them to stay in their homes.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development operates a number of programs that can assist these veterans. However, current regulations require that the aid and attendance benefit be counted as income when determining eligibility for housing assistance. Mr. Speaker, this makes no sense.

The VA provides this benefit to ensure that our low-income disabled wartime vets have the necessary resources to receive the medical care they need and have earned. Now, while $8600 per year may seem like a substantial amount of money, it doesn't fully cover the cost of a full-time aide but is much more cost effective than a nursing home or assisted living facility. The median annual cost for a licensed home health aide in 2014 was about $19,000. The cost of an assisted living facility was $42,000, and the median cost of a room in a nursing home is about $80,000 annually. So continuing to count the aid and attendance benefit as income does nothing more than to reduce the housing assistance available to our low-income disabled vets and jeopardizes their ability to live independently.

Mr. Speaker, it is the stated goal of both this House and this administration to reduce homelessness in our veterans population. The need for this legislative fix is just as strong today as it was last Congress and the Congress before that. Most recent statistics from the Department of Housing and Urban Development indicate that approximately 50,000 veterans are homeless, and we certainly don't want to add to that number.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1816 will go a long way towards preventing additional homelessness for our Nation's veterans. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to underscore a point that Congressman HECK made that so many

of our veterans become homeless, and it is a huge problem across this country. By passing this bill, we will enable more veterans to stay in their homes and to have the respect and dignity that they deserve.

This is a commonsense bill. It has passed this body two times before, almost unanimously. I hope that, as Mr. HECK said, the third time is the charm and that we will finally get this through the Senate. It is well deserved and long overdue. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this fair and commonsense proposal that will help our veterans.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished lady from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) for her fine work on this bill and for her strong support. I also want to thank the sponsor of the bill, the distinguished gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK), for again bringing this to our attention and again attempting to right a wrong here. This is certainly something we certainly need to support and will do. I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1816, as amended

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1700

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2015

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 178) to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 178

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

SEC. 101. DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 3014. Additional special assessment

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and ending on September 30, 2019, in addition to the assessment imposed under section 3013, the court shall assess an amount of $5,000 on any non-indigent person or entity convicted of an offense under—

''(1) chapter 77 (relating to peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons);

''(2) chapter 109A (relating to sexual abuse);

''(3) chapter 110 (relating to sexual exploitation and other abuse of children);

''(4) chapter 117 (relating to transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes); or

''(5) section 274 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324) (relating to human smuggling), unless the person induced, assisted, abetted, or aided only an individual who at the time of such action was the alien's spouse, parent, son, or daughter (and no other individual) to enter the United States in violation of law.

''(b) SATISFACTION OF OTHER COURT-ORDERED OBLIGATIONS.—An assessment under subsection (a) shall not be payable until the person subject to the assessment has satisfied all outstanding court-ordered fines, orders of restitution, and any other obligation related to victim-compensation arising from the criminal convictions on which the special assessment is based.

''(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the 'Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund' (referred to in this section as the 'Fund'), to be administered by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

''(d) TRANSFERS.—In a manner consistent with section 3302(b) of title 31, there shall be transferred to the Fund from the General Fund of the Treasury an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section, which shall remain available until expended.

''(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts in the Fund, in addition to any other amounts available, and without further appropriation, the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, use amounts available in the Fund to award grants or enhance victims' programming under—

''(A) section 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044c);

''(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

''(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

''(2) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subsection (h)(2), none of the amounts in the Fund may be used to provide health care or medical items or services.

''(f) COLLECTION METHOD.—The amount assessed under subsection (a) shall, subject to subsection (b), be collected in the manner that fines are collected in criminal cases.

''(g) DURATION OF OBLIGATION.—Subject to section 3613(b), the obligation to pay an assessment imposed on or after the date of enactment of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 shall not cease until the assessment is paid in full.

''(h) HEALTH OR MEDICAL SERVICES.—

''(1) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—From amounts appropriated under section 10503(b)(1)(E) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–2(b)(1)(E)), as amended by section 221 of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, there shall be transferred to the Fund an amount equal to the amount transferred under subsection (d) for each fiscal year, except that the amount transferred under this paragraph shall not be less than $5,000,000 or more than $30,000,000 in each such fiscal year, and such amounts shall remain available until expended.

''(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall use amounts transferred to the Fund under paragraph (1) to award grants that may be used for the provision of health care or medical items or services to victims of trafficking under—

''(A) sections 202, 203, and 204 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044a, 14044b, and 14044c);

''(B) subsections (b)(2) and (f) of section 107 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105); and

''(C) section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

''(3) GRANTS.—Of the amounts in the Fund used under paragraph (1), not less than $2,000,000, if such amounts are available in the Fund during the relevant fiscal year, shall be used for grants to provide services for child pornography victims under section 214(b) of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13002(b)).

''(4) APPLICATION OF PROVISION.—The application of the provisions of section 221(c) of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 shall continue to apply to the amounts transferred pursuant to paragraph (1).''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3013 the following:

''3014. Additional special assessment.''.

SEC. 102. CLARIFYING THE BENEFITS AND PROTECTIONS OFFERED TO DOMESTIC VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Section 107(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (G) and (H), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

''(F) NO REQUIREMENT OF OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to require United States citizens or lawful permanent residents who are victims of severe forms of trafficking to obtain an official certification from the Secretary of Health and Human Services in order to access any of the specialized services described in this subsection or any other Federal benefits and protections to which they are otherwise entitled.''; and

(3) in subparagraph (H), as redesignated, by striking ''subparagraph (F)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (G)''.

SEC. 103. VICTIM-CENTERED CHILD HUMAN TRAFFICKING DETERRENCE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044b) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 203. VICTIM-CENTERED CHILD HUMAN TRAFFICKING DETERRENCE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

''(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General may award block grants to an eligible entity to develop, improve, or expand domestic child human trafficking deterrence programs that assist law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judicial officials, and qualified victims' services organizations in collaborating to rescue and restore the lives of victims, while investigating and prosecuting offenses involving child human trafficking.

''(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Grants awarded under subsection (a) may be used for—

''(1) the establishment or enhancement of specialized training programs for law enforcement officers, first responders, health care officials, child welfare officials, juvenile justice personnel, prosecutors, and judicial personnel to—

''(A) identify victims and acts of child human trafficking;

''(B) address the unique needs of child victims of human trafficking;

''(C) facilitate the rescue of child victims of human trafficking;

''(D) investigate and prosecute acts of human trafficking, including the soliciting, patronizing, or purchasing of commercial sex acts from children, as well as training to build cases against complex criminal networks involved in child human trafficking; and

''(E) utilize, implement, and provide education on safe harbor laws enacted by States, aimed at preventing the criminalization and prosecution of child sex trafficking victims for prostitution offenses, and other laws aimed at the investigation and prosecution of child human trafficking;

''(2) the establishment or enhancement of dedicated anti-trafficking law enforcement units and task forces to investigate child human trafficking offenses and to rescue victims, including—

''(A) funding salaries, in whole or in part, for law enforcement officers, including patrol officers, detectives, and investigators, except that the percentage of the salary of the law enforcement officer paid for by funds from a grant awarded under this section shall not be more than the percentage of the officer's time on duty that is dedicated to working on cases involving child human trafficking;

''(B) investigation expenses for cases involving child human trafficking, including—

''(i) wire taps;

''(ii) consultants with expertise specific to cases involving child human trafficking;

''(iii) travel; and

''(iv) other technical assistance expenditures;

''(C) dedicated anti-trafficking prosecution units, including the funding of salaries for State and local prosecutors, including assisting in paying trial expenses for prosecution of child human trafficking offenders, except that the percentage of the total salary of a State or local prosecutor that is paid using an award under this section shall be not more than the percentage of the total number of hours worked by the prosecutor that is spent working on cases involving child human trafficking;

''(D) the establishment of child human trafficking victim witness safety, assistance, and relocation programs that encourage cooperation with law enforcement investigations of crimes of child human trafficking by leveraging existing resources and delivering child human trafficking victims' services through coordination with—

''(i) child advocacy centers;

''(ii) social service agencies;

''(iii) State governmental health service agencies;

''(iv) housing agencies;

''(v) legal services agencies; and

''(vi) nongovernmental organizations and shelter service providers with substantial experience in delivering wrap-around services to victims of child human trafficking; and

''(E) the establishment or enhancement of other necessary victim assistance programs or personnel, such as victim or child advocates, child-protective services, child forensic interviews, or other necessary service providers;

''(3) activities of law enforcement agencies to find homeless and runaway youth, including salaries and associated expenses for retired Federal law enforcement officers assisting the law enforcement agencies in finding homeless and runaway youth; and

''(4) the establishment or enhancement of problem solving court programs for trafficking victims that include—

''(A) mandatory and regular training requirements for judicial officials involved in the administration or operation of the court program described under this paragraph;

''(B) continuing judicial supervision of victims of child human trafficking, including case worker or child welfare supervision in collaboration with judicial officers, who have been identified by a law enforcement or judicial officer as a potential victim of child human trafficking, regardless of whether the victim has been charged with a crime related to human trafficking;

''(C) the development of a specialized and individualized, court-ordered treatment program for identified victims of child human trafficking, including—

''(i) State-administered outpatient treatment;

''(ii) life skills training;

''(iii) housing placement;

''(iv) vocational training;

''(v) education;

''(vi) family support services; and

''(vii) job placement;

''(D) centralized case management involving the consolidation of all of each child

human trafficking victim's cases and offenses, and the coordination of all trafficking victim treatment programs and social services;

''(E) regular and mandatory court appearances by the victim during the duration of the treatment program for purposes of ensuring compliance and effectiveness;

''(F) the ultimate dismissal of relevant non-violent criminal charges against the victim, where such victim successfully complies with the terms of the court-ordered treatment program; and

''(G) collaborative efforts with child advocacy centers, child welfare agencies, shelters, and nongovernmental organizations with substantial experience in delivering wrap-around services to victims of child human trafficking to provide services to victims and encourage cooperation with law enforcement.

''(c) APPLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity shall submit an application to the Attorney General for a grant under this section in such form and manner as the Attorney General may require.

''(2) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—An application submitted under this subsection shall—

''(A) describe the activities for which assistance under this section is sought;

''(B) include a detailed plan for the use of funds awarded under the grant;

''(C) provide such additional information and assurances as the Attorney General determines to be necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section; and

''(D) disclose—

''(i) any other grant funding from the Department of Justice or from any other Federal department or agency for purposes similar to those described in subsection (b) for which the eligible entity has applied, and which application is pending on the date of the submission of an application under this section; and

''(ii) any other such grant funding that the eligible entity has received during the 5-year period ending on the date of the submission of an application under this section.

''(3) PREFERENCE.—In reviewing applications submitted in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2), the Attorney General shall give preference to grant applications if—

''(A) the application includes a plan to use awarded funds to engage in all activities described under paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (b); or

''(B) the application includes a plan by the State or unit of local government to continue funding of all activities funded by the award after the expiration of the award.

''(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES SOLICITING DATA ON CHILD HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—No eligible entity shall be disadvantaged in being awarded a grant under subsection (a) on the grounds that the eligible entity has only recently begun soliciting data on child human trafficking.

''(d) DURATION AND RENEWAL OF AWARD.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section shall expire 3 years after the date of award of the grant.

''(2) RENEWAL.—A grant under this section shall be renewable not more than 2 times and for a period of not greater than 2 years.

''(e) EVALUATION.—The Attorney General shall—

''(1) enter into a contract with a nongovernmental organization, including an academic or nonprofit organization, that has experience with issues related to child human trafficking and evaluation of grant programs to conduct periodic evaluations of grants made under this section to determine the impact and effectiveness of programs funded with grants awarded under this section;

''(2) instruct the Inspector General of the Department of Justice to review evaluations issued under paragraph (1) to determine the methodological and statistical validity of the evaluations; and

''(3) submit the results of any evaluation conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) to—

''(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

''(f) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—An eligible entity awarded funds under this section that is found to have used grant funds for any unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost shall not be eligible for any grant funds awarded under the block grant for 2 fiscal years following the year in which the unauthorized expenditure or unallowable cost is reported.

''(g) COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT.—An eligible entity shall not be eligible to receive a grant under this section if within the 5 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this section, the grantee has been found to have violated the terms or conditions of a Government grant program by utilizing grant funds for unauthorized expenditures or otherwise unallowable costs.

''(h) ADMINISTRATIVE CAP.—The cost of administering the grants authorized by this section shall not exceed 5 percent of the total amount expended to carry out this section.

''(i) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of a program funded by a grant awarded under this section shall be—

''(1) 70 percent in the first year;

''(2) 60 percent in the second year; and

''(3) 50 percent in the third year, and in all subsequent years.

''(j) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING; FULLY OFFSET.—For purposes of carrying out this section, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, is authorized to award not more than $7,000,000 of the funds available in the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund, established under section 3014 of title 18, United States Code, for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

''(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'child' means a person under the age of 18;

''(2) the term 'child advocacy center' means a center created under subtitle A of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.);

''(3) the term 'child human trafficking' means 1 or more severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)) involving a victim who is a child; and

''(4) the term 'eligible entity' means a State or unit of local government that—

''(A) has significant criminal activity involving child human trafficking;

''(B) has demonstrated cooperation between Federal, State, local, and, where applicable, tribal law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and social service providers in addressing child human trafficking;

''(C) has developed a workable, multi-disciplinary plan to combat child human trafficking, including—

''(i) the establishment of a shelter for victims of child human trafficking, through existing or new facilities;

''(ii) the provision of trauma-informed, gender-responsive rehabilitative care to victims of child human trafficking;

''(iii) the provision of specialized training for law enforcement officers and social service providers for all forms of human trafficking, with a focus on domestic child human trafficking;

''(iv) prevention, deterrence, and prosecution of offenses involving child human trafficking, including soliciting, patronizing, or purchasing human acts with children;

''(v) cooperation or referral agreements with organizations providing outreach or other related services to runaway and homeless youth;

''(vi) law enforcement protocols or procedures to screen all individuals arrested for prostitution, whether adult or child, for victimization by sex trafficking and by other crimes, such as sexual assault and domestic violence; and

''(vii) cooperation or referral agreements with State child welfare agencies and child advocacy centers; and

''(D) provides an assurance that, under the plan under subparagraph (C), a victim of child human trafficking shall not be required to collaborate with law enforcement officers to have access to any shelter or services provided with a grant under this section.

''(l) GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY; SPECIALIZED VICTIMS' SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—No grant funds under this section may be awarded or transferred to any entity unless such entity has demonstrated substantial experience providing services to victims of human trafficking or related populations (such as runaway and homeless youth), or employs staff specialized in the treatment of human trafficking victims.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (22 U.S.C. 7101 note) is amended by striking the item relating to section 203 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 203. Victim-centered child human trafficking deterrence block grant program.''.

SEC. 104. DIRECT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.

The Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 212(5) (42 U.S.C. 13001a(5)), by inserting '', including human trafficking and the production of child pornography'' before the semicolon at the end; and

(2) in section 214 (42 U.S.C. 13002)—

(A) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and (d) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) DIRECT SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.—The Administrator, in coordination with the Director and with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime, may make grants to develop and implement specialized programs to identify and provide direct services to victims of child pornography.''.

SEC. 105. INCREASING COMPENSATION AND RESTITUTION FOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 18.—Section 1594 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''that was used or'' and inserting ''that was involved in, used, or''; and

(ii) by inserting '', and any property traceable to such property'' after ''such violation''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', or any property traceable to such property'' after ''such violation'';

(2) in subsection (e)(1)(A)—

(A) by striking ''used or'' and inserting ''involved in, used, or''; and

(B) by inserting '', and any property traceable to such property'' after ''any violation of this chapter'';

(3) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) TRANSFER OF FORFEITED ASSETS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Attorney General shall transfer assets forfeited pursuant to this section, or the proceeds derived from the sale thereof, to satisfy victim restitution orders arising from violations of this chapter.

''(2) PRIORITY.—Transfers pursuant to paragraph (1) shall have priority over any other claims to the assets or their proceeds.

''(3) USE OF NONFORFEITED ASSETS.—Transfers pursuant to paragraph (1) shall not reduce or otherwise mitigate the obligation of a person convicted of a violation of this chapter to satisfy the full amount of a restitution order through the use of non-forfeited assets or to reimburse the Attorney General for the value of assets or proceeds transferred under this subsection through the use of nonforfeited assets.''.

(b) AMENDMENT TO TITLE 28.—Section 524(c)(1)(B) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''chapter 77 of title 18,'' after ''criminal drug laws of the United States or of''.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 31.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 97 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating section 9703 (as added by section 638(b)(1) of the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1993 (Public Law 102–393; 106 Stat. 1779)) as section 9705; and

(B) in section 9705(a), as redesignated—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in subparagraph (I)—

(aa) by striking ''payment'' and inserting ''Payment''; and

(bb) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(II) in subparagraph (J), by striking ''payment'' and inserting ''Payment''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (B)—

(aa) in clause (iii)—

(AA) in subclause (I), by striking ''or'' and inserting ''of''; and

(BB) in subclause (III), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(bb) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(cc) by inserting after clause (iv) the following:

''(v) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement with respect to a violation of chapter 77 of title 18 (relating to human trafficking);'';

(II) in subparagraph (G), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(III) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) CROSS REFERENCES.—

(i) TITLE 28.—Section 524(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(I) in paragraph (4)(C), by striking ''section 9703(g)(4)(A)(ii)'' and inserting ''section 9705(g)(4)(A)'';

(II) in paragraph (10), by striking ''section 9703(p)'' and inserting ''section 9705(o)''; and

(III) in paragraph (11), by striking ''section 9703'' and inserting ''section 9705''.

(ii) TITLE 31.—Title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(I) in section 312(d), by striking ''section 9703'' and inserting ''section 9705''; and

(II) in section 5340(1), by striking ''section 9703(p)(1)'' and inserting ''section 9705(o)''.

(iii) TITLE 39.—Section 2003(e)(1) of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 9703(p)'' and inserting ''section 9705(o)''.

(B) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 97 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''9701. Fees and charges for Government services and things of value.
''9702. Investment of trust funds.
''9703. Managerial accountability and flexibility.
''9704. Pilot projects for managerial accountability and flexibility.
''9705. Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund.''.

SEC. 106. STREAMLINING HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 2516 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (a), by inserting a comma after ''weapons)'';

(B) in subparagraph (c)—

(i) by inserting ''section 1581 (peonage), section 1584 (involuntary servitude), section 1589 (forced labor), section 1590 (trafficking with respect to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor),'' before ''section 1591'';

(ii) by inserting ''section 1592 (unlawful conduct with respect to documents in furtherance of trafficking, peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor),'' before ''section 1751'';

(iii) by inserting a comma after ''virus)'';

(iv) by striking '',, section'' and inserting a comma;

(v) by striking ''or'' after ''misuse of passports),''; and

(vi) by inserting ''or'' before ''section 555'';

(C) in subparagraph (j), by striking ''pipeline,)'' and inserting ''pipeline),''; and

(D) in subparagraph (p), by striking ''documents, section 1028A (relating to aggravated identity theft))'' and inserting ''documents), section 1028A (relating to aggravated identity theft)''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''human trafficking, child sexual exploitation, child pornography production,'' after ''kidnapping''.

SEC. 107. ENHANCING HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORTING.

Section 505 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3755) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) PART 1 VIOLENT CRIMES TO INCLUDE HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—For purposes of this section, the term 'part 1 violent crimes' shall include severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)).''.

SEC. 108. REDUCING DEMAND FOR SEX TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''or maintains'' and inserting ''maintains, patronizes, or solicits'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or obtained'' and inserting ''obtained, patronized, or solicited''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''or obtained'' and inserting ''obtained, patronized, or solicited''; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''or maintained'' and inserting '', maintained, patronized, or solicited''; and

(B) by striking ''knew that the person'' and inserting ''knew, or recklessly disregarded the fact, that the person''.

(b) DEFINITION AMENDED.—Section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)) is amended by striking ''or obtaining'' and inserting ''obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting''.

(c) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the amendments made by this section is to clarify the range of conduct punished as sex trafficking.

SEC. 109. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, defines a sex trafficker as a person who ''knowingly. . .recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, obtains, or maintains by any means a person. . .knowing, or in reckless disregard of the fact, that means of force, threats of force, fraud, coercion. . .or any combination of such means will be used to cause the person to engage in a commercial sex act, or that the person has not attained the age of 18 years and will be caused to engage in a commercial sex act'';

(2) while use of the word ''obtains'' in section 1591, United States Code, has been interpreted, prior to the date of enactment of this Act, to encompass those who purchase illicit sexual acts from trafficking victims, some confusion persists;

(3) in United States vs. Jungers, 702 F.3d 1066 (8th Cir. 2013), the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit ruled that section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, applied to persons who purchase illicit sexual acts with trafficking victims after the United States District Court for the District of South Dakota erroneously granted motions to acquit these buyers in two separate cases; and

(4) section 108 of this title amends section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, to add the words ''solicits or patronizes'' to the sex trafficking statute making absolutely clear for judges, juries, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials that criminals who purchase sexual acts from human trafficking victims may be arrested, prosecuted, and convicted as sex trafficking offenders when this is merited by the facts of a particular case.

SEC. 110. USING EXISTING TASK FORCES AND COMPONENTS TO TARGET OFFENDERS WHO EXPLOIT CHILDREN.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall ensure that—

(1) all task forces and working groups within the Innocence Lost National Initiative engage in activities, programs, or operations to increase the investigative capabilities of State and local law enforcement officers in the detection, investigation, and prosecution of persons who patronize, or solicit children for sex; and

(2) all components and task forces with jurisdiction to detect, investigate, and prosecute cases of child labor trafficking engage in activities, programs, or operations to increase the capacity of such components to deter and punish child labor trafficking.

SEC. 111. TARGETING CHILD PREDATORS.

(a) CLARIFYING THAT CHILD PORNOGRAPHY PRODUCERS ARE HUMAN TRAFFICKERS.—Section 2423(f) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''means (1) a'' and inserting the following: ''means—

''(1) a'';

(2) by striking ''United States; or (2) any'' and inserting the following: ''United States;

''(2) any''; and

(3) by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: ''; or

''(3) production of child pornography (as defined in section 2256(8)).''.

(b) HOLDING SEX TRAFFICKERS ACCOUNTABLE.—Section 2423(g) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''a preponderance of the evidence'' and inserting ''clear and convincing evidence''.

SEC. 112. MONITORING ALL HUMAN TRAFFICKERS AS VIOLENT CRIMINALS.

Section 3156(a)(4)(C) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''77,'' after ''chapter''.

SEC. 113. CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3771 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(9) The right to be informed in a timely manner of any plea bargain or deferred prosecution agreement.

''(10) The right to be informed of the rights under this section and the services described in section 503(c) of the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 10607(c)) and provided contact information for the Office of the Victims' Rights Ombudsman of the Department of Justice.'';

(2) in subsection (d)(3), in the fifth sentence, by inserting '', unless the litigants, with the approval of the court, have stipulated to a different time period for consideration'' before the period; and

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking ''this chapter, the term'' and inserting the following: ''this chapter:

''(1) COURT OF APPEALS.—The term 'court of appeals' means—

''(A) the United States court of appeals for the judicial district in which a defendant is being prosecuted; or

''(B) for a prosecution in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

''(2) CRIME VICTIM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term'';

(B) by striking ''In the case'' and inserting the following:

''(B) MINORS AND CERTAIN OTHER VICTIMS.—In the case''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) DISTRICT COURT; COURT.—The terms 'district court' and 'court' include the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.''.

(b) CRIME VICTIMS FUND.—Section 1402(d)(3)(A)(i) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601(d)(3)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting ''section'' before ''3771''.

(c) APPELLATE REVIEW OF PETITIONS RELATING TO CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3771(d)(3) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a)(2) of this section, is amended by inserting after the fifth sentence the following: ''In deciding such application, the court of appeals shall apply ordinary standards of appellate review.''.

(2) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to any petition for a writ of mandamus filed under section 3771(d)(3) of title 18, United States Code, that is pending on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 114. COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Combat Human Trafficking Act of 2015''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMERCIAL SEX ACT; SEVERE FORMS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS; STATE; TASK FORCE.—The terms ''commercial sex act'', ''severe forms of trafficking in persons'', ''State'', and ''Task Force'' have the meanings given those terms in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(2) COVERED OFFENDER.—The term ''covered offender'' means an individual who obtains, patronizes, or solicits a commercial sex act involving a person subject to severe forms of trafficking in persons.

(3) COVERED OFFENSE.—The term ''covered offense'' means the provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a commercial sex act involving a person subject to severe forms of trafficking in persons.

(4) FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term ''Federal law enforcement officer'' has the meaning given the term in section 115 of title 18, United States Code.

(5) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term ''local law enforcement officer'' means any officer, agent, or employee of a unit of local government authorized by law or by a local government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

(6) STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term ''State law enforcement officer'' means any officer, agent, or employee of a State authorized by law or by a State government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TRAINING AND POLICY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, PROSECUTORS, AND JUDGES.—

(1) TRAINING.—

(A) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—The Attorney General shall ensure that each anti-human trafficking program operated by the Department of Justice, including each anti-human trafficking training program for Federal, State, or local law enforcement officers, includes technical training on—

(i) effective methods for investigating and prosecuting covered offenders; and

(ii) facilitating the provision of physical and mental health services by health care providers to persons subject to severe forms of trafficking in persons.

(B) FEDERAL PROSECUTORS.—The Attorney General shall ensure that each anti-human trafficking program operated by the Department of Justice for United States attorneys or other Federal prosecutors includes training on seeking restitution for offenses under chapter 77 of title 18, United States Code, to ensure that each United States attorney or other Federal prosecutor, upon obtaining a conviction for such an offense, requests a specific amount of restitution for each victim of the offense without regard to whether the victim requests restitution.

(C) JUDGES.—The Federal Judicial Center shall provide training to judges relating to the application of section 1593 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to ordering restitution for victims of offenses under chapter 77 of such title.

(2) POLICY FOR FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—The Attorney General shall ensure that Federal law enforcement officers are engaged in activities, programs, or operations involving the detection, investigation, and prosecution of covered offenders.

(d) MINIMUM PERIOD OF SUPERVISED RELEASE FOR CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT COMMERCIAL CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING.—Section 3583(k) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''1594(c),'' after ''1591,''.

(e) BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS REPORT ON STATE ENFORCEMENT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROHIBITIONS.—The Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics shall—

(1) prepare an annual report on—

(A) the rates of—

(i) arrest of individuals by State law enforcement officers for a covered offense;

(ii) prosecution (including specific charges) of individuals in State court systems for a covered offense; and

(iii) conviction of individuals in State court systems for a covered offense; and

(B) sentences imposed on individuals convicted in State court systems for a covered offense; and

(2) submit the annual report prepared under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(C) the Task Force;

(D) the Senior Policy Operating Group established under section 105(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(g)); and

(E) the Attorney General.

SEC. 115. SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING EMPOWERMENT ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Survivors of Human Trafficking Empowerment Act''.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking (referred to in this section as the ''Council''), which shall provide advice and recommendations to the Senior Policy Operating Group established under section 105(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(g)) (referred to in this section as the ''Group'') and the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking established under section 105(a) of such Act (referred to in this section as the ''Task Force'').

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Council shall be composed of not less than 8 and not more than 14 individuals who are survivors of human trafficking.

(2) REPRESENTATION OF SURVIVORS.—To the extent practicable, members of the Council shall be survivors of trafficking, who shall accurately reflect the diverse backgrounds of survivors of trafficking, including—

(A) survivors of sex trafficking and survivors of labor trafficking; and

(B) survivors who are United States citizens and survivors who are aliens lawfully present in the United States.

(3) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall appoint the members of the Council.

(4) TERM; REAPPOINTMENT.—Each member of the Council shall serve for a term of 2 years and may be reappointed by the President to serve 1 additional 2-year term.

(d) FUNCTIONS.—The Council shall—

(1) be a nongovernmental advisory body to the Group;

(2) meet, at its own discretion or at the request of the Group, not less frequently than annually to review Federal Government policy and programs intended to combat human trafficking, including programs relating to the provision of services for victims and serve as a point of contact for Federal agencies reaching out to human trafficking survivors for input on programming and policies relating to human trafficking in the United States;

(3) formulate assessments and recommendations to ensure that policy and programming efforts of the Federal Government conform, to the extent practicable, to the best practices in the field of human trafficking prevention; and

(4) meet with the Group not less frequently than annually, and not later than 45 days before a meeting with the Task Force, to formally present the findings and recommendations of the Council.

(e) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and each year thereafter until the date described in subsection (h), the Council shall submit a report that contains the findings derived from the reviews conducted pursuant to subsection (d)(2) to—

(1) the chair of the Task Force;

(2) the members of the Group;

(3) the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, Appropriations, and the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committees on Foreign Relations, Appropriations, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Judiciary of the Senate.

(f) EMPLOYEE STATUS.—Members of the Council—

(1) shall not be considered employees of the Federal Government for any purpose; and

(2) shall not receive compensation other than reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem allowance in accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(g) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Council shall not be subject to the requirements under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(h) SUNSET.—The Council shall terminate on September 30, 2020.

SEC. 116. BRINGING MISSING CHILDREN HOME ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Bringing Missing Children Home Act''.

(b) CRIME CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS.—Section 3702 of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 5780) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) a recent photograph of the child, if available;''; and

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3)'';

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''60 days'' and inserting ''30 days''; and

(ii) by inserting ''and a photograph taken during the previous 180 days'' after ''dental records'';

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D);

(E) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) notify the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of each report received relating to a child reported missing from a foster care family home or childcare institution;'';

(F) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated—

(i) by inserting ''State and local child welfare systems and'' before ''the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children''; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) grant permission to the National Crime Information Center Terminal Contractor for the State to update the missing person record in the National Crime Information Center computer networks with additional information learned during the investigation relating to the missing person.''.

SEC. 117. GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''covered grant'' means a grant awarded by the Attorney General under section 203 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 14044b), as amended by section 103.

(b) ACCOUNTABILITY.—All covered grants shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of a covered grant to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

(B) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ''unresolved audit finding'' means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General that the audited grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months from the date when the final audit report is issued.

(C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of a covered grant that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive a covered grant during the following 2 fiscal years.

(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding covered grants the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible entities that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years prior to submitting an application for a covered grant.

(E) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an entity is awarded a covered grant during the 2-fiscal-year period in which the entity is barred from receiving grants under subparagraph (C), the Attorney General shall—

(i) deposit an amount equal to the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

(2) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph and covered grants, the term ''nonprofit organization'' means an organization that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

(B) PROHIBITION.—The Attorney General may not award a covered grant to a nonprofit organization that holds money in offshore accounts for the purpose of avoiding paying the tax described in section 511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) DISCLOSURE.—Each nonprofit organization that is awarded a covered grant and uses the procedures prescribed in regulations to create a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness for the compensation of its officers, directors, trustees and key employees, shall disclose to the Attorney General, in the application for the grant, the process for determining such compensation, including the independent persons involved in reviewing and approving such compensation, the comparability data used, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision. Upon request, the Attorney General shall make the information disclosed under this subsection available for public inspection.

(3) CONFERENCE EXPENDITURES.—

(A) LIMITATION.—No amounts transferred to the Department of Justice under this title, or the amendments made by this title, may be used by the Attorney General, or by any individual or organization awarded discretionary funds through a cooperative agreement under this title, or the amendments made by this title, to host or support any expenditure for conferences that uses more than $20,000 in Department funds, unless the Deputy Attorney General or such Assistant Attorney Generals, Directors, or principal deputies as the Deputy Attorney General may designate, provides prior written authorization that the funds may be expended to host a conference.

(B) WRITTEN APPROVAL.—Written approval under subparagraph (A) shall include a written estimate of all costs associated with the conference, including the cost of all food and beverages, audiovisual equipment, honoraria for speakers, and any entertainment.

(C) REPORT.—The Deputy Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on all approved conference expenditures referenced in this paragraph.

(D) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this title, the Attorney General shall submit, to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, an annual certification that—

(i) all audits issued by the Office of the Inspector General under paragraph (1) have been completed and reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Attorney General or Director;

(ii) all mandatory exclusions required under paragraph (1)(C) have been issued;

(iii) all reimbursements required under paragraph (1)(E) have been made; and

(iv) includes a list of any grant recipients excluded under paragraph (1) from the previous year.

(4) PROHIBITION ON LOBBYING ACTIVITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts awarded under this title, or any amendments made by this title, may not be utilized by any grant recipient to—

(i) lobby any representative of the Department of Justice regarding the award of grant funding; or

(ii) lobby any representative of a Federal, State, local, or tribal government regarding the award of grant funding.

(B) PENALTY.—If the Attorney General determines that any recipient of a covered grant has violated subparagraph (A), the Attorney General shall—

(i) require the grant recipient to repay the grant in full; and

(ii) prohibit the grant recipient from receiving another covered grant for not less than 5 years.

SEC. 118. SAVE ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation Act of 2015'' or the ''SAVE Act of 2015''.

(b) ADVERTISING THAT OFFERS CERTAIN COMMERCIAL ACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1591(a)(1) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting ''advertises,'' after ''obtains,''.

(2) MENS REA REQUIREMENT.—Section 1591(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended in the undesignated matter following paragraph (2), by inserting '', except where the act constituting the violation of paragraph (1) is advertising,'' after ''knowing, or''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1591(b) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''advertised,'' after ''obtained,''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''advertised,'' after ''obtained,''.

SEC. 119. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH TO TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.

The Attorney General shall make available, on the website of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, a database for trafficking victim advocates, crisis hotline personnel, foster parents, law enforcement personnel, and crime survivors that contains information on—

(1) counseling and hotline resources;

(2) housing resources;

(3) legal assistance; and

(4) other services for trafficking survivors.

SEC. 120. EXPANDED STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CIVIL ACTIONS BY CHILD TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.

Section 1595(c) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''not later than

10 years after the cause of action arose.'' and inserting ''not later than the later of—

''(1) 10 years after the cause of action arose; or

''(2) 10 years after the victim reaches 18 years of age, if the victim was a minor at the time of the alleged offense.''.

SEC. 121. GAO STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on each program or initiative authorized under this Act and the following statutes and evaluate whether any program or initiative is duplicative:

(1) Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–164; 119 Stat. 3558).

(2) Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).

(3) Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13001 et seq.).

(4) Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.).

(5) Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5771 et seq.).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on the study conducted under subsection (a), which shall include—

(1) a description of the cost of any duplicative program or initiative studied under subsection (a); and

(2) recommendations on how to achieve cost savings with respect to each duplicative program or initiative studied under subsection (a).

TITLE II—COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Subtitle A—Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Youth Trafficking

SEC. 201. AMENDMENTS TO THE RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 343(b)(5) (42 U.S.C. 5714–23(b)(5))—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by inserting '', severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9))), and sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)))'' before the semicolon at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by inserting '', severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9))), or sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)))'' after ''assault''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C) by inserting '', including such youth who are victims of trafficking (as defined in section 103(15) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(15)))'' before the semicolon at the end; and

(2) in section 351(a) (42 U.S.C. 5714–41(a)) by striking ''or sexual exploitation'' and inserting ''sexual exploitation, severe forms of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9))), or sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)))''.

Subtitle B—Improving the Response to Victims of Child Sex Trafficking

SEC. 211. RESPONSE TO VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING.

Section 404(b)(1)(P)(iii) of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5773(b)(1)(P)(iii)) is amended by striking ''child prostitution'' and inserting ''child sex trafficking, including child prostitution''.

Subtitle C—Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking

SEC. 221. VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING DEFINED.

In this subtitle, the term ''victim of trafficking'' has the meaning given such term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

SEC. 222. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE REPORT ON CHILD TRAFFICKING PRIMARY PREVENTION.

(a) REVIEW.—The Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, established under section 105 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103), shall conduct a review that, with regard to trafficking in persons in the United States—

(1) in consultation with nongovernmental organizations that the Task Force determines appropriate, surveys and catalogs the activities of the Federal Government and State governments—

(A) to deter individuals from committing trafficking offenses; and

(B) to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking;

(2) surveys academic literature on—

(A) deterring individuals from committing trafficking offenses;

(B) preventing children from becoming victims of trafficking;

(C) the commercial sexual exploitation of children; and

(D) other similar topics that the Task Force determines to be appropriate;

(3) identifies best practices and effective strategies—

(A) to deter individuals from committing trafficking offenses; and

(B) to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking; and

(4) identifies current gaps in research and data that would be helpful in formulating effective strategies—

(A) to deter individuals from committing trafficking offenses; and

(B) to prevent children from becoming victims of trafficking.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking shall provide to Congress, and make publicly available in electronic format, a report on the review conducted pursuant to subparagraph (a).

SEC. 223. GAO REPORT ON INTERVENTION.

On the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress that includes information on—

(1) the efforts of Federal and select State law enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking in the United States; and

(2) each Federal grant program, a purpose of which is to combat human trafficking or assist victims of trafficking, as specified in an authorizing statute or in a guidance document issued by the agency carrying out the grant program.

SEC. 224. PROVISION OF HOUSING PERMITTED TO PROTECT AND ASSIST IN THE RECOVERY OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING.

Section 107(b)(2)(A) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting '', including programs that provide housing to victims of trafficking'' before the period at the end.

Subtitle D—Expanded Training

SEC. 231. EXPANDED TRAINING RELATING TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS.

Section 105(c)(4) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(c)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Appropriate personnel'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Appropriate personnel'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), as redesignated, by inserting '', including members of the Service (as such term is defined in section 103 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3903))'' after ''Department of State''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) TRAINING COMPONENTS.—Training under this paragraph shall include—

''(i) a distance learning course on trafficking-in-persons issues and the Department of State's obligations under this Act, which shall be designed for embassy reporting officers, regional bureaus' trafficking-in-persons coordinators, and their superiors;

''(ii) specific trafficking-in-persons briefings for all ambassadors and deputy chiefs of mission before such individuals depart for their posts; and

''(iii) at least annual reminders to all personnel referred to in clauses (i) and (ii), including appropriate personnel from other Federal departments and agencies, at each diplomatic or consular post of the Department of State located outside the United States of—

''(I) key problems, threats, methods, and warning signs of trafficking in persons specific to the country or jurisdiction in which each such post is located; and

''(II) appropriate procedures to report information that any such personnel may acquire about possible cases of trafficking in persons.''.

TITLE III—HERO ACT

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Human Exploitation Rescue Operations Act of 2015'' or the ''HERO Act of 2015''.

SEC. 302. HERO ACT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The illegal market for the production and distribution of child abuse imagery is a growing threat to children in the United States. International demand for this material creates a powerful incentive for the rape, abuse, and torture of children within the United States.

(2) The targeting of United States children by international criminal networks is a threat to the homeland security of the United States. This threat must be fought with trained personnel and highly specialized counter-child-exploitation strategies and technologies.

(3) The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the Department of Homeland Security serves a critical national security role in protecting the United States from the growing international threat of child exploitation and human trafficking.

(4) The Cyber Crimes Center of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement is a vital national resource in the effort to combat international child exploitation, providing advanced expertise and assistance in investigations, computer forensics, and victim identification.

(5) The returning military heroes of the United States possess unique and valuable skills that can assist law enforcement in combating global sexual and child exploitation, and the Department of Homeland Security should use this national resource to the maximum extent possible.

(6) Through the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program, the returning military heroes of the United States are trained and hired to investigate crimes of child exploitation in order to target predators and rescue children from sexual abuse and slavery.

(b) CYBER CRIMES CENTER, CHILD EXPLOITATION INVESTIGATIONS UNIT, AND COMPUTER FORENSICS UNIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle H of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.

451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 890A. CYBER CRIMES CENTER, CHILD EXPLOITATION INVESTIGATIONS UNIT, COMPUTER FORENSICS UNIT, AND CYBER CRIMES UNIT.

''(a) CYBER CRIMES CENTER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a Cyber Crimes Center (referred to in this section as the 'Center').

''(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Center shall be to provide investigative assistance, training, and equipment to support United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement's domestic and international investigations of cyber-related crimes.

''(b) CHILD EXPLOITATION INVESTIGATIONS UNIT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within the Center, a Child Exploitation Investigations Unit (referred to in this subsection as the 'CEIU').

''(2) FUNCTIONS.—The CEIU—

''(A) shall coordinate all United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement child exploitation initiatives, including investigations into—

''(i) child exploitation;

''(ii) child pornography;

''(iii) child victim identification;

''(iv) traveling child sex offenders; and

''(v) forced child labor, including the sexual exploitation of minors;

''(B) shall, among other things, focus on—

''(i) child exploitation prevention;

''(ii) investigative capacity building;

''(iii) enforcement operations; and

''(iv) training for Federal, State, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement agency personnel, upon request;

''(C) shall provide training, technical expertise, support, or coordination of child exploitation investigations, as needed, to cooperating law enforcement agencies and personnel;

''(D) shall provide psychological support and counseling services for United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel engaged in child exploitation prevention initiatives, including making available other existing services to assist employees who are exposed to child exploitation material during investigations;

''(E) is authorized to collaborate with the Department of Defense and the National Association to Protect Children for the purpose of the recruiting, training, equipping and hiring of wounded, ill, and injured veterans and transitioning service members, through the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program; and

''(F) shall collaborate with other governmental, nongovernmental, and nonprofit entities approved by the Secretary for the sponsorship of, and participation in, outreach and training activities.

''(3) DATA COLLECTION.—The CEIU shall collect and maintain data concerning—

''(A) the total number of suspects identified by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

''(B) the number of arrests by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, disaggregated by type, including—

''(i) the number of victims identified through investigations carried out by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

''(ii) the number of suspects arrested who were in positions of trust or authority over children;

''(C) the number of cases opened for investigation by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

''(D) the number of cases resulting in a Federal, State, foreign, or military prosecution.

''(4) AVAILABILITY OF DATA TO CONGRESS.—In addition to submitting the reports required under paragraph (7), the CEIU shall make the data collected and maintained under paragraph (3) available to the committees of Congress described in paragraph (7).

''(5) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The CEIU is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements to accomplish the functions set forth in paragraphs (2) and (3).

''(6) ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to accept monies and in-kind donations from the Virtual Global Taskforce, national laboratories, Federal agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and educational institutions to create and expand public awareness campaigns in support of the functions of the CEIU.

''(B) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—Gifts authorized under subparagraph (A) shall not be subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation for competition when the services provided by the entities referred to in such subparagraph are donated or of minimal cost to the Department.

''(7) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the HERO Act of 2015, and annually for the following 4 years, the CEIU shall—

''(A) submit a report containing a summary of the data collected pursuant to paragraph (3) during the previous year to—

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

''(ii) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

''(iii) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

''(iv) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

''(v) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

''(vi) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

''(B) make a copy of each report submitted under subparagraph (A) publicly available on the website of the Department.

''(c) COMPUTER FORENSICS UNIT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within the Center, a Computer Forensics Unit (referred to in this subsection as the 'CFU').

''(2) FUNCTIONS.—The CFU—

''(A) shall provide training and technical support in digital forensics to—

''(i) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel; and

''(ii) Federal, State, local, tribal, military, and foreign law enforcement agency personnel engaged in the investigation of crimes within their respective jurisdictions, upon request and subject to the availability of funds;

''(B) shall provide computer hardware, software, and forensic licenses for all computer forensics personnel within United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

''(C) shall participate in research and development in the area of digital forensics, in coordination with appropriate components of the Department; and

''(D) is authorized to collaborate with the Department of Defense and the National Association to Protect Children for the purpose of recruiting, training, equipping, and hiring wounded, ill, and injured veterans and transitioning service members, through the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program.

''(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The CFU is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements to accomplish the functions set forth in paragraph (2).

''(4) ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to accept monies and in-kind donations from the Virtual Global Task Force, national laboratories, Federal agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and educational institutions to create and expand public awareness campaigns in support of the functions of the CFU.

''(B) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—Gifts authorized under subparagraph (A) shall not be subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation for competition when the services provided by the entities referred to in such subparagraph are donated or of minimal cost to the Department.

''(d) CYBER CRIMES UNIT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall operate, within the Center, a Cyber Crimes Unit (referred to in this subsection as the 'CCU').

''(2) FUNCTIONS.—The CCU—

''(A) shall oversee the cyber security strategy and cyber-related operations and programs for United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

''(B) shall enhance United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement's ability to combat criminal enterprises operating on or through the Internet, with specific focus in the areas of—

''(i) cyber economic crime;

''(ii) digital theft of intellectual property;

''(iii) illicit e-commerce (including hidden marketplaces);

''(iv) Internet-facilitated proliferation of arms and strategic technology; and

''(v) cyber-enabled smuggling and money laundering;

''(C) shall provide training and technical support in cyber investigations to—

''(i) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel; and

''(ii) Federal, State, local, tribal, military, and foreign law enforcement agency personnel engaged in the investigation of crimes within their respective jurisdictions, upon request and subject to the availability of funds;

''(D) shall participate in research and development in the area of cyber investigations, in coordination with appropriate components of the Department; and

''(E) is authorized to recruit participants of the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child Rescue Corps program for investigative and forensic positions in support of the functions of the CCU.

''(3) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The CCU is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements to accomplish the functions set forth in paragraph (2).

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.''.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS 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 adding after the item relating to section 890 the following:

''Sec. 890A. Cyber crimes center, child exploitation investigations unit, computer forensics unit, and cyber crimes unit.''.

(c) HERO CORPS HIRING.—It is the sense of Congress that Homeland Security Investigations of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement should hire, recruit, train, and equip wounded, ill, or injured military veterans (as defined in section 101, title 38, United States Code) who are affiliated with the HERO Child Rescue Corps program for investigative, intelligence, analyst, and forensic positions.

(d) INVESTIGATING CHILD EXPLOITATION.—Section 307(b)(3) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 187(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) conduct research and development for the purpose of advancing technology for the investigation of child exploitation crimes, including child victim identification, trafficking in persons, and child pornography, and for advanced forensics.''.

SEC. 303. TRANSPORTATION FOR ILLEGAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY AND RELATED CRIMES.

Chapter 117 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking section 2421 and inserting the following:

''§ 2421. Transportation generally

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever knowingly transports any individual in interstate or foreign commerce, or in any Territory or Possession of the United States, with intent that such individual engage in prostitution, or in any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

''(b) REQUESTS TO PROSECUTE VIOLATIONS BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall grant a request by a State attorney general that a State or local attorney be cross designated to prosecute a violation of this section unless the Attorney General determines that granting the request would undermine the administration of justice.

''(2) REASON FOR DENIAL.—If the Attorney General denies a request under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall submit to the State attorney general a detailed reason for the denial not later than 60 days after the date on which a request is received.''.

TITLE IV—RAPE SURVIVOR CHILD CUSTODY

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Rape Survivor Child Custody Act''.

SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COVERED FORMULA GRANT.—The term ''covered formula grant'' means a grant under—

(A) part T of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796gg et seq.) (commonly referred to as the ''STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program''); or

(B) section 41601 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043g) (commonly referred to as the ''Sexual Assault Services Program'').

(2) TERMINATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''termination'' means, when used with respect to parental rights, a complete and final termination of the parent's right to custody of, guardianship of, visitation with, access to, and inheritance from a child.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require a State, in order to receive an increase in the amount provided to the State under the covered formula grants under this title, to have in place a law that terminates any obligation of a person who fathered a child through rape to support the child.

SEC. 403. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Men who father children through rape should be prohibited from visiting or having custody of those children.

(2) Thousands of rape-related pregnancies occur annually in the United States.

(3) A substantial number of women choose to raise their child conceived through rape and, as a result, may face custody battles with their rapists.

(4) Rape is one of the most under-prosecuted serious crimes, with estimates of criminal conviction occurring in less than 5 percent of rapes.

(5) The clear and convincing evidence standard is the most common standard for termination of parental rights among the 50 States, territories, and the District of Columbia.

(6) The Supreme Court established that the clear and convincing evidence standard satisfies due process for allegations to terminate or restrict parental rights in Santosky v. Kramer (455 U.S. 745 (1982)).

(7) Currently only 10 States have statutes allowing rape survivors to petition for the termination of parental rights of the rapist based on clear and convincing evidence that the child was conceived through rape.

(8) A rapist pursuing parental or custody rights causes the survivor to have continued interaction with the rapist, which can have traumatic psychological effects on the survivor, and can make it more difficult for her to recover.

(9) These traumatic effects on the mother can severely negatively impact her ability to raise a healthy child.

(10) Rapists may use the threat of pursuing custody or parental rights to coerce survivors into not prosecuting rape, or otherwise harass, intimidate, or manipulate them.

SEC. 404. INCREASED FUNDING FOR FORMULA GRANTS AUTHORIZED.

The Attorney General shall increase the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants in accordance with this title if the State has in place a law that allows the mother of any child that was conceived through rape to seek court-ordered termination of the parental rights of her rapist with regard to that child, which the court is authorized to grant upon clear and convincing evidence of rape.

SEC. 405. APPLICATION.

A State seeking an increase in the amount provided to the State under the covered formula grants shall include in the application of the State for each covered formula grant such information as the Attorney General may reasonably require, including information about the law described in section 404.

SEC. 406. GRANT INCREASE.

The amount of the increase provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title shall be equal to not more than 10 percent of the average of the total amount of funding provided to the State under the covered formula grants under the 3 most recent awards to the State.

SEC. 407. PERIOD OF INCREASE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall provide an increase in the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title for a 2-year period.

(b) LIMIT.—The Attorney General may not provide an increase in the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title more than 4 times.

SEC. 408. ALLOCATION OF INCREASED FORMULA GRANT FUNDS.

The Attorney General shall allocate an increase in the amount provided to a State under the covered formula grants under this title such that—

(1) 25 percent the amount of the increase is provided under the program described in section 402(1)(A); and

(2) 75 percent the amount of the increase is provided under the program described in section 402(1)(B).

SEC. 409. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

TITLE V—MILITARY SEX OFFENDER REPORTING

SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Military Sex Offender Reporting Act of 2015''.

SEC. 502. REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM MILITARY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES OR UPON CONVICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act is amended by inserting after section 128 (42 U.S.C. 16928) the following:

''SEC. 128A. REGISTRATION OF SEX OFFENDERS RELEASED FROM MILITARY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES OR UPON CONVICTION.

''The Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Attorney General the information described in section 114 to be included in the National Sex Offender Registry and the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website regarding persons—

''(1)(A) released from military corrections facilities; or

''(B) convicted if the sentences adjudged by courts-martial under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), do not include confinement; and

''(2) required to register under this title.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 128 the following:

''Sec. 128A. Registration of sex offenders released from military corrections facilities or upon conviction.''.

TITLE VI—STOPPING EXPLOITATION THROUGH TRAFFICKING

SEC. 601. SAFE HARBOR INCENTIVES.

Part Q of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 1701(c), by striking ''where feasible'' and all that follows, and inserting the following: ''where feasible, to an application—

''(1) for hiring and rehiring additional career law enforcement officers that involves a non-Federal contribution exceeding the 25 percent minimum under subsection (g); or

''(2) from an applicant in a State that has in effect a law that—

''(A) treats a minor who has engaged in, or has attempted to engage in, a commercial sex act as a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons;

''(B) discourages or prohibits the charging or prosecution of an individual described in subparagraph (A) for a prostitution or sex trafficking offense, based on the conduct described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) encourages the diversion of an individual described in subparagraph (A) to appropriate service providers, including child welfare services, victim treatment programs, child advocacy centers, rape crisis centers, or other social services.''; and

(2) in section 1709, by inserting at the end the following:

''(5) 'commercial sex act' has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

''(6) 'minor' means an individual who has not attained the age of 18 years.

''(7) 'severe form of trafficking in persons' has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).''.

SEC. 602. REPORT ON RESTITUTION PAID IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN TRAFFICKING OFFENSES.

Section 105(d)(7)(Q) of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(d)(7)(Q)) is amended—

(1) by inserting after ''1590,'' the following: ''1591,'';

(2) by striking ''and 1594'' and inserting ''1594, 2251, 2251A, 2421, 2422, and 2423'';

(3) in clause (iv), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(4) in clause (v), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(5) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

''(vi) the number of individuals required by a court order to pay restitution in connection with a violation of each offense under title 18, United States Code, the amount of restitution required to be paid under each such order, and the amount of restitution actually paid pursuant to each such order; and

''(vii) the age, gender, race, country of origin, country of citizenship, and description of the role in the offense of individuals convicted under each offense; and''.

SEC. 603. NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE.

Section 107(b)(1)(B) of the Victims of Crime Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Subject'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE.—Beginning in fiscal year 2017, and in each fiscal year thereafter, of amounts made available for grants under paragraph (2), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make grants for a national communication system to assist victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons in communicating with service providers. The Secretary shall give priority to grant applicants that have experience in providing telephone services to victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons.''.

SEC. 604. JOB CORPS ELIGIBILITY.

Section 144(a)(3) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3194(a)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) A victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons (as defined in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)). Notwithstanding paragraph (2), an individual described in this subparagraph shall not be required to demonstrate eligibility under such paragraph.''.

SEC. 605. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE.

Section 566(e)(1) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) assist State, local, and other Federal law enforcement agencies, upon the request of such an agency, in locating and recovering missing children.''.

SEC. 606. ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall implement and maintain a National Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking (referred to in this section as the ''National Strategy'') in accordance with this section.

(b) REQUIRED CONTENTS OF NATIONAL STRATEGY.—The National Strategy shall include the following:

(1) Integrated Federal, State, local, and tribal efforts to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases, including—

(A) the development by each United States attorney, in consultation with State, local, and tribal government agencies, of a district-specific strategic plan to coordinate the identification of victims and the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking crimes;

(B) the appointment of not fewer than 1 assistant United States attorney in each district dedicated to the prosecution of human trafficking cases or responsible for implementing the National Strategy;

(C) the participation in any Federal, State, local, or tribal human trafficking task force operating in the district of the United States attorney; and

(D) any other efforts intended to enhance the level of coordination and cooperation, as determined by the Attorney General.

(2) Case coordination within the Department of Justice, including specific integration, coordination, and collaboration, as appropriate, on human trafficking investigations between and among the United States attorneys, the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(3) Annual budget priorities and Federal efforts dedicated to preventing and combating human trafficking, including resources dedicated to the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and all other entities that receive Federal support that have a goal or mission to combat the exploitation of adults and children.

(4) An ongoing assessment of the future trends, challenges, and opportunities, including new investigative strategies, techniques, and technologies, that will enhance Federal, State, local, and tribal efforts to combat human trafficking.

(5) Encouragement of cooperation, coordination, and mutual support between private sector and other entities and organizations and Federal agencies to combat human trafficking, including the involvement of State, local, and tribal government agencies to the extent Federal programs are involved.

TITLE VII—TRAFFICKING AWARENESS TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act of 2015''.

SEC. 702. DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICES.

(a) GRANT OR CONTRACT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, and in consultation with the Administration on Children and Families and other agencies with experience in serving victims of human trafficking, shall award, on a competitive basis, a grant or contract to an eligible entity to train health care professionals to recognize and respond to victims of a severe form of trafficking.

(2) DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE-BASED BEST PRACTICES.—An entity receiving a grant under paragraph (1) shall develop evidence-based best practices for health care professionals to recognize and respond to victims of a severe form of trafficking, including—

(A) consultation with law enforcement officials, social service providers, health professionals, experts in the field of human trafficking, and other experts, as appropriate, to inform the development of such best practices;

(B) the identification of any existing best practices or tools for health professionals to recognize potential victims of a severe form of trafficking; and

(C) the development of educational materials to train health care professionals on the best practices developed under this subsection.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—Best practices developed under this subsection shall address—

(A) risk factors and indicators to recognize victims of a severe form of trafficking;

(B) patient safety and security;

(C) the management of medical records of patients who are victims of a severe form of trafficking;

(D) public and private social services available for rescue, food, clothing, and shelter referrals;

(E) the hotlines for reporting human trafficking maintained by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and the Department of Homeland Security;

(F) validated assessment tools for the identification of victims of a severe form of trafficking; and

(G) referral options and procedures for sharing information on human trafficking with a patient and making referrals for legal and social services as appropriate.

(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—An entity receiving a grant under paragraph (1) shall design and implement a pilot program to test the best practices and educational materials identified or developed with respect to the recognition of victims of human trafficking by health professionals at health care sites located near an established anti-human trafficking task force initiative in each of the 10 administrative regions of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(5) ANALYSIS AND REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the date on which an entity implements a pilot program under paragraph (4), the entity shall—

(A) analyze the results of the pilot programs, including through an assessment of—

(i) changes in the skills, knowledge, and attitude of health care professionals resulting from the implementation of the program;

(ii) the number of victims of a severe form of trafficking who were identified under the program;

(iii) of those victims identified, the number who received information or referrals for services offered; and

(iv) of those victims who received such information or referrals—

(I) the number who participated in follow up services; and

(II) the type of follow up services received;

(B) determine, using the results of the analysis conducted under subparagraph (A), the extent to which the best practices developed under this subsection are evidence-based; and

(C) submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services a report concerning the pilot program and the analysis of the pilot program under subparagraph (A), including an identification of the best practices that were identified as effective and those that require further review.

(b) DISSEMINATION.—Not later than 30 months after date on which a grant is awarded to an eligible entity under subsection (a), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

(1) collaborate with appropriate professional associations and health care professional schools to disseminate best practices identified or developed under subsection (a) for purposes of recognizing potential victims of a severe form of trafficking; and

(2) post on the public website of the Department of Health and Human Services the best practices that are identified by the as effective under subsection (a)(5).

SEC. 703. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) The term ''eligible entity'' means an accredited school of medicine or nursing with experience in the study or treatment of victims of a severe form of trafficking.

(2) The term ''eligible site'' means a health center that is receiving assistance under section 330, 399Z–1, or 1001 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b, 280h–5, and 300).

(3) The term ''health care professional'' means a person employed by a health care provider who provides to patients information (including information not related to medical treatment), scheduling, services, or referrals.

(4) The term ''HIPAA privacy and security law'' has the meaning given to such term in section 3009 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300jj–19).

(5) The term ''victim of a severe form of trafficking'' has the meaning given to such term in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

SEC. 704. NO ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title, and this title shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

TITLE VIII—BETTER RESPONSE FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Ensuring a Better Response for Victims of Child Sex Trafficking''.

SEC. 802. CAPTA AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) made by this section shall take effect 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) STATE PLANS.—Section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(B)—

(A) in clause (xxii), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(xxiv) provisions and procedures requiring identification and assessment of all reports involving children known or suspected to be victims of sex trafficking (as defined in section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102 (10)); and

''(xxv) provisions and procedures for training child protective services workers about identifying, assessing, and providing comprehensive services for children who are sex trafficking victims, including efforts to coordinate with State law enforcement, juvenile justice, and social service agencies such as runaway and homeless youth shelters to serve this population;''; and

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

''(17) The number of children determined to be victims described in subsection (b)(2)(B)(xxiv).''.

(c) SPECIAL RULE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g) is amended—

(A) by striking ''For purposes'' and inserting the following:

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) SPECIAL RULE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 3(2) and subsection (a)(4), a child shall be considered a victim of 'child abuse and neglect' and of 'sexual abuse' if the child is identified, by a State or local agency employee of the State or locality involved, as being a victim of sex trafficking (as defined in paragraph (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)) or a victim of severe forms of trafficking in persons described in paragraph (9)(A) of that section.

''(2) STATE OPTION.—Notwithstanding the definition of 'child' in section 3(1), a State may elect to define that term for purposes of the application of paragraph (1) to section 3(2) and subsection (a)(4) as a person who has not attained the age of 24.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(2) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by inserting ''(including sexual abuse as determined under section 111)'' after ''sexual abuse or exploitation''.

(3) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Paragraph (5)(C) of subsection (a), as so designated, of section 111 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5106g) is amended by striking ''inhumane;'' and inserting ''inhumane.''.

TITLE IX—ANTI-TRAFFICKING TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PERSONNEL

SEC. 901. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—The term ''human trafficking'' means an act or practice described in paragraph (9) or (10) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 902. TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement a program to—

(1) train and periodically retrain relevant Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other Department personnel that the Secretary considers appropriate, with respect to how to effectively deter, detect, and disrupt human trafficking, and, where appropriate, interdict a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking, during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities; and

(2) ensure that the personnel referred to in paragraph (1) regularly receive current information on matters related to the detection of human trafficking, including information that becomes available outside of the Department's initial or periodic retraining schedule, to the extent relevant to their official duties and consistent with applicable information and privacy laws.

(b) TRAINING DESCRIBED.—The training referred to in subsection (a) may be conducted through in-class or virtual learning capabilities, and shall include—

(1) methods for identifying suspected victims of human trafficking and, where appropriate, perpetrators of human trafficking;

(2) for appropriate personnel, methods to approach a suspected victim of human trafficking, where appropriate, in a manner that is sensitive to the suspected victim and is not likely to alert a suspected perpetrator of human trafficking;

(3) training that is most appropriate for a particular location or environment in which the personnel receiving such training perform their official duties;

(4) other topics determined by the Secretary to be appropriate; and

(5) a post-training evaluation for personnel receiving the training.

(c) TRAINING CURRICULUM REVIEW.—The Secretary shall annually reassess the training program established under subsection (a) to ensure it is consistent with current techniques, patterns, and trends associated with human trafficking.

SEC. 903. CERTIFICATION AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall certify to Congress that all personnel referred to in section 402(a) have successfully completed the training required under that section.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall report to Congress with respect to the overall effectiveness of the program required by this title, the number of cases reported by Department personnel in which human trafficking was suspected, and, of those cases, the number of cases that were confirmed cases of human trafficking.

SEC. 904. ASSISTANCE TO NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.

The Secretary may provide training curricula to any State, local, or tribal government or private organization to assist the government or organization in establishing a program of training to identify human trafficking, upon request from the government or organization.

SEC. 905. EXPANDED USE OF DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.

Section 3014(e)(1) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101 of this Act, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) section 106 of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 17616).''.

TITLE X—HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS RELIEF AND EMPOWERMENT ACT

SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Human Trafficking Survivors Relief and Empowerment Act of 2015''.

SEC. 1002. PROTECTIONS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.

Section 1701(c) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd(c)) is amended by striking ''where feasible'' and all that follows, and inserting the following: ''where feasible, to an application—

''(1) for hiring and rehiring additional career law enforcement officers that involves a non-Federal contribution exceeding the 25 percent minimum under subsection (g); or

''(2) from an applicant in a State that has in effect a law—

''(A) that—

''(i) provides a process by which an individual who is a human trafficking survivor can move to vacate any arrest or conviction records for a non-violent offense committed as a direct result of human trafficking, including prostitution or lewdness;

''(ii) establishes a rebuttable presumption that any arrest or conviction of an individual for an offense associated with human trafficking is a result of being trafficked, if the individual—

''(I) is a person granted nonimmigrant status pursuant to section 101(a)(15)(T)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(T)(i));

''(II) is the subject of a certification by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 107(b)(1)(E) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(E)); or

''(III) has other similar documentation of trafficking, which has been issued by a Federal, State, or local agency; and

''(iii) protects the identity of individuals who are human trafficking survivors in public and court records; and

''(B) that does not require an individual who is a human trafficking survivor to provide official documentation as described in subclause (I), (II), or (III) of subparagraph (A)(ii) in order to receive protection under the law.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. 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 S. 178, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

We are here today to consider comprehensive legislation that will help address the scourge of human trafficking, generally, and child sex trafficking, specifically, that is occurring in every corner of the United States as we stand here today.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, sex trafficking is the fastest growing business of organized crime and the third largest criminal enterprise in the world. One organization estimates that child sex trafficking in the United States alone is a $9.8 billion industry.

Criminal organizations, including some of the most violent criminal street gangs like MS–13, have realized that selling children can be more profitable than selling drugs. This is because drugs are only sold once, but minor children can be and are prostituted multiple times a day, every day. It is time for Congress to send a clear message that we won't stand for this.

Today marks the third time that I have stood on the House floor urging the passage of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act. The House passed similar legislation in May 2014 and, again, in January of this year.

S. 178, the bill we consider today and its predecessors, are comprehensive legislation that, among other things, provide additional resources to law enforcement and service providers through a victim-centered grant program, help to facilitate investigations by providing that child sex trafficking and other similar crimes are predicate offenses for State wiretap applications, address the demand side by clarifying that it is a Federal crime to solicit or patronize child prostitutes or adult victims forced into prostitution, and strengthens the existing Federal criminal laws against trafficking through a number of clarifying amendments.

I am very pleased that a number of separate trafficking vehicles that were originally passed by the House Judiciary Committee and then by the full House are contained within S. 178, including the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act of 2015, introduced by Mr. PAULSEN of Minnesota; the SAVE Act of 2015, introduced by Mrs. WAGNER of Missouri; and the Human Trafficking Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery Act of 2015, introduced by Mrs. NOEM of South Dakota. I thank all of my colleagues for their dedication to ending this terrible crime.

I also thank Judge POE of Texas for sponsoring the two previous House versions of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

S. 178 is not perfect legislation, and I thank both House and Senate leadership, as well as the bill's sponsor, Senator CORNYN, for agreeing to fix technical issues with the bill in future legislation, but it is my belief that this legislation will do much good in the fight to end human trafficking.

For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support the bill and thus send it to the President to be signed into law.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Let me join my friend and colleague, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and thank him for his leadership in making sure that this bill would come to the floor. Along with the ranking member, Mr. CONYERS; subcommittee chairman, Mr. SENSENBRENNER; and myself as the ranking member, we are grateful for the leadership of our colleagues in working through the human trafficking legislation.

I would associate myself with the words that all of us have said very often. Tragically and heinously, sex trafficking, human trafficking, and the trafficking of children keeps on giving in an ugly, horrible, disastrous way that ruins the lives of innocent victims for they are used over and over again.

I stand here recognizing that Houston ranks very high among those cities that have the scourge of human trafficking. In fact, as I rise to support S. 178, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, I recognize that human trafficking is a scourge that impacts greatly on my home district in Houston, Texas. Houston currently ranks number one among the U.S. cities with the most victims of human trafficking.

On the House bill, I congratulate Congressman POE, my neighbor in Houston, and CAROLYN MALONEY, a member from New York, who worked together to bring about this bipartisan legislation.

I want to thank my colleagues as well from the Homeland Security Committee. Judge POE joined us in the first human trafficking hearing that I held in Houston, Texas, to further emphasize the coming together of law enforcement and social service advocates for the importance of this legislation.

In fact, as I recall this bill being written, there were so many different groups from faith organizations putting on walks to talk about trafficking. Houston recognized that they had a problem they need to fix.

In the backdrop of this legislation, as it was making its way through the House, we even had a massive human trafficking raid, if you will, where there were 20 to 30 persons in a home just a short distance from downtown. A couple of the individuals were minors. We know what their end would be.

Twenty-five percent of all human trafficking victims are in my home State of Texas. Currently, 30 percent of all human trafficking tips to the national rescue hotline come from Texas; but this is a national problem. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that one of every seven endangered runaways reported to the center are likely victims of minor sex trafficking and that at least 100,000 American children are victims of sex trafficking each year.

It is our duty to rescue these children, shelter them, and help them recover from the trauma that has been inflicted upon them. It is also our duty to prevent those crimes before they happen and to provide law enforcement with the tools they need to combat human traffickers.

This bill will be a significant weapon in the war against sex trafficking which, unfortunately, is the fastest growing business of organized crime in the United States, generating an estimated $9 billion annually. Mr. Speaker, we have said it continues to generate income and revenue.

I am very glad that there are a number of legislative initiatives incorporated into this final legislative document and that this will go to the President's desk and be signed.

I am glad it includes language I submitted in the Judiciary Committee that puts Congress squarely on the record in the sense of Congress, that we stand together on the issue of opposing human trafficking and viewing it as a dastardly deed.

Although not perfect, this is a comprehensive bill that includes a variety of measures intended to strike at the problem of child sex trafficking through prevention, law enforcement, and rehabilitation services for victims.

What I like most of all is that it puts the United States Congress and, ultimately, the President of the United States and the laws of the land on the side of children and on the side of victims who have been trafficked or victims of sex trafficking. The bill strikes at the demand for this business by adding criminal prohibitions for those who solicit and advertise human trafficking.

Law enforcement across the U.S. has identified online sex acts as the number one platform for buying and selling of sex with children and young women.

These men can sit idly and relaxed in their homes and victimize individuals. This is an important step forward for law enforcement, to have the tools to reach those predators wherever they are.

This legislation provides the tools to rebuild the lives of those exploited by this business, and it specifically addresses the needs of thousands of homeless children, many of whom are on the streets of Houston. I say to them today that they will be embraced with a document that stands on their side, many who have fled physically and sexually abusive homes, only to be victimized again by sex traffickers.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that this bill is moving, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), a member of the Judiciary Committee and a champion in the fight against child sex trafficking and the author of one of the underlying pieces of legislation that led to the bill that we are considering here today.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the chairman for bringing this legislation promptly to the House floor today.

Mr. Speaker, it was 155 years ago that this Nation debated in this Chamber several volatile issues, including slavery. After 600,000 Americans, both from the North and the South, died in war, slavery was forever banned by the 13th Amendment to our Constitution.

Now, in our time, this ugly scourge has risen its head again one more time. The evil enterprise has taken on the enslavement of women and children. Traffickers—slave masters—buy and sell the young in the marketplace of child sex exploitation.

They treat these victims as cattle to be led to the stockyards of slavery. The traffickers even brand the victims, Mr. Speaker, on the neck so that other traffickers will know whose property they are.

The illicit revenue from trafficking is second only to the drug trade; and, as has been mentioned, my hometown of Houston seems to be the hub for child sex trafficking in United States.

The average age of the minor sex traffic victim, Mr. Speaker, is 13. Maria was an 11-year-old girl. She met a person that treated her nicely. He was an older male. Traffickers, Mr. Speaker, do not wear long trench coats. They are relatively young, good-looking guys.

He enticed her; he brought her some presents; he took her to his home, and then she became a slave. At 11 years old, she was sold on the marketplace for a long time, until she was able to escape the traffickers. That is what is taking place in our country.

Today, unlike 155 years ago, this Congress is united in stopping this curse of slavery. Ten bills dealing with sex trafficking overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives. One of those was one that I sponsored, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, along with CAROLYN MALONEY, who is here today.

Mr. Speaker, these are all bipartisan pieces of legislation, and you don't get much more bipartisan than CAROLYN MALONEY from New York and TED POE from Texas agreeing. We are only separated, as Churchill said, by a common language. I want to thank her for her hard work for years on the issue of trafficking. The Senate combined these 10 bills, made some positive changes, and their bill passed the Senate 99–0.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act goes after the trafficker—the slave master, the slaveholder. It treats the child as a victim and not as a criminal and not as a child prostitute. It rescues the victim, and it targets the demand—the buyer, the child abuser—that buys these children for pleasure.

This legislation also allows Federal judges to impose not only prison for these criminals, but may order that fees go into a fund. That fund can be used for victims' services and even training for peace officers. Make these criminals pay the rent on the courthouse and pay for the system that they have created.

I want to thank all those that have been involved in these numerous issues. I especially want to thank the ladies of the House of Representatives on both sides for bringing this issue to a vote today. They are very powerful, Mr. Speaker, on this issue. They deserve recognition.

I also want to commend Senator CORNYN for the legislation he pushed forward—the original bill that we are voting on today—in the Senate of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, America can no longer deny the inconvenient truth of sex trafficking. The enslavement of children is not acceptable, and it will not be tolerated. It will not be tolerated in this country, and it is not going to be tolerated in other countries as well.

Mr. Speaker, I will insert into the RECORD a letter sent by 163 different organizations in support of this legislation.

APRIL 29, 2015.

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

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: We are an alliance of organizations and individual advocates from across the United States dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable women and children. We write to express our support for the Senate anti-trafficking package, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, as amended, S. 178 (JVTA package) recently voted out of the Senate unanimously. This package, which includes nearly all of the trafficking bills passed overwhelmingly by the House in January, would provide much needed services to victims of human trafficking and help ensure that child victims ensnared in the sex trade are no longer arrested and treated as criminals.

According to the FBI, over 80 percent of all confirmed sex trafficking cases in the U.S. involve U.S. citizens, yet across the country, victims still lack basic necessities. Simply stated, there are more animal shelters in our country than programs or beds for victims of trafficking. This critical legislation provides unprecedented support to victims, who for too long have endured arrest, imprisonment, and stigma for their victimization instead of support and services. The Senate package contains critical funding for housing and services—a crucial element the House companion lacks. Moreover, the legislation supports training for federal prosecutors and judges on the importance of requesting and ordering restitution, so that victims can receive the compensation they are rightly owed by law.

Every day in this country, thousands of women and children are bought and sold. The unfettered demand for sex has caused pimps and exploiters to resort to more extreme tactics in order to meet exploding demand. The JVTA package directs the Department of Justice to incorporate strategies for reducing demand into anti-trafficking training programs and sting operations, including Innocence Lost. Women and children, especially girls, are advertised online where buyers purchase them with ease and anonymity. This happens in every city, in every state. The JVTA package would help fight online exploitation and work to bring buyers of child sex to justice. It creates a new partnership with wounded warriors, training them to serve as online investigators of child pornography and exploitation.

Advocates know: this is the most comprehensive and thoughtful piece of anti-trafficking legislation in years. The JVTA package represents a tremendous bipartisan effort to provide necessary support and protections for our victims of human trafficking, and at long last ends the culture of impunity for those who purchase our most vulnerable for sex. But these victims have waited too long. After several years of advocacy and over a month of delay on the Senate side, we are just one step away from providing this population with justice and healing.

As leaders in the anti-trafficking, anti-violence, faith-based, child welfare, law enforcement, and human rights movements, we urge the House to take up and pass this vital legislation without delay.

Sincerely,

Human Rights Project for Girls (Rights4Girls); National Domestic Violence Hotline; Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW); Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN); ECPAT-USA; Girls Inc.; Shared Hope International; Equality Now; National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ); National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO); National Alliance to End Sexual Violence; New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Services; Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence; Florida Council Against Sexual Violence; New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence; Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services; National Children's Alliance (NCA); Jewish Women International (JWI); Children's Advocacy Institute; National Association of Counsel for Children; Courtney's House, survivor-led service provider; PROTECT; First Focus Campaign for Children; Franciscan Action Network; Breaking Free, survivor-led service provider; The Organization for Prostitution Survivors; Religious Sisters of Charity; Sanctuary for Families; Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic.

Dominican Sisters of Peace; DC Rape Crisis Center; Congregation of St. Joseph; Religious of the Sacred Heart; Survivors for Solutions, survivor-led service provider; YouthSpark; Poverty Elimination and Community Action (PEACE) Foundation; Providence House Inc.; Freedom From Exploitation; Society of the Holy Child Jesus, American Province; Sisters of Mercy; Second Life of Chattanooga; Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest; Advocacy for Justice and Peace Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia; Naomi Project; YWCA National Capital Area; U.S. Fund for UNICEF.

National Center for Youth Law (NYCL); Christ United Methodist Church; ENC Stop Human Trafficking; Sisters of St. Joseph CA; W. Haywood Burns Institute; Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; School Sisters of Notre Dame—CP Province Shalom—JPIC Office; WestCoast Children's Clinic; Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association; Trinity Health; Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, U.S. Province; Society for Incentive Travel Excellence (SITE).

Dominican Sisters of Hope; Wildwood United Methodist Church; Daughters of Mary and Joseph; Presbyterian Women; Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province; San Francisco Department on the Status of Women; Enterprising and Professional Women—NYC; MPower Mentoring; Children Now; Hollywood Business and Professional Women; Mark P. Lagon, Former Ambassador-At-Large to Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Dept. of State.

Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center; Perhaps Kids Meeting Kids Can Make A Difference; California Federation Business & Professional Women; Virginia Beach Justice Initiative; Sex Trafficking Survivors United; Burning Bush Moments; Sara Kruzan, Survivor Advocate; Mary David, Survivor Advocate; Mentari, New York-based trafficking provider; MISSSEY Inc.; WITNESS; World Outreach Worship Center; Citizens Against Trafficking; Culture Reframed; Parenting Project.

Human Trafficking Awareness; Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth; Samaritan House; Regent Law Center for Global Justice, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law; The Advisory Council on Child Trafficking; Center for Global Justice; Slavery Today; The Salvation Army 614 Corps; Regent Law Center for Global Justice; Dare for More; Sisters of St. Joseph NW PA; The Samaritan Women; Worthwhile: Go; CHI Memorial Community Health Center; Hamilton County Health Department.

City Church of Chattanooga; The Healing Place of Hampton Roads; Lee University; Hope Hollow Exploitation Victim Assistance and Consultation Services; Task Force Against Human Trafficking for the Episcopal Diocese of New York; Protect HER; Mary Kay Cosmetics; Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking; Chattanooga Women's Club; Brainerd Baptist Church; Young America Ministries.

Lions Club; United Methodist Women; Duoloyi Ministry; Hamilton County Health Department; Gateway Christian Center; Sisters of Charity; OLP Foundation; The Advocates for Human Rights; Burks United Methodist Church; Sisters of Providence; Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes; Chattanooga Coalition Against Human Trafficking; Regent University Center for Global Justice; Episcopal Diocese of New York.

Jewish Child Care Association; All Saints Institute for Asian American Concerns; Therapeutic Interventions, Inc.; Church of the Incarnation; Lutheran Family Services of Virginia; Center for Global Justice at Regent Law; Children's Law Center of California; Seraphim Global; Christina Oaks; Chattanooga State Community College; Savior Arts, Inc.; Church of the Holy Comforter; Sex Trade 101; Project Woman, Ohio-based domestic violence and sexual assault center.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice; The Up Center; Foster Family-based Treatment Association; Alternatives to Violence Center; Tri County Help Center, Inc.; Alameda County Foster Youth Alliance; Business and Professional Women (BPW); Amara Legal Center; All Saints Episcopal Church; University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; Advancing the Ministries of the Gospel (AMG) International; Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth; St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

New York Presbyterian Church; First Centenary United Methodist Church; West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services; Rape Crisis Team Trumbull County; Cleveland Rape Crisis Center; Poverty Elimination and Community Education (PEACE) Foundation; SHEBA USA; Hope Tree Family Services.

Mr. POE of Texas. America's kids, Mr. Speaker, are not for sale.

And that is just the way it is.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great privilege to yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), whom I have worked with over the years on issues dealing with women's rights and the abuse and misuse of children and certainly her work on the issues of sexual abuse and sex trafficking of children and women.

Congresswoman MALONEY is a member of the Financial Services Committee and an original cosponsor, along with Congressman POE, of this legislation in the House.

□ 1715

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Senate-passed Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act.

I commend the ranking member for the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations for her hard work on this bill and so many others and on this issue, and to Chairman GOODLATTE and the leadership for bringing this bill swiftly to the floor.

I particularly applaud the efforts of Congressman POE, who, as a former judge and prosecutor, brought a keen understanding and passion to moving this bill forward. For well over 10 years, I have worked on trying to pass legislation that focused on the demand side of sex trafficking. It is only by going after the demand side that you will ever make a dent in protecting these young girls and boys. With his leadership, he brought new life and focus to getting this passed, and I cannot thank him enough. I truly believe that this bill will save lives.

I am so pleased that Democrats and Republicans have come together, as we have historically done, in efforts to combat human slavery, human trafficking, and to bring forward a bill to help victims of this modern-day form of slavery.

This bill cracks down on traffickers and provides resources to trafficking survivors. There are an estimated 21 million victims around the world today, including in all 50 States, being sold for sex and slave labor.

Business is very good for some very bad people. Every year, sex trafficking yields well over $9 billion in illegal profits. But unlike guns and dope that can only be sold once, the human body can be sold over and over again, usually until they die. This legislation starts to put a dent in those profits by levying fines on convicted traffickers and using the money to create the domestic trafficking victims fund.

This is appropriate justice. Traffickers are forced to pay for rehabilitative services for the girls, boys, men, women, and children whom they have victimized and profited from.

But we have to capture these criminals first, and perpetrators too easily have slipped through the cracks. In fact, trafficking victims are commonly charged with prostitution, while their pimps and johns and traffickers are never held accountable for their terrible crimes.

This bill will flip that equation by giving law enforcement tools to help victims, and new powers and resources to identify, arrest, and prosecute buyers and sellers of sex with minor children, pornography, slave labor, and other forms of sex and labor trafficking. This will clarify, once and for all, that traffickers and johns and pimps are the true criminals in sex trafficking because, make no mistake, prostitution is not, and never has been, what has often been called a victimless crime.

Patronizing a trafficked individual is not a casual act of sex; it is a criminal act of rape. Stiffening penalties and levying fines on perpetrators of these terrible crimes can start to decrease demand and put the people who buy and sell children behind bars, protecting other children from being hurt and destroyed—put them behind bars, where they belong.

This bill also enables victims and survivors to get the help that they deserve. Most trafficked individuals have multiple encounters with law enforcement while enslaved, but police are not sufficiently equipped to identify them. To that end, the bill also provides support for law enforcement to better identify and serve trafficking victims. These are victims who need help, not culprits to lock up while their traffickers and pimps go free.

We cannot afford to miss opportunities to recognize a trafficked victim when he or she walks into the police station or hospital or local clinic. And there must be protocols, such as those called for in this bill, in place to ensure their safety and not to treat them as the criminals.

This bill provides a comprehensive approach to address these issues and to banish this horrific crime from the United States of America. I urge Congress to act right away so victims need wait no longer for justice and the critical services and resources that they so desperately deserve. I urge complete

bipartisan support for this bill. It is long overdue, and it will give a better future for those who have survived the worst crime in the world.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 15 seconds.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. This bill is so critically important. Of all the bills that we have passed—and this body, in a bipartisan way, has passed a whole series of bills—this particular one has enforcement, it has prevention, and it has help for the survivors.

I applaud everyone who worked on this important piece of legislation, and we can't pass it fast enough.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to join the gentleman from Texas in thanking the gentlewoman from New York for her good work on this for a long time now, and to thank the ranking member of the Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee, Ms. JACKSON LEE, for this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), another champion in the fight against sex trafficking, particularly on the Internet.

Mrs. WAGNER. I thank the chairman very much for his leadership on this issue and so many others.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 178, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, and all of the House-passed human trafficking legislation that was incorporated into this Senate bill.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the culmination of a long journey for myself and many Members in both Chambers who have worked on this important issue. This legislation represents a significant step forward in the Federal Government's efforts to combat the scourge of modern-day slavery, known as human trafficking. This bill makes enormous progress in the fight against trafficking by providing resources to law enforcement officials and collecting fees from sex traffickers that go into a new fund for victims.

It also includes my signature legislation, the SAVE Act, which make it illegal to knowingly advertise the victims of human trafficking, especially on the Internet. I thank my friends and colleagues, Senator MARK KIRK and DIANNE FEINSTEIN, for offering the SAVE Act as an amendment to this very important legislation.

Beyond the multiple tools and resources it gives to law enforcement and survivors, this legislation also serves an important symbolic purpose. This bill symbolizes the longstanding and steadfast commitment that Members of Congress have towards protecting the most vulnerable members of our society.

No longer will the cruel exploitation of women and children be allowed to continue unchecked. No longer will sexual predators be allowed to torture, rape, and kill young Americans in the name of financial profit. Mr. Speaker, with this legislation, we are providing voice to the voiceless and advocating for those who cannot advocate for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of all of the good, bipartisan work done by my colleagues here in Congress on this issue of human trafficking. Years of work by many of my colleagues, including Representatives POE, SMITH, NOEM, PAULSEN, BEATTY, MALONEY, and many, many others, Mr. Speaker, have laid the foundation for this long overdue action.

I am grateful that many of my colleagues have held events in their home districts to raise awareness and educate the public about human trafficking. Awareness, training, and education are the key to preventing this horrible crime from happening in the first place. Young people must be warned about the devious and manipulative strategies employed by traffickers to ensnare them in the trap of sexual slavery.

The children at risk are not just school students. Pimps or traffickers are known to prey on victims as young as 9 years old. Traffickers may target minor victims through social media Web sites, afterschool programs, shopping malls and clubs, and through friends or acquaintances who recruit students on school campuses.

One of the best ways to combat human trafficking is through education. Many States have successful programs that train school personnel about how to identify the victims. We should work with schools to develop policies and protocols and partnerships to address and prevent the exploitation of children.

Partnership between public and private sectors is the key to combating human trafficking. Many times, front-line employees in the transportation and hospitality industry are the ones best suited to identify trafficking victims or their predators. Increased awareness and training will lead to more victims being identified, which is the critical step in breaking the cycle of exploitation and victimization.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation and all efforts to combat human trafficking, and I look forward to continuing this work in the House of Representatives, and this Congress as a whole, for years to come.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), a great advocate for human rights here in the House.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 178, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, a comprehensive bill authored by Senator CORNYN, with input from many.

This extremely important legislation includes numerous bipartisan bills passed by the House earlier this year under the extraordinary leadership of Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY, Conference Chair CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, and our own good chairman, BOB GOODLATTE.

When enacted into law, S. 178 will provide powerful new tools in the struggle to abolish modern-day slavery, including a domestic trafficking victims fund designed to provide assistance to victims of human trafficking and grants to States and localities funded by a $5,000 penalty assessed on convicted offenders.

The bill seeks to protect runaways from the horror of trafficking, strengthen the child welfare agency response, aid victims of child pornography, and criminalize advertisement for the commercial exploitation of children.

Each year, Mr. Speaker, as you know, there are approximately 100,000 American children, mostly runaways, trafficked in the U.S. The average age of initial enslavement is 13.

These children, when found, are often charged with prostitution, fined, or put in juvenile detention, where there are, or should be, other options available. These children, mostly young girls, need to be protected and cared for and treated with compassion and respect, not prosecution. The pending bill moves us towards this goal.

Indeed, title VI authorizes DOJ to give preferential treatment in awarding public safety and community-oriented police grants to an applicant from a State that treats a minor engaged in commercial sex as a victim.

Title VII was inspired by a groundbreaking study conducted by Laura Lederer and funded by several foundations, including the Charlotte Lozier Institute, that found that approximately 88 percent of domestic trafficking victims ''had contact with a health care provider while being trafficked, with the most common being a hospital'' or a hospital emergency room, almost 64 percent.

Situation awareness coupled with best practices will, without a doubt, help victims escape from this cruelty to freedom and protection.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 178—the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015—a comprehensive bill authored by Senator CORNYN, with input from many.

This extremely important legislation includes numerous bipartisan bills passed by the House earlier this year under the extraordinary leadership of Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY, Conference Chair CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS and Chairman GOODLATTE.

When enacted into law, S. 178 will provide powerful new tools in the struggle to abolish modern day slavery including a Domestic Trafficking Victims Fund designed to provide assistance to victims of human trafficking and grants to states and localities funded by a $5,000 penalty assessed on convicted offenders.

The bill seeks to protect runaways from the horror of human trafficking, strengthen the

child welfare agency response, aid victims of child pornography, criminalize advertisement for the commercial exploitation of children, and beefs up the Departments of Homeland Security, Defense and HHS' anti-human trafficking activities.

Each year there are approximately 100,000 American children, mostly runaways, trafficked in the U.S. The average age of initial enslavement is 13 years old.

These children, when found, are often charged for prostitution, fined or put in juvenile detention, when there are—or should be—other options available. These children, mostly young girls, need to be protected and cared for and treated with compassion and respect—not prosecuted. The pending bill moves us toward this goal.

Indeed, Title VI authorizes DOJ to give preferential treatment in awarding public safety and community oriented police grants to an applicant from a state that treats a minor engaged in commercial sex as a victim—because that is what they are and that's already federal law due to the TVPA of 2000.

Title VII of S. 178 was inspired by a groundbreaking study conducted by Laura Lederer and funded by several foundations, including the Charlotte Lozier Institute, that found approximately 88 percent of domestic trafficking victims "had contact with a health care provider while being trafficked with the most common contact being a hospital/ER (63.3%)."

Situation awareness coupled with best practices will without a doubt help victims escape to freedom and protection.

So, in response, Title VII requires HRSA to award a competitive grant to an eligible entity to design and implement a pilot program utilizing evidence-based best practices to train health care professionals to recognize trafficking victims and respond effectively.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, anti-human trafficking bills are often difficult to pass. When I first introduced the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, in 1998, the legislation was met with a wall of skepticism and opposition. People both inside of government and out thought the bold new legislation that included sheltering, asylum, and significant protections for the victims long jail sentences and asset confiscation for the traffickers, and tough sanctions for governments that failed to meet minimum standards was merely a solution in search of a problem.

So as the prime author of the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 as well as reauthorizations of that law in 2003 and 2005, I believe the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act will further prevent the horrific crime of human trafficking, protect and assist victims, and aid in the prosecution of those who exploit and abuse.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 5¾ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from Texas has 9¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), who has also contributed one of the pieces of legislation included in this effort, and I thank the gentleman.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership on combating this issue because today is a very important moment in the fight against modern-day slavery.

For several years, members of both parties have been working diligently with law enforcement, with victims, with social service providers and policy experts to end the sale and victimization of innocent girls. This bill today is the culmination now of all the initiatives previously passed in the House that will increase penalties for pimps and johns, that will enhance the Federal Government's response to trafficking, that will increase cooperation with governments overseas, and it will go after the Web sites that aid in the trafficking of minors.

□ 1730

I am pleased that this package also includes my legislation, the safe harbor legislation, that ensures that we will be treating minors who are trafficked as victims, rather than as criminals, and improve the services that they receive.

Mr. Speaker, the traffickers that we see today, they use every tool they can use to keep victims silent and under their control, whether it is by using threats, violence, drugs, or deception.

And trafficking victims all share one thing in common: it is a loss of freedom and a loss of the ability to speak out. Today we stand with these victims to bring them out of the shadows and say, enough is enough, because our girls are not for sale.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the Members who have spoken and highlighted a number of points that I want to reinforce.

I want to reinforce what my good friend from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) have said: that we are now looking the pimps and the johns straight in the eye and really focusing on demand. But connected to demand are those lives, those lives that we want to restore and give them a new opportunity in life. We want them to not be bruised. We want them to have the ability to restore their lives as young as under 10, 11, or 12, teenagers or young women.

This particular legislation, which I want to highlight, promotes rehabilitation by encouraging the development of specialized court programs for victims of child human trafficking.

As the chair of the Children's Caucus, I realize how vulnerable our children are all over the world. And what I am most interested in is the outpatient treatment, life skills training, housing placement, vocational training, education, family support services, and job placement.

When you find a homeless teen or one who has been victimized, they are empty. They are without any substance to know that they have something of quality to save and to mold and to build. The rehabilitation part of this particular legislation—and I do want to acknowledge the gentleman from Texas, Senator CORNYN—is a very, very important part of this legislation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, it is my pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the legislation before us to combat human trafficking.

Not only would I like to thank the gentleman from Virginia, Chairman GOODLATTE, and his committee, but I would also especially like to thank our senior Senator from the State of Texas, Mr. CORNYN, for his leadership in getting this important legislation through the Senate.

This bipartisan bill will strengthen our laws against human trafficking, train law enforcement to better target criminals engaged in trafficking, and ensure that the victims of human trafficking are cared for with compassion.

These victims are taken from their homes, enslaved, treated as objects. Human trafficking is a terrible, heinous crime, and its victims are usually voiceless. Today we are their voice, and we are taking action on their behalf.

This legislation provides resources and services that help victims to be identified, rescued, and, most importantly, to begin to heal from these traumatic events. S. 178 takes steps that would serve as a model for other nations to follow in combating the inhumane crime of human trafficking.

We must do all that we can to restore dignity to its victims and bring justice to its perpetrators, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of now yielding 4 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), the author of H.R. 246 that protects children from being criminalized, which is included in this bill, and I thank her for her work.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the bipartisan Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, S. 178.

But first I would like to thank both Chairman GOODLATTE of Virginia and Ranking Member CONYERS of Michigan of the Judiciary Committee for bringing this important bill to the floor for consideration. I also would like to thank the gentlewoman from Texas, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, for her leadership and for managing the bill today for the Democrats, and a special thank you to the original sponsors.

This comprehensive legislation is a major milestone in our efforts to crack down on sex trafficking and to help protect vulnerable children across America.

One of my top priorities in the 114th Congress was to pass my trafficking

bill, H.R. 246, and today's bill includes it and nine other bipartisan House bills aimed at combating the scourge of human trafficking.

I thank Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman GRASSLEY of Iowa for offering the language of my bill as an amendment during the markup of S. 178 to ensure its inclusion in this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, on March 2, 2015, I sat through the Senate Judiciary Committee markup to witness and hear the committee's discussion and vote. Today I am proud to stand on this House floor with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, advocating for this legislation that will provide child sex trafficking victims with greater restitution, justice, and resources.

Mr. Speaker, human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the world. We have heard that, and it is worth repeating.

In fact, according to the United States State Department, human trafficking is the world's second-largest criminal enterprise after the illegal drug trade.

As we know, it is not just happening in faraway lands. It happens in our own backyards.

I am proud to have participated and led discussions on preventing child sex trafficking in my district. Last year, I joined a bipartisan roundtable discussion to hear firsthand stories and challenges from once child victim Theresa Flores, who is now a national spokesperson and best-selling author of ''The Slave Across the Street.''

In the United States, some 300,000 children are at risk each year for commercial sexual exploitation. In my home State of Ohio, each year, an estimated 1,100 Ohio children become victims of human trafficking, and over 3,000 more are at risk.

The average age of trafficked victims in the United States is between 12 and 13 years of age. At this early age, Mr. Speaker, children should be in middle school, making new friends, playing sports, enjoying afterschool programs, or just being children.

Mr. Speaker, these children deserve better, and today's legislation is a much-needed step in that right direction.

We know that no single system can successfully combat trafficking. Preventing, identifying, and serving victims of trafficking requires a multicoordinated approach across all levels of government as well as input and assistance from nongovernmental entities and the American people.

My provision in this bill will update Federal law to include the term ''child sex trafficking'' to reinforce that children who are trafficked should not be criminalized as prostitutes; instead, treated as victims. We need to ensure people understand that if they report an instance of child sex trafficking, law enforcement is not going to pursue the child and prosecute them as a criminal. They are victims.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 15 seconds.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, let me end by asking and encouraging all people, when they see something, say something.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues today to support this legislation so we may send it to the President's desk for signature, finally bringing justice to the tens of thousands of human trafficking victims.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia has 3¼ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from Texas has 3½ minutes remaining.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, so many important points have been made, and I would just like to quickly summarize by adding my appreciation, again, to the sponsors and to the speakers today, Congresswoman MALONEY and Congresswoman BEATTY, and, of course, the speakers of our friends on the other side of the aisle.

I want to emphasize something that I think should pierce our hearts, which is that children should be protected. There are several elements that I think are important to make mention of regarding these children being protected.

One, I would like to acknowledge the responsibilities of the Attorney General to create a system to monitor the issuance and enforcement of mandatory restitution. Remember, these children have been victimized over the years and really have been thrown to foster care or other agencies where moneys were not available. These restitution orders will compensate victims not only of human trafficking but also related immigration and child pornography cases. The establishment of a domestic victims fund will also improve the conditions for our children.

We worked on a cybersecurity bill, an important part of this bill that establishes a national cyber crimes center to manage and provide data essential for this effort. It authorizes the U.S. Marshals Service to provide assistance to State, local, and other Federal law enforcement agencies. It has placed the U.S. Marshals in a very effective manner.

Let me note the fact that there are mandatory minimums. In a very small way in this bill, we will be looking at sentencing reformation and reform in the following months.

What I would say is that our children are enormously important. This is a very important bill. And I think it is very important that we move this legislation and view it as an embracing of our children and protecting of our women, standing as a country against the violence of sex trafficking and child trafficking.

Might I also say that this bill encourages and forces training for our law enforcement, something that we view as very important as we are going forward, to investigate human trafficking as well as training for those essential to our criminal justice system.

I might, as I close, indicate that we have finally come full circle to be able to stand again on the floor of the House and acknowledge that if you engage in these activities, we will find you wherever you are, and we will prosecute you. And the idea that you can hide as a pimp or a john is no more, and the idea that children are left to their own devices after they have been victimized is no more.

We look to reunite families, to strengthen families, to provide for these children, and, as my colleague has just said, not to criminalize the children but, tragically, first to restore the victims' lives.

I ask my colleagues to support the Senate bill, the underlying bill, the bill on the floor of the House. I thank the members of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, the members of the Judiciary Committee here in the House, both the chairman and ranking member, and the members of our committee as we work through this process, and all the Members who put forward outstanding initiatives that are now a part of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, human trafficking is a scourge that greatly impacts on my home district in Houston, Texas. Houston currently ranks #1 among U.S. cities with the most victims of human trafficking. Twenty-five percent of all human trafficking victims are in my home state of Texas. Currently, thirty percent of all human trafficking tips to the National Rescue Hotline come from Texas.

Obviously, Houston does not shoulder this threat alone. Human trafficking impacts our whole nation. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates that one of every seven endangered runaways reported to the Center are likely victims of minor sex trafficking, and that at least 100,000 American children are the victims of sex trafficking each year.

It is our duty to rescue these children, shelter them, and help them recover from the trauma that has been inflicted upon them. It is also our duty to prevent these crimes before they happen and to provide law enforcement with the tools they need to combat human traffickers.

This bill will be a significant weapon in the war against sex trafficking, which unfortunately is the fastest growing business of organized crime in the United States, generating an estimated $9 billion annually.

Although not perfect, S. 178 is a comprehensive bill that includes a variety of measures intended to strike at the problem of child sex trafficking through prevention, law enforcement, and rehabilitation services for victims.

This bill addresses the demand for this business by adding criminal prohibitions for those who solicit and advertize human trafficking. Law enforcement officials across the U.S. have identified online sex ads as the number one platform for the buying and selling of sex with children and young women.

The legislation provides the tools to rebuild the lives of those exploited by this business. It specifically addresses the needs of thousands

of homeless children, many who have fled physically and sexually abusive homes, only to be victimized again by sex traffickers.

The bill promotes rehabilitation by encouraging the development of specialized court programs for victims of child human trafficking. These court programs will provide: outpatient treatment, life skills training, housing placement, vocational training, education, family support services, and job placement.

These programs will largely respond to the practical needs of those victimized by human trafficking. It is our duty to provide the tools to reclaim these stolen lives.

The bill goes further by encouraging through grant programs to the States that establish safe harbors for children who have been victims of sex trafficking. These safe harbors play a critical role in preventing youth, forced into the sex trade, from being re- victimized and stigmatized a second time by the criminal justice system.

Mr. Speaker, with this bill we are stating clearly: these children are not criminals. They are victims of one of the most heinous types of crime, and they deserve to be rescued and treated so that they may have the opportunity of overcoming their horrendous traumas.

The bill also allows victims of sex trafficking with related criminal charges to be eligible for acceptance in Job Corps program, an important process for reintegration into society.

Victims of sex trafficking deserve and need restitution for rehabilitation. This bill requires the Attorney General to create a system to monitor the issuance and enforcement of mandatory restitution orders. These restitution orders will compensate victims not only of human trafficking, but also related immigration and child pornography cases.

The establishment of a Domestic Trafficking Victims Fund will also improve services to children who have been rescued, in the form of long-term rehabilitative services, relief that is long overdue.

The requirement to monitor enforcement of restitution orders will in turn provide a strong basis for determining the next steps necessary to ensure that victims are justly compensated for the traumas inflicted on them by their traffickers.

The necessary reporting must also identify current gaps in research and data. This information will be helpful in formulating effective strategies in deterring children from becoming victims of trafficking. It requires the Government Accountability Office to report on both federal and state enforcement efforts to combat human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

The bill provides significant support for law enforcement officers to identify and rescue the victims of human trafficking. The bill establishes a National Cyber Crimes Center to manage and provide data essential for this effort. It authorizes the U.S. Marshals Service to provide assistance to state, local, and other federal law enforcement agencies in locating and recovering missing children when requested to do so by those agencies.

Given the Marshals Service's well-established history, reputation, and success in locating missing persons and fugitives, this requirement makes perfect sense.

We must not underestimate the task ahead for law enforcement to effectively combat human trafficking. In my home state, it is well known to both state and federal officials that Mexican cartels facilitate, control, and benefit from nearly all human smuggling activity along the Texas-Mexico border. As I've already mentioned, domestic human trafficking is a nine billion-dollar business.

This legislation provides law enforcement with the tools to prosecute these crimes and to rebuild the lives of those exploited by this business

S. 178 gives block grants to states to assist law enforcement with the expenses of wiretaps, the use of experts, and essential travel.

The legislation requires better coordination between law enforcement and a variety of other entities, including: child advocacy centers, social service agencies, state governmental health service agencies, housing agencies, and legal services agencies.

When it comes to recovering and rehabilitating our missing children, we must utilize every available resource.

Several provisions in this bill encourage and foster training for law enforcement to investigate human trafficking as well as for training for those essential to our criminal justice system, such as physical and mental health care providers, federal prosecutors, and judges.

S. 178 empowers women who have been the victims of rape by providing incentives to states to pass laws allowing termination of parental rights of rapists.

In addition, the bill seeks to hinder demand by prosecuting not just the trafficker, but also—for the first time—those who patronize and solicit children for illicit sexual acts. Without the consumers of the human sex trafficking, there would be no victims.

And, S. 178 would criminalize the act of using the Internet to advertise human trafficking. While the Internet has enriched out lives significantly, it has also provided traffickers with a ready tool used to further the heinous trafficking of minors for sex.

Finally, the bill will help to foster better collaboration among federal, state, and local law enforcement in the fight against sex trafficking. Specifically, S. 178 directs that a task force be established within the Violent Crimes Against Children Program to facilitate such coordination.

This bill attacks the scourge of human trafficking by undercutting demand, providing law enforcement with the tools they need for intervention, and by providing rehabilitation and recovery for the victims of human trafficking.

I had hoped that before S. 178 was presented to the President, it would not contain provisions that extend the use of mandatory minimum sentences. Frankly, I am surprised that the final bill includes additional mandatory minimum sentencing provisions. Mandatory minimums have led to mass incarceration and a one- size-fits-all philosophy in sentencing that we should reject. But the overall value of the bill in protecting child sex victims and adult and child trafficking and sex victims is crucial. I support the vital purpose of this bill. On balance however, the many other positive provisions this legislation provides to combat human trafficking counsels in favor of its passage. Nevertheless, we must be vigilant in monitoring the execution of this bill after it becomes law, and effectuate modifications if necessary. The health and welfare of so many of our young people depend on it. The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that 300,000 children in this country are at risk of being trafficked.

Mr. Speaker, it is for these innocent children that I strongly encourage support for this legislation.

With that, I ask for Members' support on this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM) who has also contributed a major piece of the legislation before the House today.

Mrs. NOEM. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, human trafficking is an issue that I believe many people see as far removed from them and their families, but the reality is that it is happening all around us: in our schools, near our homes, on Web sites that our kids visit and frequent.

My words are not intended to alarm people today but to bring into perspective that it isn't just happening overseas or in communities far away from our homes. It is happening across this country, even in my home State of South Dakota.

In my State, there are three main ways that people are trafficked, according to Kimberly LaPlante, who works at an organization called Call to Freedom in Sioux Falls. One, trafficking victims are brought from bigger cities or from our Native American reservations and sent to the North Dakota oil fields. Two, they are sold at large events, like the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Or three, it is homegrown trafficking, meaning this demand originates in my State, and that, by the way, is the most common problem across this country.

In 2013, the South Dakota Attorney General's Office held a 6-day undercover operation at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in western South Dakota. They put up an online ad and, over the 6 days, received more than 180 responses.

Local law enforcement did the same thing in a community not far from my home. Over the course of 2 days, they received 110 responses.

This form of slavery is happening almost every single day, and it is time we do something about it. This bill is our opportunity to do something about it. It is an opportunity for both Chambers of Congress to stand together and support legislation that protects our children and our communities.

One of the components of this legislation is a provision that I wrote to help combat many of the problems that we are facing in South Dakota but also other places in the country.

□ 1745

Today there are only about 200 beds for underage victims in the United States. The language that I wrote included in this bill ensures that shelters can get access to more resources to build safe housing for those trying to escape and recover from trafficking.

There is also a severe lack of information about trafficking and its victims. To help prevent it and to intervene when it does occur, my language

aims to make sure that the information on the state of trafficking in this country is analyzed and used to decide how those Federal resources should be used to combat it.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to see this package coming to the floor today. I urge the President to sign it quickly so that we can all join hands and act to prevent this human trafficking from continuing across our country and protect as many children and help them heal as we possibly can.

Mr. GOODLATTE. 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 Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 178.

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. GOODLATTE. 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.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1987) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1987

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 ''Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''PART III—COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATIONS AND REPORTS TO CONGRESS

''CHAPTER 27—AUTHORIZATIONS

''§ 2702. Authorization of appropriations

''Funds are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 for necessary expenses of the Coast Guard as follows:

''(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard, not otherwise provided for—

''(A) $6,981,036,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

''(B) $6,981,036,000 for fiscal year 2017.

''(2) For the acquisition, construction, renovation, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment—

''(A) $1,546,448,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

''(B) $1,546,448,000 for fiscal year 2017.

''(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including operations and maintenance of the program, personnel and training costs, equipment, and services—

''(A) $140,016,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

''(B) $140,016,000 for fiscal year 2017.

''(4) For the environmental compliance and restoration functions of the Coast Guard under chapter 19 of this title—

''(A) $16,701,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

''(B) $16,701,000 for fiscal year 2017.

''(5) 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, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment—

''(A) $19,890,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

''(B) $19,890,000 for fiscal year 2017.

''§ 2704. Authorized levels of military strength and training

''(a) ACTIVE DUTY STRENGTH.—The Coast Guard is authorized an end-of-year strength for active duty personnel of 43,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

''(b) MILITARY TRAINING STUDENT LOADS.—The Coast Guard is authorized average military training student loads for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 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.

''CHAPTER 29—REPORTS

''§ 2904. Manpower requirements plan

''(a) IN GENERAL.—On the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2017 under section 1105 of title 31, on the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget for fiscal year 2019 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 a manpower requirements plan.

''(b) SCOPE.—A manpower requirements plan submitted under subsection (a) shall include for each mission of the Coast Guard—

''(1) an assessment of all projected mission requirements for the upcoming fiscal year and for each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter;

''(2) the number of active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel assigned or available to fulfill such mission requirements—

''(A) currently; and

''(B) as projected for the upcoming fiscal year and each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter;

''(3) the number of active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel required to fulfill such mission requirements—

''(A) currently; and

''(B) as projected for the upcoming fiscal year and each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter;

''(4) an identification of any capability gaps between mission requirements and mission performance caused by deficiencies in the numbers of personnel available—

''(A) currently; and

''(B) as projected for the upcoming fiscal year and each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter; and

''(5) an identification of the actions the Commandant will take to address capability gaps identified under paragraph (4).

''(c) CONSIDERATION.—In composing a manpower requirements plan for submission under subsection (a), the Commandant shall consider—

''(1) the marine safety strategy required under section 2116 of title 46;

''(2) information on the adequacy of the acquisition workforce included in the most recent report under section 2903 of this title; and

''(3) any other Federal strategic planning effort the Commandant considers appropriate.''.

(b) REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 662 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating such section as section 2701;

(2) by transferring such section to appear before section 2702 of such title (as added by subsection (a) of this section); and

(3) by striking paragraphs (1) through (5) and inserting the following:

''(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard, not otherwise provided for.

''(2) For the acquisition, construction, renovation, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment.

''(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including operations and maintenance of the program, personnel and training costs, equipment, and services.

''(4) For the environmental compliance and restoration functions of the Coast Guard under chapter 19 of this title.

''(5) For research, development, test, and evaluation of technologies, materials, and human factors directly related to improving the performance of the Coast Guard.

''(6) For 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.''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF PERSONNEL END STRENGTHS.—Section 661 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating such section as section 2703; and

(2) by transferring such section to appear before section 2704 of such title (as added by subsection (a) of this section).

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) TRANSMISSION OF ANNUAL COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.—Section 662a of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating such section as section 2901;

(B) by transferring such section to appear before section 2904 of such title (as added by subsection (a) of this section); and

(C) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1) by striking ''described in section 661'' and inserting ''described in section 2703''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2) by striking ''described in section 662'' and inserting ''described in section 2701''.

(2) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—Section 663 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating such section as section 2902; and

(B) by transferring such section to appear after section 2901 of such title (as so redesignated and transferred by paragraph (1) of this subsection).

(3) MAJOR ACQUISITIONS.—Section 569a of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating such section as section 2903;

(B) by transferring such section to appear after section 2902 of such title (as so redesignated and transferred by paragraph (2) of this subsection); and

(C) in subsection (c)(2) by striking ''of this subchapter''.

(e) ICEBREAKING ON THE GREAT LAKES.—For fiscal years 2016 and 2017, the Commandant of the Coast Guard may use funds made available pursuant to section 2702(2) of title 14, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section) for the selection of a design for and the construction of an icebreaker that is capable of buoy tending to enhance icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes.

(f) ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives—

(1) each plan required under section 2904 of title 14, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section;

(2) each plan required under section 2903(e) of title 14, United States Code, as added by section 206 of this Act;

(3) each plan required under section 2902 of title 14, United States Code, as redesignated by subsection (d) of this section; and

(4) each mission need statement required under section 569 of title 14, United States Code.

SEC. 102. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) ANALYSIS FOR TITLE 14.—The analysis for title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to part II the following:

''III. Coast Guard Authorizations and Reports to Congress ..... 2701''.

(b) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 15.—The analysis for chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 569a.

(c) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 17.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the items relating to sections 661, 662, 662a, and 663.

(d) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 27.—The analysis for chapter 27 of title 14, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, is amended by inserting—

(1) before the item relating to section 2702 the following:

''2701. Requirement for prior authorization of appropriations.'';

and

(2) before the item relating to section 2704 the following:

''2703. Authorization of personnel end strengths.''.

(e) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 29.—The analysis for chapter 29 of title 14, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, is amended by inserting before the item relating to section 2904 the following:

''2901. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.
''2902. Capital investment plan.
''2903. Major acquisitions.''.

(f) MISSION NEED STATEMENT.—Section 569(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2) by striking ''in section 569a(e)'' and inserting ''in section 2903''; and

(2) in paragraph (3) by striking ''under section 663(a)(1)'' and inserting ''under section 2902(a)(1)''.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

SEC. 201. VICE COMMANDANT.

(a) GRADES AND RATINGS.—Section 41 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''an admiral,'' and inserting ''admirals (two);''.

(b) VICE COMMANDANT; APPOINTMENT.—Section 47 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''vice admiral'' and inserting ''admiral''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 51 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by inserting ''admiral or'' before ''vice admiral,'';

(2) in subsection (b) by inserting ''admiral or'' before ''vice admiral,'' each place it appears; and

(3) in subsection (c) by inserting ''admiral or'' before ''vice admiral,''.

(d) APPLICATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the officer who, on the date of the enactment of this Act, is serving as Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard—

(1) shall have the grade of admiral, with the pay and allowances of that grade; and

(2) shall not be required to be reappointed by reason of the enactment of this Act, including the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 202. VICE ADMIRALS.

Section 50 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) The President may—

''(A) designate, within the Coast Guard, no more than 5 positions of importance and responsibility that shall be held by officers who, while so serving, shall have the grade of vice admiral, with the pay and allowances of that grade, and shall perform such duties as the Commandant may prescribe (if the President designates 5 such positions, 1 position shall be a Chief of Staff); and

''(B) designate, within the executive branch, other than within the Coast Guard or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, positions of importance and responsibility that shall be held by officers who, while so serving, shall have the grade of vice admiral, with the pay and allowances of that grade.''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A) by striking ''under paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''under paragraph (1)(A)''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) at the discretion of the Secretary, while awaiting orders after being relieved from the position, beginning on the day the officer is relieved from the position, but not for more than 60 days; and''.

SEC. 203. COAST GUARD REMISSION OF INDEBTEDNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 461 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 461. Remission of indebtedness

''The Secretary may have remitted or cancelled any part of a person's indebtedness to the United States or any instrumentality of the United States if—

''(1) the indebtedness was incurred while the person served on active duty as a member of the Coast Guard; and

''(2) the Secretary determines that remitting or cancelling the indebtedness is in the best interest of the United States.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 461 and inserting the following:

''461. Remission of indebtedness.''.

SEC. 204. ACQUISITION REFORM.

(a) MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—Section 572(d)(3) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (H) as subparagraphs (E) through (J), respectively;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) the performance data to be used to determine whether the key performance parameters have been resolved;''; and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (C), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, the following:

''(D) the results during test and evaluation that will be required to demonstrate that a capability, asset, or subsystem meets performance requirements;''.

(b) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—Section 2902(a)(1) of title 14, United States Code, as redesignated and otherwise amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B) by striking ''completion;'' and inserting ''completion based on the proposed appropriations included in the budget;''; and

(2) in subparagraph (D) by striking ''at the projected funding levels;'' and inserting ''based on the proposed appropriations included in the budget;''.

(c) DAYS AWAY FROM HOMEPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall—

(1) implement a standard for tracking operational days at sea for Coast Guard cutters that does not include days during which such cutters are undergoing maintenance or repair; and

(2) 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 standard implemented under paragraph (1).

(d) FIXED WING AIRCRAFT FLEET MIX ANALYSIS.—Not later than September 30, 2015, 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 revised fleet mix analysis of Coast Guard fixed wing aircraft.

SEC. 205. AUXILIARY JURISDICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 822 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''The purpose'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The purpose''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) LIMITATION.—The Auxiliary may conduct a patrol of a waterway, or a portion thereof, only if—

''(1) the Commandant has determined such waterway, or portion thereof, is navigable for purposes of the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard; or

''(2) a State or other proper authority has requested such patrol pursuant to section 141 of this title or section 13109 of title 46.''.

(b) NOTIFICATION.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall—

(1) review the waterways patrolled by the Coast Guard Auxiliary in the most recently completed fiscal year to determine whether such waterways are eligible or ineligible for patrol under section 822(b) of title 14, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)); and

(2) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a written notification of—

(A) any waterways determined ineligible for patrol under paragraph (1); and

(B) the actions taken by the Commandant to ensure Auxiliary patrols do not occur on such waterways.

SEC. 206. LONG-TERM MAJOR ACQUISITIONS PLAN.

Section 2903 of title 14, United States Code, as redesignated and otherwise amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) LONG-TERM MAJOR ACQUISITIONS PLAN.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include a plan that describes for the upcoming fiscal year, and for each of the 20 fiscal years thereafter—

''(1) the numbers and types of cutters and aircraft to be decommissioned;

''(2) the numbers and types of cutters and aircraft to be acquired to—

''(A) replace the cutters and aircraft identified under paragraph (1); or

''(B) address an identified capability gap; and

''(3) the estimated level of funding in each fiscal year required to—

''(A) acquire the cutters and aircraft identified under paragraph (2);

''(B) acquire related command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems; and

''(C) acquire, construct, or renovate shoreside infrastructure.''.

SEC. 207. COAST GUARD COMMUNITIES.

Section 409 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 (14 U.S.C. 639 note) is amended by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: ''The Commandant may recognize any other community in a similar manner if the Commandant determines that such community has demonstrated enduring support of the Coast Guard, Coast Guard personnel, and the dependents of Coast Guard personnel.''.

SEC. 208. ''POLAR SEA'' MATERIEL CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND SERVICE LIFE EXTENSION DECISION.

Section 222 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–213; 126 Stat. 1560) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall—

''(1) complete a materiel condition assessment with respect to the Polar Sea;

''(2) make a determination of whether it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea compared with other options to provide icebreaking services as part of a strategy to maintain polar icebreaking services; and

''(3) 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) the assessment required under paragraph (1); and

''(B) written notification of the determination required under paragraph (2).'';

(2) in subsection (b) by striking ''analysis'' and inserting ''written notification'';

(3) by striking subsection (c);

(4) by redesignating subsections (d) through (h) as subsections (c) through (g), respectively;

(5) in subsection (c) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A) by striking ''based on the analysis required''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C) by striking ''analysis'' and inserting ''written notification'';

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) DECOMMISSIONING.—If the Secretary makes a determination under subsection (a) that it is not cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, then, not later than 180 days after written notification of that determination is submitted under that subsection, the Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea.''; and

(C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

''(3) RESULT OF NO DETERMINATION.—If the Secretary does not make a determination under subsection (a) regarding whether it is cost effective to reactivate the Polar Sea, then the Commandant of the Coast Guard may decommission the Polar Sea.'';

(6) in subsection (d)(1) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section) by striking ''analysis'' and inserting ''written notification''; and

(7) in subsection (e) (as redesignated by paragraph (4) of this section) by striking ''in subsection (d)'' and inserting ''in subsection (c)''.

SEC. 209. REPEAL.

Section 225(b)(2) of the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–281; 128 Stat. 3039) is repealed.

SEC. 210. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 14.

Title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in the analysis for part I by striking the item relating to chapter 19 and inserting the following:

''19. Environmental Compliance and Restoration Program ..... 690'';

(2) in section 46(a) by striking ''subsection'' and inserting ''section'';

(3) in section 47 in the section heading by striking ''**commandant**'' and inserting ''**Commandant**'';

(4) in section 93(f) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) LIMITATION.—The Commandant may lease submerged lands and tidelands under paragraph (1) only if—

''(A) the lease is for cash exclusively;

''(B) the lease amount is 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;

''(C) the lease does not provide authority to or commit the Coast Guard to use or support any improvements to such submerged lands and tidelands, or obtain goods and services from the lessee; and

''(D) proceeds from the lease are deposited in the Coast Guard Housing Fund established under section 687.'';

(5) in the analysis for chapter 9 by striking the item relating to section 199 and inserting the following:

''199. Marine safety curriculum.'';

(6) in section 427(b)(2) by striking ''this chapter'' and inserting ''chapter 61 of title 10'';

(7) in the analysis for chapter 15 before the item relating to section 571 by striking the following:

''Sec.'';

(8) in section 573(c)(3)(A) by inserting ''and shall maintain such cutter in class'' before the period at the end;

(9) in section 581(5)(B) by striking ''$300,000,0000,'' and inserting ''$300,000,000,'';

(10) in section 637(c)(3) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by inserting ''it is'' before ''any'';

(11) in section 641(d)(3) by striking ''Guard, installation'' and inserting ''Guard installation'';

(12) in section 691(c)(3) by striking ''state'' and inserting ''State'';

(13) in the analysis for chapter 21—

(A) by striking the item relating to section 709 and inserting the following:

''709. Reserve student aviation pilots; Reserve aviation pilots; appointments in commissioned grade.'';

and

(B) by striking the item relating to section 740 and inserting the following:

''740. Failure of selection and removal from an active status.'';

(14) in section 742(c) by striking ''subsection'' and inserting ''subsections'';

(15) in section 821(b)(1) by striking ''Chapter 26'' and inserting ''Chapter 171''; and

(16) in section 823a(b)(1), by striking ''Chapter 26'' and inserting ''Chapter 171''.

SEC. 211. DIGITAL BOAT PROFILE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If, during the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating determines that there are at least 2 digital boat profile technologies that are commercially available, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program, in accordance with this section, under which digital boat profiles are utilized for—

(1) not less than 2 National Security Cutters;

(2) not less than 4 Fast Response Cutters; and

(3) not less than 4 Medium Endurance Cutters (270 foot).

(b) TIMING.—With respect to the National Security Cutters and Fast Response Cutters participating in the pilot program, a digital boat profile shall be established prior to the commissioning of the cutters.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the establishment of the pilot program, and annually thereafter for the succeeding 4 years, 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 describing—

(1) the implementation of the pilot program; and

(2) the results of the use of digital boat profiles under the pilot program with respect to—

(A) efficient maintenance of the cutters involved; and

(B) the post-delivery warranty management of equipment items, the repair and replacement of which are contractually obligated.

(d) DIGITAL BOAT PROFILE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''digital boat profile'' means a commercially available off-the-shelf technology that creates an electronic data source with respect to a vessel that—

(1) provides lifecycle management support, including through the incorporation of systems manuals, schematics, and vessel documentation;

(2) incorporates all manufacturer recommendations and operator best practices;

(3) incorporates the use of real-time analytics of deferred tasks, future tasks, readiness assessments, and budgetary planners;

(4) provides advance electronic notification of upcoming maintenance and inspections to multi-level permission-based recipients on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis;

(5) facilitates oversight for pre-delivery discrepancy reporting and post-delivery warranty management of equipment items, the repair and replacement of which are contractually obligated; and

(6) is accessible by computing devices.

SEC. 212. DISCONTINUANCE OF AN AID TO NAVIGATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process for the discontinuance of an aid to navigation established, maintained, or operated by the Coast Guard.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The process established under subsection (a) shall include procedures to notify the public of any discontinuance of an aid to navigation described in that subsection.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In establishing a process under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with and consider any recommendations of the Navigation Safety Advisory Council.

(d) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after establishing a process under subsection (a), the Secretary 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 process established.

SEC. 213. MISSION PERFORMANCE MEASURES.

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 and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an assessment of the efficacy of the Coast Guard's Standard Operational Planning Process with respect to annual mission performance measures.

SEC. 214. COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish and carry out a response capabilities pilot program to assess, at not fewer than 2 Coast Guard command centers, the effectiveness of a radio gateway that—

(1) provides for—

(A) multiagency collaboration and interoperability; and

(B) wide-area, secure, and peer-invitation-and-acceptance-based multimedia communications;

(2) is certified by the Department of Defense Joint Interoperability Test Center; and

(3) is composed of commercially available, off-the-shelf technology.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the succeeding 4 years, 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 an assessment of the pilot program, including the impacts of the program with respect to interagency and Coast Guard response capabilities.

SEC. 215. COAST GUARD GRADUATE MARITIME OPERATIONS EDUCATION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish an education program, for members and employees of the Coast Guard, that—

(1) offers a master's degree in maritime operations;

(2) is relevant to the professional development of such members and employees;

(3) provides resident and distant education options, including the ability to utilize both options; and

(4) to the greatest extent practicable, is conducted using existing academic programs at an accredited public academic institution that—

(A) is located near a significant number of Coast Guard, maritime, and other Department of Homeland Security law enforcement personnel; and

(B) has an ability to simulate operations normally conducted at a command center.

TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

SEC. 301. TREATMENT OF FISHING PERMITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 313 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 31310. Treatment of fishing permits

''(a) LIMITATION ON MARITIME LIENS.—This chapter—

''(1) does not establish a maritime lien on a fishing permit; and

''(2) does not authorize any civil action to enforce a maritime lien on a fishing permit.

''(b) TREATMENT OF FISHING PERMITS UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW.—A fishing permit—

''(1) is governed solely by the State or Federal law under which it is issued; and

''(2) shall not be treated as part of a vessel, or as an appurtenance or intangible of a vessel, for any purpose under Federal law.

''(c) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as imposing any limitation upon the authority of the Secretary of Commerce—

''(1) to modify, suspend, revoke, or impose a sanction on any fishing permit issued by the Secretary of Commerce; or

''(2) to bring a civil action to enforce such a modification, suspension, revocation, or sanction.

''(d) FISHING PERMIT DEFINED.—In this section the term 'fishing permit' means any authorization of a person or vessel to engage in fishing that is issued under State or Federal law.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 31309 the following:

''31310. Treatment of fishing permits.''.

SEC. 302. SURVIVAL CRAFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3104 of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 3104. Survival craft

''(a) REQUIREMENT TO EQUIP.—The Secretary shall require that a passenger vessel be equipped with survival craft that ensures that no part of an individual is immersed in water, if—

''(1) such vessel is built or undergoes a major conversion after January 1, 2016; and

''(2) operates in cold waters as determined by the Secretary.

''(b) HIGHER STANDARD OF SAFETY.—The Secretary may revise part 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect before January 1, 2016, if such revision provides a higher standard of safety than is provided by the regulations in effect on or before the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015.

''(c) INNOVATIVE AND NOVEL DESIGNS.—The Secretary may, in lieu of the requirements set out in part 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, allow a passenger vessel to be equipped with a life saving appliance or arrangement of an innovative or novel design that—

''(1) ensures no part of an individual is immersed in water; and

''(2) provides an equal or higher standard of safety than is provided by such requirements as in effect before such date of the enactment.

''(d) BUILT DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'built' has the meaning that term has under section 4503(e).''.

(b) REVIEW; REVISION OF REGULATIONS.—

(1) REVIEW.—Not later than December 31, 2015, 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 review of—

(A) the number of casualties for individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly as a result of immersion in water, reported to the Coast Guard over the preceding 30-year period, by vessel type and area of operation;

(B) the risks to individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly as a result of

immersion in water, by passenger vessel type and area of operation;

(C) the effect that carriage of survival craft that ensure that no part of an individual is immersed in water has on—

(i) passenger vessel safety, including stability and safe navigation;

(ii) improving the survivability of individuals, including individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly; and

(iii) the costs, the incremental cost difference to vessel operators, and the cost effectiveness of requiring the carriage of such survival craft to address the risks to individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly;

(D) the efficacy of alternative safety systems, devices, or measures in improving survivability of individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly; and

(E) the number of small businesses and nonprofit vessel operators that would be affected by requiring the carriage of such survival craft on passenger vessels to address the risks to individuals with disabilities, children, and the elderly.

(2) REVISION.—Based on the review conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary may revise regulations concerning the carriage of survival craft pursuant to section 3104(c) of title 46, United States Code.

SEC. 303. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 55305(d) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) Each department or agency that has responsibility for a program under this section shall administer that program consistent with this section and any regulations promulgated pursuant to subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, issued by the Secretary of Transportation, and developed in consultation with each department and agency subject to this section.'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3), and by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2)(A) The Secretary, after consulting with the department, agency, organization, or person involved, shall have sole responsibility for determining the applicability of this section to a program of a Federal department or agency, after consulting with the department, agency, organization, or person involved.

''(B) The head of a Federal department or agency shall request the Secretary to determine the applicability of this section to a program of such department or agency if the department or agency is uncertain of such applicability. Not later than 30 days after receiving such a request, the Secretary shall make such determination.

''(C) Subparagraph (B) shall not be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary to make a determination regarding the applicability of this section to a program administered by a Federal department or agency.

''(D) A determination made by the Secretary under this paragraph regarding a program shall remain in effect until the Secretary determines that this section no longer applies to such program.'';

(3) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) shall conduct an annual review of the administration of programs subject to the requirements of this section to determine compliance with the requirements of this section;''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) On the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, the Secretary shall make available on the Internet website of the Department of Transportation a report that—

''(A) lists the programs that were subject to determinations made by the Secretary under paragraph (2) in the preceding year; and

''(B) describes the results of the most recent annual review required by paragraph (3)(A), including identification of the departments and agencies that transported cargo in violation of this section and any action the Secretary took under paragraph (3) with respect to each violation.''.

(b) DEADLINE FOR FIRST REVIEW.—The Secretary of Transportation shall complete the first review required under the amendment made by subsection (a)(1)(C) by not later than December 31, 2015.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3511(c) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (46 U.S.C. 55305 note) is repealed.

SEC. 304. MODEL YEARS FOR RECREATIONAL VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4302 of title 46, United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e)(1) If in prescribing regulations under this section the Secretary establishes a model year for recreational vessels and associated equipment, such model year shall, except as provided in paragraph (2)—

''(A) begin on June 1 of a year and end on July 31 of the following year; and

''(B) be designated by the year in which it ends.

''(2) Upon the request of a recreational vessel manufacturer to which this chapter applies, the Secretary may alter a model year for a model of recreational vessel of the manufacturer and associated equipment, by no more than 6 months from the model year described in paragraph (1).''.

(b) APPLICATION.—This section shall only apply with respect to recreational vessels and associated equipment constructed or manufactured, respectively, on or after June 1, 2015.

(c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall publish guidance to implement section 4302(d)(2) of title 46, United States Code.

SEC. 305. MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL EXPIRATION HARMONIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c) and not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process to harmonize the expiration dates of merchant mariner credentials, mariner medical certificates, and radar observer endorsements for individuals applying to the Secretary for a new merchant mariner credential or for renewal of an existing merchant mariner credential.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the process established under subsection (a)—

(1) does not require an individual to renew a merchant mariner credential earlier than the date on which the individual's current credential expires; and

(2) results in harmonization of expiration dates for merchant mariner credentials, mariner medical certificates, and radar observer endorsements for all individuals by not later than 6 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) EXCEPTION.—The process established under subsection (a) does not apply to individuals—

(1) holding a merchant mariner credential with—

(A) an active Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping endorsement; or

(B) Federal first-class pilot endorsement; or

(2) who have been issued a time-restricted medical certificate.

SEC. 306. MARINE EVENT SAFETY ZONES.

Section 6 of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C. 1225) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) MARINE EVENT SAFETY ZONES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall recover all costs the Coast Guard incurs to enforce a safety zone under this section if such safety zone is established for a marine event conducted under a permit or other authorization by the Coast Guard.

''(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may not recover costs under paragraph (1) from a State or local government.

''(3) TREATMENT OF RECOVERED COSTS.—Costs recovered by the Secretary under this subsection shall be credited to the appropriation for operating expenses of the Coast Guard.

''(4) MARINE EVENT DEFINED.—In this section the term 'marine event' means a planned activity of limited duration that by its nature, circumstances, or location, will introduce extra or unusual hazards to the safety of life on the navigable waters of the United States.''.

SEC. 307. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) TITLE 46.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 103, by striking ''(33 U.S.C. 151).'' and inserting ''(33 U.S.C. 151(b)).'';

(2) in section 2118—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''title,'' and inserting ''subtitle,''; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking ''title'' and inserting ''subtitle'';

(3) in the analysis for chapter 35—

(A) by adding a period at the end of the item relating to section 3507; and

(B) by adding a period at the end of the item relating to section 3508;

(4) in section 3715(a)(2), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(5) in section 8103(b)(1)(A)(iii), by striking ''Academy.'' and inserting ''Academy; and''; and

(6) in section 11113(c)(1)(A)(i), by striking ''under this Act''.

(b) GENERAL BRIDGE STATUTES.—

(1) ACT OF MARCH 3, 1899.—The Act of March 3, 1899, popularly known as the Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act of 1899, is amended—

(A) in section 9 (33 U.S.C. 401), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''; and

(B) in section 18 (33 U.S.C. 502), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''.

(2) ACT OF MARCH 23, 1906.—The Act of March 23, 1906, popularly known as the Bridge Act of 1906, is amended—

(A) in the first section (33 U.S.C. 491), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating'';

(B) in section 4 (33 U.S.C. 494), by striking ''Secretary of Homeland Security'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''; and

(C) in section 5 (33 U.S.C. 495), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' each place it

appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''.

(3) ACT OF AUGUST 18, 1894.—Section 5 of the Act entitled ''An Act making appropriations for the construction, repair, and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors, and for other purposes'', approved August 18, 1894 (33 U.S.C. 499) is amended by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''.

(4) ACT OF JUNE 21, 1940.—The Act of June 21, 1940, popularly known as the Truman-Hobbs Act, is amended—

(A) in the first section (33 U.S.C. 511), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating'';

(B) in section 4 (33 U.S.C. 514), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating'';

(C) in section 7 (33 U.S.C. 517), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''; and

(D) in section 13 (33 U.S.C. 523), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''.

(5) GENERAL BRIDGE ACT OF 1946.—The General Bridge Act of 1946 is amended—

(A) in section 502(b) (33 U.S.C. 525(b)), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''; and

(B) in section 510 (33 U.S.C. 533), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''.

(6) INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE ACT OF 1972.—The International Bridge Act of 1972 is amended—

(A) in section 5 (33 U.S.C. 535c), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''; and

(B) in section 8 (33 U.S.C. 535e), by striking ''Secretary of Transportation'' each place it appears and inserting ''Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating''.

SEC. 308. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF MARINE CASUALTY REPORTING.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard 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 actions the Commandant will take to implement recommendations on improvements to the Coast Guard's marine casualty reporting requirements and procedures included in—

(1) the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General report entitled ''Marine Accident Reporting, Investigations, and Enforcement in the United States Coast Guard'', released on May 23, 2013; and

(2) the Towing Safety Advisory Committee report entitled ''Recommendations for Improvement of Marine Casualty Reporting'', released on March 26, 2015.

SEC. 309. RECREATIONAL VESSEL ENGINE WEIGHTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue regulations amending Table 4 to Subpart H of Part 183–Weights (Pounds) of Outboard Motor and Related Equipment for Various Boat Horsepower Ratings (33 C.F.R. 183) as appropriate to reflect ''Standard 30–Outboard Engine and Related Equipment Weights'' published by the American Boat and Yacht Council, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 310. MERCHANT MARINER MEDICAL CERTIFICATION REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 7509. Medical certification by trusted agents

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary, a trusted agent may issue a medical certificate to an individual who—

''(1) must hold such certificate to qualify for a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner's document, or endorsement thereto under this part; and

''(2) is qualified as to sight, hearing, and physical condition to perform the duties of such license, certificate, document, or endorsement, as determined by the trusted agent.

''(b) TRUSTED AGENT DEFINED.—In this section the term 'trusted agent' means a medical practitioner certified by the Secretary to perform physical examinations of an individual for purposes of a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner's document under this part.''.

(b) DEADLINE.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue a final rule implementing section 7509 of title 46, United States Code, as added by this section.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''7509. Medical certification by trusted agents.''.

SEC. 311. ATLANTIC COAST PORT ACCESS ROUTE STUDY.

Not later than April 1, 2016, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall conclude the Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study and submit the results of such study to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 312. CERTIFICATES OF DOCUMENTATION FOR RECREATIONAL VESSELS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue regulations that—

(1) make certificates of documentation for recreational vessels effective for 5 years; and

(2) require the owner of such a vessel—

(A) to notify the Coast Guard of each change in the information on which the issuance of the certificate of documentation is based, that occurs before the expiration of the certificate; and

(B) apply for a new certificates of documentation for such a vessel if there is any such change.

SEC. 313. PROGRAM GUIDELINES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) develop guidelines to implement the program authorized under section 304(a) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–241), including specific actions to ensure the future availability of able and credentialed United States licensed and unlicensed seafarers including—

(A) incentives to encourage partnership agreements with operators of foreign-flag vessels that carry liquified natural gas, that provide no less than one training billet per vessel for United States merchant mariners in order to meet minimum mandatory sea service requirements;

(B) development of appropriate training curricula for use by public and private maritime training institutions to meet all United States merchant mariner license, certification, and document laws and requirements under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978; and

(C) steps to promote greater outreach and awareness of additional job opportunities for sea service veterans of the United States Armed Forces; and

(2) submit such guidelines to the Committee Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 314. REPEALS.

(a) REPEALS, MERCHANT MARINE ACT, 1936.—Sections 601 through 606, 608 through 611, 613 through 616, 802, and 809 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. 53101 note) are repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 575 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 57501, by striking ''titles V and VI'' and inserting ''title V'' ; and

(2) in section 57531(a), by striking ''titles V and VI'' and inserting ''title V''.

(c) TRANSFER FROM MERCHANT MARINE ACT, 1936.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 801 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. 53101 note) is—

(A) redesignated as section 57522 of title 46, United States Code, and transferred to appear after section 57521 of such title; and

(B) as so redesignated and transferred, is amended—

(i) by striking so much as precedes the first sentence and inserting the following:

''§ 57522. Books and records, balance sheets, and inspection and auditing'';

(ii) by striking ''the provision of title VI or VII of this Act'' and inserting ''this chapter'';

(iii) by striking ''That the provisions'' and all that follows through ''Commission; (2)'' ; and

(iv) by redesignating clauses (3) and (4) as clauses (2) and (3), respectively.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 575, of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 57521 the following:

''57522. Books and records, balance sheets, and inspection and auditing.''.

(d) REPEALS, TITLE 46, U.S.C..—Section 8103 of title 46, United States Code, is amended in subsections (c) and (d) by striking ''or operating'' each place it appears.

TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 308. Authorization of appropriations

''There is authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Maritime Commission $24,700,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 for the activities of the Commission authorized under this chapter and subtitle IV.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''308. Authorization of appropriations.''.

SEC. 402. DUTIES OF THE CHAIRMAN.

Section 301(c)(3)(A) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (ii) by striking ''units, but only after consultation with the other Commissioners;'' and inserting ''units (with such appointments subject to the approval of the Commission);'';

(2) in clause (iv) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) in clause (v) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(vi) prepare and submit to the President and Congress requests for appropriations for the Commission (with such requests subject to the approval of the Commission).''.

SEC. 403. PROHIBITION ON AWARDS.

Section 307 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Federal Maritime Commission'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Maritime Commission''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Federal Maritime Commission may not expend any funds appropriated or otherwise made available to it to issue an award, prize, commendation, or other honor to a non-Federal entity.''.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 501. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard may convey all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the covered property, upon payment to the United States of the fair market value of the covered property.

(b) RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.—The County of Marin, California shall have the right of first refusal with respect to purchase of the covered property under this section.

(c) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the covered property shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Commandant.

(d) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market value of the covered property 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 this section 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 this section as the Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—Any proceeds received by the United States in a conveyance under this section shall be deposited in the Coast Guard Housing Fund established by section 687 of title 14, United States Code.

(h) COVERED PROPERTY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered property'' means the approximately 32 acres of real property (including all improvements located on the property) that are—

(1) located at Station Point Reyes in Marin County, California;

(2) under the administrative control of the Coast Guard; and

(3) described as ''Parcel A, Tract 1'', ''Parcel B, Tract 2'', ''Parcel C'', and ''Parcel D'' in the Declaration of Taking (Civil No. C–71–1245 SC) filed June 28, 1971, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

SEC. 502. ELIMINATION OF REPORTS.

(a) DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.—Section 421 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (46 U.S.C. 8103 note) is amended by striking subsection (d).

(b) ANNUAL UPDATES ON LIMITS TO LIABILITY.—Section 603(c)(3) of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (33 U.S.C. 2704 note) is amended by striking ''on an annual basis.'' and inserting ''not later than January 30 of the year following each year in which occurs an oil discharge from a vessel or nonvessel source that results or is likely to result in removal costs and damages (as those terms are defined in section 1001 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701)) that exceed liability limits established under section 1004 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2704).''.

(c) INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE ACT OF 1972.—The International Bridge Act of 1972 is amended by striking section 11 (33 U.S.C. 535h).

SEC. 503. VESSEL DOCUMENTATION.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and infrastructure of the House and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a description of actions that could be taken to—

(1) improve the efficiency of performance of the functions currently carried out by the National Vessel Documentation Center, including by—

(A) transferring such functions to Coast Guard headquarters; and

(B) reassigning Coast Guard personnel to better meet the Coast Guard's vessel documentation mission; and

(2) strengthen the review of compliance with United States ownership requirements for vessels documented under the laws of the United States.

SEC. 504. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN TOK, ALASKA.

(a) CONVEYANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard may convey all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the covered property, upon payment to the United States of the fair market value of the covered property.

(b) RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL.—The Tanana Chiefs' Conference shall have the right of first refusal with respect to purchase of the covered property under this section.

(c) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the covered property shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Commandant.

(d) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market value of the covered property shall be—

(1) determined by appraisal; and

(2) 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 this section 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 this section as the Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable to protect the interests of the United States.

(g) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—Any proceeds received by the United States from a conveyance under this section shall be deposited in the Coast Guard Housing Fund established under section 687 of title 14, United States Code.

(h) COVERED PROPERTY DEFINED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term ''covered property'' means the approximately 3.25 acres of real property (including all improvements located on the property) that are—

(A) located in Tok, Alaska;

(B) under the administrative control of the Coast Guard; and

(C) described in paragraph (2).

(2) DESCRIPTION.—The property described in this paragraph is the following:

(A) Lots 11, 12 and 13, block ''G'', Second Addition to Hartsell Subdivision, Section 20, Township 18 North, Range 13 East, Copper River Meridian, Alaska as appears by Plat No. 72-39 filed in the Office of the Recorder for the Fairbanks Recording District of Alaska, bearing seal dated 25 September 1972, all containing approximately 1.25 Acres and commonly known as 2-PLEX – Jackie Circle, Units A and B.

(B) Beginning at a point being the SE corner of the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ Section 24, Township 18 North, Range 12 East, Copper River Meridian, Alaska; thence running westerly along the south line of said SE ¼ of the NE ¼ 260 feet; thence northerly parallel to the east line of said SE ¼ of the NE ¼ 335 feet; thence easterly parallel to the south line 260 feet; then south 335 feet along the east boundary of Section 24 to the point of beginning; all containing approximately 2.0 acres and commonly known as 4-PLEX – West ''C'' and Willow, Units A, B, C and D.

SEC. 505. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THE GREAT LAKES.

The Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–281) is amended—

(1) in section 610, by—

(A) striking the section enumerator and heading and inserting the following:

''SEC. 610. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THE GREAT LAKES.'';

(B) striking ''existing boundaries and any future expanded boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve'' and inserting ''boundaries of any national marine sanctuary that preserves shipwrecks or maritime heritage in the Great Lakes''; and

(C) by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', unless the designation documents for such sanctuary do not allow taking up or discharging ballast water in such sanctuary''; and

(2) in the table of contents in section 2, by striking the item relating to such section and inserting the following:

''Sec. 610. Safe vessel operation in the Great Lakes.''.

SEC. 506. USE OF VESSEL SALE PROCEEDS.

(a) AUDIT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of funds credited in each fiscal year after fiscal year 2004 to the Vessel Operations Revolving Fund that are attributable to the sale of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet that were scrapped or sold under sections 57102, 57103, and 57104 of title 46, United States Code, including—

(1) a complete accounting of all vessel sale proceeds attributable to the sale of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet that were scrapped or sold under sections 57102, 57103 and 57104 of title 46, United States Code, in each fiscal year after fiscal year 2004;

(2) the annual apportionment of proceeds accounted for under paragraph (1) among the uses authorized under section 308704 of title 54, United States Code, in each fiscal year after fiscal year 2004, including—

(A) for National Maritime Heritage Grants, including a list of all annual National Maritime Heritage Grant grant and subgrant awards that identifies the respective grant and subgrant recipients and grant and subgrant amounts;

(B) for the preservation and presentation to the public of maritime heritage property of the Maritime Administration;

(C) to the United States Merchant Marine Academy and State maritime academies, including a list of annual awards; and

(D) for the acquisition, repair, reconditioning, or improvement of vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet; and

(3) an accounting of proceeds, if any, attributable to the sale of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet that were scrapped or sold under sections 57102, 57103, and 57104 of title 46, United States Code, in each fiscal year after fiscal year 2004, that were expended for uses not authorized under section 308704 of title 54, United States Code.

(b) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit the audit conducted in subsection (a) to the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Natural Resources, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

SEC. 507. FISHING VESSEL AND FISH TENDER VESSEL CERTIFICATION.

Section 4503 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following: ''Subsection (a) does not apply to a fishing vessel or fish tender vessel described in subsection (d)(6), if the vessel complies with an alternative safety compliance program established under that subsection for such a vessel.''; and

(2) in subsection (d), by adding at the end the following:

''(6) The Secretary shall establish an alternative safety compliance program for fishing vessels or fish tender vessels (or both) that are at least 50 feet overall in length, and not more than 79 feet overall in length, and built after July 1, 2013.''.

SEC. 508. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES COST COMPARISON.

(a) COST COMPARISON.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall seek to enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the Academy, by no later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, 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 comparison of the costs incurred by the Federal Government for each of the following alternatives:

(1) Transferring the *Polar Sea* to a non-governmental entity at no cost, and leasing back the vessel beginning on the date on which the Coast Guard certifies that the vessel is capable of the breaking out and missions described in subsection (c)(1).

(2) The reactivation and operation by the Coast Guard of the *Polar Sea* to an operational level at which the vessel is capable of such breaking out and missions.

(3) Acquiring and operating a new icebreaker through the Coast Guard's acquisition process that is capable of such breaking out and missions.

(4) Construction by a non-Federal entity of an icebreaker capable of such breaking out and missions, that will be leased by the Federal Government and operated using a Coast Guard crew.

(5) Construction by a non-Federal entity of an icebreaker capable of such breaking out and missions, that will be leased by the Federal Government and operated by a crew of non-Federal employees.

(6) The acquisition of services from a non-Federal entity to perform such breaking out and missions.

(b) INCLUDED COSTS.—For purposes of subsection (a), the cost of each alternative includes costs incurred by the Federal Government for—

(1) the lease or operation and maintenance of the vessel concerned;

(2) disposal of such vessel at the end of the useful life of the vessel;

(3) retirement and other benefits for Federal employees who operate such vessel; and

(4) interest payments assumed to be incurred for Federal capital expenditures.

(c) ASSUMPTIONS.—For purposes of comparing the costs of such alternatives, the Academy shall assume that—

(1) each vessel under consideration is—

(A) capable of breaking out of McMurdo Station, and conducting Coast Guard missions in the United States territory 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)); and

(B) operated for a period of 20 years;

(2) the acquisition of services and the operation of each vessel begin on the same date; and

(3) the periods for conducting Coast Guard missions in the Arctic are of equal lengths.

SEC. 509. PENALTY WAGES.

(a) FOREIGN AND INTERCOASTAL VOYAGES.—Section 10313(g) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''all claims in a class action suit by seamen'' and inserting ''each claim by a seaman''; and

(B) by striking ''the seamen'' and inserting ''the seaman''; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking ''class action''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking '', by a seaman who is a claimant in the suit,'' and inserting ''by the seaman''.

(b) COASTWISE VOYAGES.—Section 10504(c) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''all claims in a class action suit by seamen'' and inserting ''each claim by a seaman''; and

(B) by striking ''the seamen'' and inserting ''the seaman''; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking ''class action''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking '', by a seaman who is a claimant in the suit,'' and inserting ''by the seaman''.

SEC. 510. RECOURSE FOR NONCITIZENS.

Section 30104 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before the first sentence; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(b) RESTRICTION ON RECOVERY FOR NONRESIDENT ALIENS EMPLOYED ON FOREIGN PASSENGER VESSELS.—A claim for damages or expenses relating to personal injury, illness, or death of a seaman who is a citizen of a foreign nation, arising during or from the engagement of the seaman by or for a passenger vessel duly registered under the laws of a foreign nation, may not be brought under the laws of the United States if—

''(1) such seaman was not a permanent resident alien of the United States at the time the claim arose;

''(2) the injury, illness, or death arose outside the territorial waters of the United States; and

''(3) the seaman or the seaman's personal representative has or had a right to seek compensation for the injury, illness, or death in, or under the laws of—

''(A) the nation in which the vessel was registered at the time the claim arose; or

''(B) the nation in which the seaman maintained citizenship or residency at the time the claim arose.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. 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 H.R. 1987.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1987, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, reauthorizes funding for the United States Coast Guard through fiscal year 2017 at levels that are fiscally responsible and that will reverse the misguided cuts proposed by the administration.

The President's budget would slash the service's acquisition budget by over 17 percent. This will only worsen the Coast Guard's growing gaps in mission performance, increase acquisition delays, drive up the costs of new assets, and deny our servicemembers the critical resources they need to perform their duties.

Mr. Speaker, the Coast Guard has become somewhat of the Swiss Army knife of the seas. They are responsible for law enforcement, dealing with fisheries, alien interdiction, drug interdiction, maritime law, and national security. Mission after mission has been heaped upon the Coast Guard without the corresponding resources for those servicemembers to do their job. H.R. 1987 provides sufficient funding to ensure these cuts do not happen and the service has what it needs to successfully conduct its missions.

The bill also makes several reforms to Coast Guard authorities, as well as laws governing shipping and navigation. Specifically, H.R. 1987 supports Coast Guard servicemembers by authorizing sufficient funds to allow for pay raises consistent with the NDAA and by ensuring they receive access to some of the same benefits as their counterparts in the Department of Defense.

It improves Coast Guard mission effectiveness by aligning the leadership structure of the service to that of other armed services and by replacing and modernizing Coast Guard assets in a cost-effective manner.

The bill enhances oversight of the Coast Guard, reduces inefficient operations, and saves taxpayers' dollars by making commonsense reforms to the service's administration and its acquisition process. It supports the U.S.-flagged and crewed vessels by strengthening the enforcement of cargo preference laws. It encourages job growth

in the maritime sector by cutting regulatory burdens on job creators. It reauthorizes and reforms the administrative procedures of the Federal Maritime Commission to improve accountability.

Finally, it includes language to require an independent assessment of leases versus constructing a new polar icebreaker. Mr. Speaker, right now, other nations operating in the Arctic far exceed the capabilities of the United States. This is an area where we must focus and ensure that the United States' capabilities are capable of protecting our interests in that region. I believe it could potentially deliver this critically needed asset—polar icebreaking capabilities—much sooner and save a tremendous amount of taxpayer funds if we pursue a public-private partnership to acquire a polar icebreaker.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1987 is a bipartisan effort that was put together in close consultation with the minority. I want to commend Ranking Members DEFAZIO and GARAMENDI for their efforts, as well as Chairman SHUSTER and Subcommittee Chairman HUNTER for their leadership.

I also want to thank the men and women of the Coast Guard for the tremendous job they do for our Nation. Coast Guard servicemembers risk their lives on a daily basis to save those in peril, ensure the safety and security of our ports and waterways, and protect our environment; and they do all this on aging and obsolete cutters and aircraft, some of which were first commissioned in World War II.

Passing H.R. 1987 will help rebuild and strengthen the Coast Guard. It will also demonstrate the strong support Congress has for the men and women of the Coast Guard and the deep appreciation we have for the sacrifices they make for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 1987, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Subcommittee Ranking Member GARAMENDI and Chairman HUNTER for their work on this legislation. I fully support this very important piece of legislation.

H.R. 1987 authorizes robust funding for the United States Coast Guard's operations, and particularly for its acquisition program. The Coast Guard has been cut to the bone, and everybody knows that. If we fail to ensure adequate funding for the construction of critically needed new cutters, then the Coast Guard of the future will be less capable than the Coast Guard of the past has been, something that should be unacceptable to our Nation.

I strongly support section 303 of this measure, which strengthens the enforcement of existing statutes that require government-impelled cargoes to be carried on U.S.-flagged vessels. Today, according to the Maritime Administration, there are just 83—just 83—ships flying the U.S. flag in the foreign trade. We have lost more than 20 ships from the U.S.-flagged foreign trade fleet just since the end of 2012.

Our merchant marine not only carries commercial cargo, it provides vital sealift capacity to the United States military. And yet, particularly during periods of demobilization, we have repeatedly allowed our blue-water fleet to decay until unforeseen crises have created an urgent new need for sealift capacity. Such a post-mobilization decline is happening again, but now our fleet is falling to such low levels that we risk reaching a tipping point from which we may never recover. We cannot afford to let that happen, and I remind my colleagues this is our watch.

Mr. Speaker, effective enforcement of our existing cargo preference requirements is essential to the success of our U.S.-flagged fleet, and it is just like any other Buy America policy that ensures the expenditure of U.S. taxpayer dollars supports the interests of United States taxpayers.

I want to thank my colleagues on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee for working with me to look closely at this critical issue. I also commend Chairman HUNTER for offering an amendment to the NDAA that would provide a 1-year increase in the MSP annual operating stipend. I want to thank him for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, as I close, I note that section 302 of this bill is of deep concern to me. Section 302 would gut much of what was enacted in section 609 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010. Section 609 was enacted to ensure that all survival craft approved by the United States Coast Guard provide the basic protection of keeping individuals out of the water if they are forced to abandon a vessel. Of particular concern is ensuring that the elderly, children, and those with disabilities have access to a survival craft that can actually ensure their survival. The National Transportation Safety Board has been clear for the last 40 years that out-of-water survival craft save lives.

Rather than rolling back the requirements contained in the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010, we should be focused on ensuring full implementation of these requirements. As such, I hope that before this authorization is finalized, section 302 is removed from it.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I again thank my colleagues for their hard work on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. I thank the gentleman.

Congratulations here to Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member DEFAZIO for getting this important bill to the floor today. We are certainly proud to support our men and women serving in the United States Coast Guard. They play such a critical role there through rescue and saving lives and the role that they play also in drug interdiction and in protecting our territorial waters.

I would also like to recognize the cooperative way in which Chairman Hunter has worked to address concerns about how this bill would impact an important lifesaving program under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and that is the Food for Peace program. Over the past several years, the effort to reform the Food for Peace program so that we can feed more people in crisis overseas in less time for less money has been portrayed as a zero-sum game between the intended beneficiaries of our generosity and the U.S. merchant marine. That is unfortunate because that is wrong.

What is clear, though, is that we need to fix this problem in the sense that, after Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines in 2013, U.S. purchase and shipping requirements delayed deliveries of U.S. food for 3 weeks. Now, fortunately, with the Food for Peace program, those needs were met.

But now in Nepal, it would take 45 days to get U.S. food in country even though food has been pre-positioned in nearby Sri Lanka. So that is why this element of the Food for Peace program is so important. If we had to wait 45 days to respond to every humanitarian disaster, some people would perish. Certainly many would be on the verge of starvation over that 45-day period.

I am, therefore, pleased to see that this year the Coast Guard authorization bill does not raise cargo preference requirements from 50 percent to 75, and further, the bill's cargo preference enforcement provisions maintain important consultation and public comment requirements. At the same time, the recently passed national defense authorization bill will accelerate support for the existing Maritime Security Program.

□ 1800

I appreciate Chairman HUNTER's work to ensure that U.S. maritime security needs are fulfilled through a national defense mechanism rather than relying upon food aid cargos.

Mr. Speaker, preserving U.S. maritime security is essential, but it need not come at the expense of food aid. I look forward to continuing to work with Chairman HUNTER and Ranking Member GARAMENDI on creative solutions that enable us to preserve U.S. maritime security while making Food for Peace more effective, more efficient, and most importantly, getting it there on time for those that are in need after a disaster.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, we have no more speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

We, obviously, covered all the key points of this legislation, the important side.

I would like to briefly highlight the fact that the U.S. Coast Guard's mission has fundamentally changed over the last several years in regard to the mission upon mission heaped upon this agency and the greater role they are now playing in regard to national security, cooperating with our other defense and Armed Forces.

I want to make note that this legislation ensures that the Coast Guard is on a path to playing that role and being able to perform their responsibilities and their duties proficiently.

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I first want to echo Chairman HUNTER in stating my strong support for H.R. 1987, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, legislation that will tend to the needs of our Nation's fifth military service, the United States Coast Guard.

I also want to express my sincere appreciation to Chairman HUNTER for his genuine bipartisan collaboration throughout the development of this important legislation. Not only will this bill improve our oversight of the Coast Guard, it also will enhance the capabilities and performance of this indispensable, multi-mission maritime agency.

I also want to thank the Chairman of the Transportation Committee, BILL SHUSTER, and the Ranking Democrat Member, PETER DEFAZIO, and acknowledge them for their thoughtful contributions.

I am particularly pleased that this legislation will provide stability in budget authority for the Coast Guard. Erratic budgets and perpetual continuing resolutions have had a deleterious impact on the Coast Guard. Perhaps most notable, unpredictable and insufficient funding has hampered the Coast Guard's ability to keep pace with its long-term program to recapitalize its offshore fleets of surface and air assets.

Some of the Coast Guard's legacy cutters are fifty years old. These vessels are well beyond their estimated service life and have become increasingly unreliable and much more expensive to maintain and repair. We can, and we should, do better by our Coast Guard.

The authorized funding levels for the Acquisitions, Construction and Improvement Account in this legislation will allow the Coast Guard to keep this recapitalization initiative on track. I am optimistic that these authorizations will send a strong signal to our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee.

I also support provisions in the bill that will require the Coast Guard to initiate long-term capital planning, to require better assessments of mission performance metrics and personnel needs, and to assess and test new communication and vessel management technologies.

The bill also contains provisions important to our merchant marine. Provisions that would harmonize the renewal of different mariner credentials and allow mariners greater flexibility in acquiring their medical certifications should improve convenience without sacrificing compliance with fitness and training standards.

The bill also further advances my strong interest in using the imminent U.S. LNG export trade as a new economic opportunity for our shipyards and the U.S. flag in our foreign trade.

This legislation would direct the Secretary of Transportation to develop guidelines to promote the use of U.S. flag vessels and U.S. seafarers in the transport of LNG. I urge members to support this provision that will create maritime jobs here at home.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, this legislation is not perfect, but rarely is that the case. This legislation is, however, a balanced, responsible and forward thinking product that will support our Coast Guard and address important issues raised by maritime stakeholders.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor, and I urge members on both sides to support this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1987, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 91, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1313, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1382, by the yeas and nays.

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

VETERAN'S I.D. CARD ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 91) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue, upon request, veteran identification cards to certain veterans, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 0, not voting 30, as follows:

[Roll No. 240]

YEAS—402

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer

Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—30

Barletta
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown (FL)
Capps
Cárdenas
Clay
Cohen
Culberson
Davis, Danny
Dold
Doyle, Michael F.
Farenthold
Green, Al
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
Hunter
Jordan
Lamborn
Lee
Moore
Pallone
Pascrell
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Schakowsky
Sires
Tiberi
Tsongas
Yoho

□ 1857

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 240 I missed the vote because of flight delay and bad weather. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1313) to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the treatment of certain small business concerns for purposes of Department of Veterans Affairs contracting goals and preferences, 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 Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 403, nays 0, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 241]

YEAS—403

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—29

Barletta
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown (FL)
Capps
Cárdenas
Culberson
Davis, Danny
Dold
Doyle, Michael F.
Farenthold
Green, Al
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
Hunter
Jordan
Lamborn
Lee
Moore
Pallone
Pascrell
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Schakowsky
Sires
Tiberi
Tsongas
Wilson (SC)
Zinke

□ 1907

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BOOSTING RATES OF AMERICAN VETERAN EMPLOYMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1382) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in awarding a contract for the procurement of goods or services, to give a preference to offerors that employ veterans, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 0, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 242]

YEAS—404

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capuano
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takai
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—28

Barletta
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown (FL)
Capps
Cárdenas
Culberson
Davis, Danny
Dold
Doyle, Michael F.
Farenthold
Green, Al
Gutiérrez
Hinojosa
Hunter
Jordan
Lamborn
Lee
Moore
Pallone
Pascrell
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Schakowsky
Sires
Tiberi
Tsongas
Zinke

□ 1914

Mr. AMASH changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, this evening, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast votes on three bills: H.R. 91, the Veteran's I.D. Card Act, as amended; H.R. 1313, the Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act; and H.R. 1382, the Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act, as amended.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' on each of the three bills.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I missed the following votes: H.R. 91, the Veteran's I.D. Card Act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on this bill. H.R. 1313, the Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on this bill. H.R. 1382, the Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 240, 241, and 242. I was unavoidably detained due to a flight delay. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye,'' ''aye,'' and ''aye.''

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR AN EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA I

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 3, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MCSALLY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 3

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR EVENT TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used for an event on June 7, 2015, to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on Senate Concurrent Resolution 3.

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

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN STROKE MONTH

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind us that May is American Stroke Month.

According to the American Heart Association, stroke is the leading cause of disability in the United States. In fact, one out of every six people will suffer from a stroke in his or her lifetime, yet

strokes are largely preventable and treatable.

Small changes in diet and exercise can have an enormously positive impact on your heart health and help prevent a stroke. America's amazing medical researchers and practitioners are also doing their part by pioneering new treatments that save lives every day.

Finally, let's remember these four letters, F-A-S-T: face drooping, arm weakness, speech difficulty, and it is time to call 911. If you or your loved one experience any of these symptoms, call 911.

MARKING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, 50 years ago today, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced from the White House Rose Garden that enrollment would begin for an early childhood education program called Project Head Start.

For the last half century, Head Start has been more than just an education program. It not only includes quality preschool but also critical support services, including family engagement, health services, and good nutrition. Studies have found that children in Head Start do better academically, have better behavior, and better health status than their peers. The program also saves more money than it costs by reducing teen pregnancy, high school dropouts, and the likelihood of incarceration.

Madam Speaker, we know that Head Start works. As we mark the occasion of 50 years of one of the most successful early intervention programs, let us recommit ourselves to the ideal that all of our children have access to quality preschool education, like Head Start.

PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN LEGION'S EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate 17-year-old Devin Anderson of Weedville, Pennsylvania, for being named the Pennsylvania American Legion's Eagle Scout of the Year. Devin, who is a member of Kersey Troop 94, first joined the Boy Scouts after learning about them during an assembly in the first grade. Since then, Devin has dedicated himself to church, school, scouting, and community and personifies all that an Eagle Scout should be.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of attending Devin's Eagle Scout ceremony back in November of 2012, and I knew right away, then and there, that this young man had a bright future ahead. Devin now advances to the national level, where he will compete among 56 applicants to earn the coveted National Eagle Scout of the Year award.

Like Devin's parents, Joe and Karen Anderson, I am so proud of all of Devin's accomplishments, and I wish him all the best as he competes for this national award.

125TH ANNIVERSARY, UA LOCAL 50 OF NORTHERN OHIO

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, Members of Congress attend many events. And over the weekend, I was very privileged to be a part of the 125th anniversary celebration of United Allied Trades, Local 50 Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Allied Trades in northern Ohio—125 years of building America forward.

Over 1,500 people came into this mammoth hall, and we remembered those who had come before us and had been a part of building, of plumbing, of pipefitting, of building America forward—in our refineries, in our nuclear power plants, in the natural gas lines that are laid. The power of America was before us in the hands and minds of those who have the skills to build for us.

The training academy they have built at local 50 is probably the finest in the country, at least one of the finest. And I am just so proud of the younger men and women who are coming up in the trades. They have a decent wage. They can earn enough to join the middle class. They have retirement plans. They have health plans, including the one they built from scratch, serving thousands and thousands and thousands of people.

Congratulations at 125 years to United Allied Trades Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 50 in Ohio. God bless you. You have blessed America.

RECOGNIZING RABBI HAROLD KRAVITZ

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize Minnesota Rabbi Harold Kravitz for his national leadership as chair of the board for MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger.

As Rabbi Kravitz's term as chair comes to an end, I want to thank him for the work he has done both in Minnesota and across the country in the fight against poverty and for his work on child advocacy.

He has received numerous awards for his efforts and for his leadership, including being named one of America's Most Inspiring Rabbis by Jewish Daily Forward. However, it is more than awards, Madam Speaker, because anyone who has met Rabbi Kravitz will tell you, it is a passion that he has for the causes that he advocates for that brings his success.

I wish Rabbi Kravitz success in moving forward and the best as he moves on to new endeavors, which I am sure will include many continued projects to make the world a better and safer and just place. His service and commitment to helping our community and the causes that he champions have made a significant difference, and we thank him for his tireless efforts.

HOUSTON ROCKETS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, what about those Houston Rockets.

In the 18th Congressional District, in the Toyota Center last night, we reclaimed the name Clutch City. Let me thank the young men of the Houston Rockets, the Rockets organization. For the first time in 18 years, the Rockets are in the Western Championship.

Oh, I know that it is not the championship of the National Basketball Association, but it is really good for Houstonians.

We had a rockin' good time. For those who were able just to be on the streets, those who were inside the arena, those who were at various sites around the city, I watched my constituents have just a great amount of joy.

It is my privilege to thank the owners, the coach, and, yes, all of the team. We know there are great stars on the team. We know that they work as a team, and that is what makes the Houston Rockets great.

I am here today saying, what about those Rockets, with a red coat on to salute the Houston Rockets and push them on tomorrow night to be champions again. I thank them for being the right kind of role models for our young people and letting them know that academics and sports go together. The National Basketball Association realizes the importance of young people having role models but young people staying in school, and they are staying focused on that.

So I am rooting for the Houston Rockets. What about those Houston Rockets. Clutch City.

HONORING TRIPLE ACE COLONEL ''BUD'' ANDERSON

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I am equally excited about the Golden State Warriors starting this week, but that is not why I am here tonight.

Over the weekend, I had the opportunity to participate in a really great ceremony for a gentleman who is a World War II triple ace in Auburn,

California, Colonel Bud Anderson. He dedicated so much to his community not just during the war but in all his efforts afterwards and leadership.

Colonel Anderson, as a triple ace, helped as a cornerstone to keep the war effort against Germany by escorting fighters and bombers in for the important bombing run to help turn the tide in World War II against the German effort to make war. So being able to honor him with so many of his friends and others showing up with P–51D Mustangs was a great, great tribute to him over the weekend. And this week as well he will be honored with the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony that will be taking place this Wednesday at 3 p.m. eastern time. I hope everybody will take that in.

THE URGENCY OF NOW: ADDRESSING REFORM, ACCOUNTABILITY, EQUALITY, AND DIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I am glad to be joined by my colleague and friend, the gentlewoman from Illinois, Ms. ROBIN KELLY. Thank you, Congresswoman KELLY, for joining me in coanchoring this Special Order hour tonight. Thank you also to the members of the Congressional Black Caucus and to all those watching from home.

Madam Speaker, last month, Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old man Baltimore man, died in police custody from a spinal cord injury. His death, ruled a homicide, has drawn ongoing national attention to the increasingly frayed relations between police and communities throughout the United States.

Tonight we come together as a caucus to address the urgent need to reform our criminal justice system and promote police accountability and also to talk about many different issues of diversity in our Nation.

Our Nation is at a crossroads. Failure to make meaningful reforms to our criminal justice system risks damaging relations between communities and police beyond repair. But real commonsense reforms that enhance transparency, advance public safety, eradicate discrimination, and instill trust can create a system that works for all Americans.

Currently, our law enforcement system and criminal justice system aren't working for African Americans and other minorities. As a result, a meaningful dialogue between law enforcement and the communities they are charged with protecting remains illusive.

Tonight we will speak to the urgent need to reform our criminal justice and police systems so that we can breathe new life into the American promise of full equality and justice for all.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY).

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. I thank my friend from New Jersey for leading tonight's Special Order hour.

Madam Speaker, once again, the Congressional Black Caucus has the opportunity to discuss some of the many important issues and challenges facing our Nation right now. I strongly believe that our conversation here tonight is a critical discussion for the record as we continue the work of making our communities and country better. The urgency of now, addressing reform, accountability, equality, and diversity, that is quite a title, but what does it all mean in the context of our full discussion?

□ 1930

America is celebrated for being a melting pot, but I like to say a tossed salad or a stew, because in a stew or salad you don't lose your identity, but you learn to live together in the same gravy or the same salad dressing. This Congress is, without a doubt, a true testament to the diverse people, personalities, and communities that make this great Nation so great.

But in these dynamic times, how can we ensure that our laws and policies are fully embracing our melting pot or our stew of a nation? How can we ensure that we make this great Union even more perfect? It starts with holding ourselves accountable in just a myriad of respects on the economic front, with respect to our justice system, in appreciating our diversity and inclusion for all Americans. I look forward to a fruitful conversation on this and thank my coanchor, Representative PAYNE.

I did want to acknowledge the Diversity Dinner that we had last week. These days we hear so much about the toxic partisan atmosphere in Congress, titles like ''How Congress Became So Partisan'' in The Washington Post to Nick Gass at Politico's piece, ''This Graphic Shows How America's Partisan Divide Grew.'' The reports of Congress' hyperpartisanship are abundant. The reports point to the loss of camaraderie and friendship amongst colleagues across the aisle. This perception undoubtedly contributes to our dismal 15 percent approval rating.

Since my time as a State legislator in the Illinois statehouse, I have been hosting Diversity Dinners to grow friendships and nurture collegial working relations among legislators who may not otherwise interact. Tonight as we discuss equality and diversity, I want to reflect on what I see as encouraging in bridging differences and understanding in different communities.

Last week I hosted, along with other Members, my second annual congressional Diversity Dinner. Forty Members of Congress from both parties, including Members from both Republican and Democratic leadership, showed up and enjoyed a meal with their colleagues. During the dinner, we weren't Democrats or Republicans; we were colleagues with some great stories to share. At this year's dinner, I saw a microcosm of our Nation, a crowd made up of Members from coast to coast with truly diverse backgrounds coming together to enjoy each other's company.

If we can put aside our partisan blinders to break bread together, I am confident we can find ways to work together. That is what America wants and needs, and that type of leadership is the kind of leadership we deserve.

Today we have an opportunity to celebrate diversity and show that bipartisanship can thrive in Congress. In recent months we have seen the trust between political parties, law enforcement, and communities across the Nation spike. Now is the time for us to come together to address the reforms needed to rebuild this trust. Let's show the American people that we are a diverse body that won't let party lines divide us or define us.

Mr. PAYNE. I would like to thank the gentlewoman for her thoughtful comments.

Madam Speaker, it is true, we have come to a point in this Nation where one side has gone to one corner and the other side has gone to another corner not to meet in the middle to solve issues and problems. There was a time when this great body would compromise. You didn't get everything you wanted, and I didn't get everything I wanted. So that means we compromised and came to a decision.

The gentlewoman also makes a good point about working with Members on the other side of the aisle. The gentlewoman from Arizona, the Speaker pro tempore this evening, has become a great collaborator with myself on the Homeland Security Subcommittee which she chairs, and we have worked extensively together on legislation that we both support. We need more of that. We need more of that to happen. We need to take the time to hear each other, to listen, and to see where we don't agree on everything but there are common threads that we can build and bind together.

So with that, I am proud to see her sitting in that chair. I get to sit next to her in committee, so it puts me closer to the Speaker's chair, and I feel privileged for that.

Right now, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas, the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE. She is one of the most thoughtful Members of the United States House of Representatives. She hails from Houston, Texas, and she always has great words of wisdom, thoughts, and ideas on the issues that we face in this great Nation.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I think by the spirit and the tone of this Special Order we can see that there is hope and a pathway for collaboration.

Let me thank Mr. PAYNE, who has evidenced those collaborative efforts

through his leadership on homeland security and successful leadership, passing any number of legislative initiatives in a bipartisan manner. I also am delighted to join Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY. And she is right. She had a very successful Diversity Dinner last week, and I am sure it outdid the one the year before, and there was a lot of cross-pollination, good feelings, and discussions about very important issues.

We found that America is a diverse nation, and we are happy when we have the ability to understand each other's cultures or understand the background that each of us have come from. Our own neighborhoods make us different, our own faith modes are different, our family members' mode is different, where we went to school. Yet in this place, the American people ask us, as both Mr. PAYNE and Ms. KELLY are saying today, to walk a pathway of bipartisanship, but really towards success. So allow me just briefly to comment on one or two points regarding diversity.

I would highlight that one of the areas is where I formerly served as a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. In years past, we have gathered around science, technology, engineering, and math, and we have gathered around transportation infrastructure. I hope in our words tonight that we will find a way to forge a way forward for transportation infrastructure, because every one of us needs not only good roads, highways, and dams, but we need good public transportation, as evidenced by the heinous and unacceptable tragedy last week with Amtrak.

I might add that I am a space chauvinist, a NASA supporter. Many centers are around the Nation. It is a job creator, as is infrastructure, and I would hope that we would write a bill and have Republicans and Democrats support the value of human space exploration. What a pathway for bipartisanship. We haven't gone that way, Madam Speaker, but I am hoping that the words we offer tonight will see us do that.

Let me focus on my last point and indicate that we have a moment, a significant moment in history. This is a great cause, and that cause is to find a pathway for criminal justice reform. Yesterday marked the 61st anniversary of the landmark decision in Brown v. Board of Education, a decision that overruled the separate but equal doctrine of Plessy v. Ferguson and gave needed momentum for the fight for reform, equality, and diversity in our Nation's schools and, I would say, society at large.

Many communities are waiting for that kind of evenhandedness in justice in the criminal justice system. This does not mean that we throw targets at our friends in law enforcement. It means that we find ways for there to be an acceptance that we all can stand improvement, correction, enhancement, educational opportunities, tactics, and training. There is no shame to any of that.

As I stood with our officers and families who were on the grounds of the Capitol on May 15, as I joined them for the police memorial for those who had fallen in duty, there were faces from all backgrounds, and we were singularly noting the tragedy of lost officers. At the same time as we mourn those officers, we know that there are officers who will look to work with us as we move this criminal justice system along.

I would just like to acknowledge that as we do so, we can find bipartisanship, because the cost of incarceration, for example, is almost prohibitive. Madam Speaker, $75 billion is spent on local, State, and Federal incarceration. We have the largest percentage, 2 million people, incarcerated across America.

We can do better, and part of that is expanding community-oriented policing, building trust, a bill that I introduced, H.R. 59, that would create a pathway for ensuring that communities feel that they are being protected but not feel differently that they are being, if you will, put in a certain category to be utilized as a basis for revenue raising in our communities.

Then we heard FBI Director Comey, and I agree with him. The science of doing a better job is data and statistics. So I introduced the CADET bill, Collection and Analysis of Data to Educate and Train Law Enforcement Officers. What it simply means is give them the numbers, the statistics, to know how they can do a better job at planning, going forward, how they police. Let there be information for us to be able to design the right kind of policing tactics that work for law enforcement and for the community. It is right out of the FBI Director's playbook. He said that we are operating without data, without statistics, and, frankly, that is not what we should be doing.

Tomorrow we will be holding a hearing on the issue of police accountability and gaining the facts in the Judiciary Committee, but there is much more for us to do. For example, what are the educational requirements? What are the various resources used for mental health? And psychological needs and training and nonviolent conflict resolution received by police forces, police officers, the feasibility and emphasis of making greater use of the technological devices, such as body cameras. But I want more technology, laptops. Many law enforcement have laptops. We might need to move to iPads to be able to give them quicker response times and quicker support systems, to be able to ensure that we have the right tools to work together.

And yes, you cannot breathe life into the reform of a criminal justice system if you do not have a component dealing with our youth, so I have introduced, of course, the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization bill and the antibullying Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act to be able to address a sort of a cause and a release for our young people. Madam Speaker, I would offer to say that there is much work that we can do. We will be looking at the legislation that many people have passed.

I want to conclude on this note, to simply acknowledge the ranking member, JOHN CONYERS, on the Judiciary Committee that wants to join together with me to embrace the legislative initiatives of our Members to get the right kind of omnibus bill going forward for the American public to see criminal justice reform. I want to thank my colleagues for allowing me these comments and, as well, the bipartisan approach that you have taken.

Madam Speaker, yesterday marked the 61st anniversary of the landmark decision in Brown v. Board of Education, the decision that overruled the "separate but equal doctrine" of Plessey v. Ferguson and gave needed momentum to the fight for reform, equality, and diversity in our nation's schools and society at large.

Although much progress has been made in narrowing the gap between the nation's founding ideals and the objective reality, recent events demonstrate that we still have a ways to go before the dream of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is realized in the areas of criminal justice reform, economic opportunity, and workplace diversity.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Madam Speaker, the problems revealed by several of the more notorious incidents involving the use of lethal force against unarmed citizens that have captured the attention of the nation over the past several months require a national response because the problems identified are not isolated or limited to one region of the country.

For example, the death of 43 year-old Eric Garner resulting from the application of a NYPD police chokehold occurred in the Northeast and the death of 18 year-old Michael Brown and the resulting events in Ferguson occurred in the border state of Missouri.

The killing of 12 year-old Tamir Rice by a Cleveland police officer occurred in the Midwest and death of unarmed 26 year-old Jordan Baker by an off-duty Houston police officer occurred in Texas.

In Phoenix, Arizona, Rumain Brisbon, an unarmed black father of four, was shot to death when a police officer allegedly mistook his bottle of pills for a gun.

In Pasadena, California 19 year-old Kendrec McDade was chased and shot seven times by two police officers after a 911 caller falsely reported he had been robbed at gunpoint by two black men, neither of whom in fact was armed.

And, of course, on April 4, the conscience of the nation was shocked by the horrifying killing of 50 year-old Walter Scott by a North Charleston police officer in the southern state of South Carolina.

Madam Speaker, while the problem is national in scope, it appears to affect disproportionately and adversely a particular demographic group: African American males.

Because all lives matter in our great nation, it is imperative that we in Congress act swiftly and decisively to focus much needed attention and resources on legislative proposals intended to address the problem of misuse of

lethal force by law enforcement and to rebuild the public trust and confidence needed to ensure that law enforcement receive and maintain the support of the communities they serve and protect.

As Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I note that there are several promising legislative criminal justice reform initiatives that have been introduced and are worthy of consideration.

Among them are H.R. 59, the ''Build TRUST in Municipal Law Enforcement Act of 2015'' (Rept. JACKSON LEE); H.R. 1459, the Democracy Restoration Act of 2015 (Rep. CONYERS); H.R. 1810, the ''Collection and Analysis of Data to Educate and Train Law Enforcement Officers'' (''CADET Act''); H.R. 920, the ''Smarter Sentencing Act of 2015'' (Rept. LABRADOR); and S. 675, the ''Record Expungement Designed to Enhance Employment Act of 2015'' (REDEEM Act) (Sens. PAUL and BOOKER).

Madam Speaker, earlier this year FBI Director James Comey delivered a remarkable speech at Georgetown University in which he laid out several hard truths about the administration of the criminal justice system and state of community policing in our country.

One of the hardest truths discussed by Director Comey is the fact we have limited information and inadequate data regarding the scope and extent of the problems endemic in the criminal justice system.

This lack of information hampers the ability of policymakers and administrators at the federal, state, and local level to identify and implement laws, policies, and practices to remedy identified problems.

The Judiciary Committee should immediately conduct hearings to educate the Congress and the public on the nature and extent of deficiencies in the nation's criminal justice systems and the efficacy of proposed solutions.

Specifically, hearings should be held to investigate practices and policies governing: 1. the use of lethal force by state and local police departments; 2. educational requirements, mental health and psychological evaluations, and training in non-violent conflict resolution received by veteran law enforcement officers and new recruits; and 3. the feasibility and efficacy of making greater use of technological devices such as body cameras.

A fourth area to be explored is the state of the social science research in the academic study of criminal justice reform because there is much the Committee can learn by engaging leading experts in the field regarding the state of knowledge in their respective disciplines.

Madam Speaker, reforming the criminal justice system so that it dispenses justice impartially and equally to all persons is one of the most important challenges facing this Congress.

And it is a goal that can be achieved if we work together in a spirit of goodwill and bipartisan cooperation.

There are few things we can do that will provide a greater service to our nation.

JOBS AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Madam Speaker, the current unemployment rate for African Americans is 9.6%, this is nearly twice of the 4.7% unemployment rate of white Americans.

African American children between the age of 16 and 19 have an unemployment rate of 27.5% whereas the unemployment rate for white teenagers of the same age is 14.5%.

The median African American (34,600) household income is nearly 24,000 less than the median income for White Americans' household.

African Americans are almost 3 times more likely to live in poverty than white Americans.

Madam Speaker, although the unemployment rate has decreased over the past year, a significant race-gap still remains.

WORKPLACE DIVERSITY

Workplace diversity is critical to an organization's success and competitiveness.

Workplace Diversity allows for an increased adaptability, broader service range, a variety of viewpoints, and more effective execution.

Madam Speaker, with an increasingly global economy, the workforce has become more diverse, and an organizations success depends on its ability to manage diversity.

That is why, for example, introduced an amendment that was adopted by the House to H.R. 4899, the ''Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America that Works Act of 2014,'' to include legislation establishing an Interior Department Office of Energy Employment and Training charged with working with minority-serving educational institutions and other to expand the numbers and diversity of persons from across the voluntary with the skills and qualifications needed to take advantage of the exciting and rewarding opportunities that American energy industry has to offer and to keep America the world leaders in emerging energy technologies.

I also introduced H.R. 70, the ''Deficit Reduction, Job Creation, and Energy Security Act,'' that requires the Secretary to establish an office of Energy Employment and Training and an Office of Minority and Women Inclusion responsible for all matters of the Department of the Interior relating to diversity in management, employment, and business activities.

I also introduced, and the House adopted, an amendment to H.R. 4923, ''Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2015,'' that increased funding for the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity by $500,000 to provide grants to Minority Serving Institutions to expand STEM programs and opportunities.

Mr. PAYNE. I really appreciate the always thoughtful and timely remarks by the gentlewoman from Texas.

Madam Speaker, at this time I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), a gentleman who has served this House with distinction. He served with my father, and now I have the great opportunity to work with him.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey. In fact, he did refer to the relationship that I had with DON PAYNE, a young Congressman from New Jersey who, in fact, engaged me as a new Member in the Caribbean Caucus. During that period of time that I engaged with the Congressman's father, we tried to pay attention to the Caribbean, as some would say, a gateway to the United States of America, but a land of a number of islands of people who are not only most accommodating to the United States of America, but really thoughtful in ingenuity involved in the people of the Caribbean.

□ 1945

I found through the relationship that I had with then-Congressman PAYNE, as he was co-chairman of the Caribbean Caucus, I learned the things that he tried to teach me about not only people, but about a relationship with the United States of America.

I do miss Don. I want to thank the gentleman for not only knowing that, but acknowledging that. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding time to me to file the rule.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. PAYNE. I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas who, as I said, has had a distinguished career to this point and will continue to show great leadership in this House of Representatives, and I thank him for his friendship.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order tonight.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, we heard a common thread about diversity. At the bottom of the Statue of Liberty, there are words on it and it says: ''Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.''

That has allowed many diverse people come here and look for the freedom that this Nation can extend to you and prosper. We need to continue that great tradition.

I hear a lot these days about the borders and eliminating pathways to come here, and that has not been our tradition, so I do not believe, at this point in time in this Nation's history, that we should talk that way, or else, we should remove those words from the bottom of Lady Liberty.

Equality and diversity is the center of criminal justice concerns. The inequality force is distrust which erodes relationships between police and communities. Baltimore and other police-related tragedies over the past year speak to the broader challenges.

Unfortunately, racial discrimination persists throughout our Nation, undercutting the gains of African Americans in their communities.

As we work to reform our criminal justice system, we must also work in support of equality in all context. This is the only way to fully meet the needs of our communities.

As a caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus is committed to ensuring that the increasing diversity of the Nation is reflected in American business. To that end, we will make sure that American businesses receive the government contracts and tax preferences and taking concrete steps to improve diversity in efforts at all levels.

Diversity in the workforce means diversity in all sectors, including technology industries where there is a lack of African Americans. We need to engage the tech center in increasing African American representation and inclusion in the industry.

The American promise that we all are created equal must guide our efforts at all levels, from policing in our communities, to expanding opportunities for minorities in the workforce.

Madam Speaker, there has to be balance in everything. We see the issues that towns such as Ferguson and Baltimore and Long Island, New York, have suffered with the tragedies of losing people in those communities, but we also know that police organizations have a difficult job, and they are trained to protect and serve. We must make sure that that is the goal, to protect and serve.

Unfortunately, at times, we find circumstances or situations where they are in a position where they are not protecting and serving, but more like an occupying force. That is not what we need from our law enforcement officers.

We need for them to engage in the community and understand what is going on in that community and have a good enough relationship that, when and if there is a circumstance where they need information, that the community feels comfortable enough to go to them with the information they need in order to serve the issue.

There is good and bad in everyone, Madam Speaker. There are good public servants and bad public servants; there are good teachers and bad teachers; there are good speakers and bad speakers, poor speakers, but, when it comes to law enforcement, we need to have them serve the community.

I stand here to say I thank them for the difficult task that they have every single day, to go into the community, and their families say good-bye to them and hope they return from that shift that evening. I don't take it lightly.

There is enough responsibility on all sides, from law enforcement and from the community, that has a responsibility to law enforcement, but we need to continue to strive to make this a more perfect union.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY).

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Thank you, Congressman PAYNE. I did want to say to Madam Speaker, I appreciate you participating in the Diversity Dinners last week. I can't have Congressman PAYNE have a one-up on me, so thank you so much. I really appreciate it.

As we continue our conversation on accountability, equality, and diversity, I would like to offer some statistics on our economy 50 years ago and today with respect to the African American community and women.

In 1965, African American jobseekers could be denied employment based on the color of their skin; and, when they could find jobs, they were disproportionately paid less than White males in the same position. In fact, in 1965, the Black unemployment rate was 8.1 percent, almost twice the national unemployment rate which stood at 4.5 percent.

Fifty years later, we have made great strides, and our Nation's workforce is more diverse than ever, but we have much more work to do. Today, at 10.4 percent, the Black unemployment rate is still almost double the national unemployment rate of 5.6 percent. While it is significantly smaller, there is still a racial wage gap.

The median African American household has less than two-thirds the income of the average White median household. In the past year, we have seen the greatest economic growth in decades. More and more women have been able to enter the workforce, reducing the employment rate among women to a 6-year low.

Unfortunately, Black women have yet to reap the benefits of the economic rebound. In fact, while the overall unemployment rate for women declined, the Black female unemployment rate has increased over the past 2 months. According to a recent analysis by the National Women's Law Center, the Black women's unemployment rate is more than twice the unemployment rate of White women.

Despite having comparable levels of education, Black women have had the highest unemployment rate of any other group. A possible factor in the stubborn unemployment rate for Black women is that we are disproportionately employed in the public sector, which is experiencing a much slower recovery than the private sector.

NWLC said the stagnant job situation for Black women is a ''red flag'' in the employment landscape and urged lawmakers to act to promote a stronger, more widely shared recovery. I couldn't agree more.

We need to invest more in job training and retraining programs that help Black women adapt to the changing workforce and prepare for the careers of tomorrow. We must work to promote diversity in hiring and encourage employers to model their workforces on the communities in which they operate.

As we look for ways to help increase diversity in the workplace and help women succeed, we must be mindful of the unique challenges Black women face and develop targeted policies that help level the playing field for all women.

These facts I have just covered point to the systemic problems. We need to address them today. It should be our mission today to see to it that in 50 years, when lawmakers stand here, they will proudly be touting the progress our Nation has made because all Americans are paid equally and no is discriminated against in the workplace.

As chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, I am working to address our Nation's health equity gap by exploring legislative and policy initiatives to reduce minority health disparities and promote better health outcomes for all Americans.

With respect to the African American community, the health disparity gap is particularly wide as Blacks have high rates of many adverse health conditions. Across the medical spectrum—from cancer to diabetes, from hypertension to stroke—Blacks are overrepresented and often undertreated.

A major barrier to African Americans getting the medical care they need is the lack of African American doctors in their communities. Studies show that African Americans are more comfortable seeking treatment from doctors who look like them and are much more likely to adhere to courses of treatment prescribed by Black doctors; yet, while African Americans comprise 13 percent of the U.S. population, we represent only 4 percent of the physician workforce, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges' 2014 diversity in the physician workforce report.

The infamous Tuskegee study fostered an enduring legacy of mistrust of the medical establishment in the African American community that makes diversity in medicine vital to closing the health disparities gap.

In order to achieve health equity, we must work to create a physician workforce that reflects our Nation. One key way to do that is to encourage more African Americans to pursue education and training in science, technology, engineering, and math. Congress must do more to support investments in STEM education and to create avenues of access for African American students to enter the STEM fields.

In my district, I launched the Second Congressional District STEM Academy to expose students to STEM fields in hopes of encouraging them to pursue STEM-related careers.

Also, a STEM workforce made up of diverse ranks is crucial to future innovation. To help in that mission, folks across the country and in Silicon Valley have taken note. I know Facebook has sought to change the face of innovation through efforts like their Facebook Academy and Facebook University, which target high school and college students from underrepresented groups.

Similar to my STEM Academy, it is good to see them making an effort to build a pipeline and introduce women and people of color to jobs in STEM—which, of course, could be IT, engineering—and hopefully, more young people decide to become doctors, and they can work in African American communities or underserved communities.

A medical student population that reflects our country's population will create a pipeline of diverse doctors to our communities which will, in turn, put all Americans on track to live a healthier life.

I turn back to my colleague from New Jersey, Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you, Ms. KELLY. We appreciate your comments.

In closing, I would like to thank you for cohosting the Special Order on criminal justice reform, accountability, and diversity. It is through these Special Orders that we are able to speak directly to our constituents about the valuable work the Congressional Black Caucus does to reduce injustice and promote equality for all African American communities.

Our criminal justice and police systems are in a state of crisis. Too often, under these systems, Black lives are treated as though they don't matter. We saw this last month, when Baltimore's Freddie Gray died in police custody from a brutal spine injury. Such tragedies erode trust between our communities and the police.

This problem is compounded by a wide range of factors, from disturbing gaps in incarceration rates to racial disparities in sentencing. We need a system that holds criminals accountable and protects law enforcement while, at the same time, ensuring the safety and equal treatment of all communities.

This includes implementing police body cameras in order to promote transparency and accountability while deterring wrongdoing.

□ 2000

At the same time, we need to make sure that law enforcement officers don't resort to discriminatory policing practices.

It is undeniable that racial profiling remains an ongoing crisis in our Nation. There is a clear and growing need to ensure a robust and comprehensive Federal commitment to ending racial profiling by law enforcement agencies. The End Racial Profiling Act, which I proudly support, would do just that. It was constructed after a law in New Jersey, authored by my uncle, Assemblyman William Payne. It was the first racial profiling law passed in the United States, a law of which I am very proud. I took that idea and brought it Federal.

Of course, real accountability means that we will, at times, need independent investigations of police-related deaths. We are glad to see, finally, Attorney General Lynch launch an investigation into the Baltimore Police Department, with the stated goal of assisting police departments across the country in developing their practices. In less than 1 month on the job, Attorney General Lynch is already making a difference, and we thank her for that.

As we reflect on the dire need for the reform of our criminal justice system, we need to advance the cause of equality in all contexts. This means expanding diversity in the workforce, in health, and in all aspects of life—from the mailroom to the boardroom, from the manufacturing industry to the technology sector. Many of these challenges we face today are great, but as a caucus, we remain committed to solving them.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus, in support of today's Special Order Hour: "The Urgency of Now: Addressing Reform, Accountability, Equality and Diversity." As the conscience of the Congress since 1971, these issues are of paramount importance to the Congressional Black Caucus in the 114th Congress.

There is a crisis in America—one that centers on criminal justice reform and law enforcement accountability. Just over a month ago, Freddie Gray lost his life at the hands of the police in a city plagued by a weak economy, high levels of crime, and a lack of good-paying jobs. While Baltimore is a city with a unique set of issues, its problems are common to many of America's inner cities. The pressure to address, not only the police accountability and criminal justice issues, but the context in which those issues arise, grows exponentially with each new tragedy.

As we watch American cities battered, bruised and burned during demonstrative outcries against injustice, I am reminded of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there ''is'' such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action." These words are just as true today as they were when Dr. King delivered them at the 1963 March on Washington.

Far too often, unarmed African American men die at the hands at police officers with little or no accountability. This reinforces the painful narrative that black life is not valued in this country. It is sad, yet very telling, that Americans celebrated when state officials announced that criminal charges were being brought against the Baltimore police involved in Freddie Gray's death. For too long, African-American communities nationwide felt as if no one could hear its cry. But the cries are not just the result of pain caused by police brutality. They are the result of a nation divided: one that grants access to quality healthcare to some, while denying it for others; one that provides economic security for a privileged few, while denying opportunities to the poor and the middle class; one that seeks justice for the unwarranted taking of a human life; while ignoring the rising death toll of American youth at the hands of police officers.

We cannot view the situations in Baltimore and Ferguson as limited incidents; instead, we have to look at the toxic environments that birthed these situations of unrest. If we do not comprehensively address the systemic issues that plague cities like Baltimore, relations between the people and its government will only grow worse. It is time that we honor the sacred truth of this nation—that all men are created equal, and demand equal justice. As we strive to become a more perfected union, it is imperative that the commitments of the American system be applied to African-Americans, just as it is to every other American. Madam Speaker, the urgency of addressing these issues has reached its pinnacle. Congress must act. We must act swiftly, and we must act now.

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

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1806, AMERICA COMPETES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2250, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2353, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION FUNDING ACT OF 2015

Mr. SESSIONS (during the Special Order of Mr. PAYNE) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114–120) on the resolution (H. Res. 271) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1806) to provide for technological innovation through the prioritization of Federal investment in basic research, fundamental scientific discovery, and development to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2250) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2353) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE PRESIDENT'S 2016 BUDGET REQUEST AND ENERGY POLICY FOR THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the House for the opportunity to talk this evening about the 2016 President's budget request and energy policy in this Nation.

Madam Speaker, there are a number of energy programs in this Nation whereby public lands resources are leased and energy is produced on public lands and in the offshore waters of this Nation.

As you can see here, this is a table that explains some of the different programs that are out there today.

Onshore, on Federal lands, when you produce Federal resources—or energy resources—like oil, gas, coal, and other resources, you can see that 50 percent of the funds from that energy production on Federal lands goes to the Federal Government and that 50 percent goes to the States under the Mineral Leasing Act. There are no constraints whatsoever in regard to how those

States can spend those funds. So 50 percent of the money from energy production on Federal lands goes directly to the States.

Right here, of the 50 percent that goes to the Federal Government, 40 percent of that 50 percent—or 80 percent of the Federal funds—actually goes into what is called the reclamation fund to be used on water projects in the 17 Western States. In effect, 90 percent of the funds that are produced from energy production on Federal lands goes back and is invested, in many cases, in those same States where production occurs. There is one anomaly, and that is the State of Alaska, where 90 percent of the money goes back to the State with no strings attached whatsoever.

You can see here on geothermal energy that 25 percent goes to the Federal Government, and 50 percent goes to the State. Even the counties share in 25 percent of the revenue. For offshore alternative energy, such as wind and wave energy and things along those lines, 27 percent of the revenues are shared with the adjacent States.

I am going to come back to this one on oil and gas offshore, but I will just make note that there is an extraordinary disparity in regard to how these different resources are treated.

I made reference to the Mineral Leasing Act. Again, except for in the case of Alaska, when you produce energy on Federal lands, 50 percent of the money goes directly to those States. Of the offshore dollars, up to $900 million each year goes into what is called the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which all 50 States benefit from, for national parks, for urban parks, for playgrounds, and for wildlife refuges that the States manage.

You have $150 million that goes into the Historic Preservation Fund to ensure the preservation of historic buildings. You have 27 percent in the 3-mile zone offshore of the 6 States that produce energy, and they get 27 percent under section 8(g) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, you also have 12.5 percent of the revenues given to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and then remaining funds go to the General Treasury.

Let me just recap this disparity here.

If you are producing energy on Federal lands onshore, 50 percent of the money goes directly to the State with no strings attached; 40 percent of the money goes into the reclamation fund; and only 10 percent goes into the U.S. Treasury. If you are producing energy in the offshore, effectively, all of that money goes to the Federal Government.

I will show you another poster here that demonstrates some of the dollars that have been given to States that produce offshore energy.

You can see here, in the case of Alaska—and this accounting mechanism came off of the Department of the Interior's Web site and from the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, and this pertains to different types of sales year data, so it will vary to some degree each year—that between 2009 and 2014, 97 percent of the funds that were generated from energy production on Federal revenues was returned to the State of Alaska. They received $158 million out of $163.6 million in revenue generated on Federal lands.

In the case of California, 52 percent of the money went to the State of California. It was over half a billion dollars during that time period. To give you an idea on some of these amazing figures, you can go to the State of Colorado, where they produced nearly $2 billion in energy production on Federal lands, and they received over $900 million with no strings attached.

Madam Speaker, there are two extraordinary ones. The State of New Mexico generated $5.5 billion in revenue between 2009 and 2014 from the production of energy on Federal lands. That State received $2.75 billion back, or approximately 50 percent. In the case of Wyoming, they produced $11.7 billion in revenue between 2009 and 2014 from energy production on Federal lands, and they received $5.8 billion—over $1 billion a year—with no strings attached whatsoever.

I want to be clear that I think that is great. I think that is how Federal policy should work. I think the revenues should be returned and shared with the States that host such energy production, but here is the incredible, absolutely indefensible comparison of what happens with offshore energy revenues.

This shows you that, in 2009, less than 1 percent of revenues were returned to the States that produced offshore energy. Those are the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, California, and Alaska. Those States in 2009 generated over $5 billion in revenue for the U.S. Treasury. Those 6 States—and in some cases shared with counties and parishes—received only $30 million of that, or 0.56 percent. In 2010, they received 0.06 percent. In 2012, they produced $6.5 billion in revenue for the Federal Government from energy production offshore of the coasts of those States, and those 6 States in 2012, on $6.5 billion in revenue, shared only $837,000. Unbelievable—less than $100,000 per State.

If you take overall the comparison between 2009 and 2014, approximately $41 billion in revenue was produced from offshore energy production, and less than $50 million of that, or 0.12 percent, was shared. In the case of onshore energy, States, in some cases, are getting 90 percent of the revenues. In the case of offshore energy, the 6 States that produce all of this offshore energy are receiving 0.12 percent, not the 90 percent and not the 50 percent. They are receiving 0.12 percent.

Madam Speaker, you have to ask: What roles do these six States play in our overall energy production?

It is pretty amazing. With just 2 percent of the offshore Outer Continental Shelf actually leased, the oil production offshore accounts for 18 percent of all of the oil production in the United States. With just 2 percent of the Outer Continental Shelf offshore leased for energy production, that production is approximately 5 percent of the Nation's natural gas production. For example, in 2014, it generated incredible numbers—$7.3 billion. This is one of the largest recurring nontaxed revenue streams that goes into the U.S. Treasury each year.

To add insult to injury, I guess it would be five of the six States that produce offshore energy only have 3 miles of State waters, which means they only get 100 percent of revenues from State water energy production, which would be between zero and 3 miles offshore of their coasts.

In the cases of Florida, which doesn't produce energy, and the State of Texas, they actually have three times that—or 9 miles—of State waters. So you have disparity, and that onshore production gets 50 to 90 percent of the revenues. In the case of offshore production, the States only get 0.12 percent of the revenues to date, and you have the fact that the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, California, and Alaska only have 3 miles of State waters. In the cases of Texas and Florida, they have 3 marine leagues, or, roughly, 9 miles, of State waters. The disparity is unbelievable.

This House has taken many efforts dating back decades ago, with some of the more recent ones in the mid-nineties, to try to rectify—to try to address—this disparity. Dating back to the mid-nineties, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, known as CARA, brought together such diverse interests as those of Congressman DON YOUNG of Alaska and Congressman George Miller of California, who are two Members who, I am quite certain, agreed upon nothing except for this. It was really amazing to see this House pass legislation bringing together everyone from the oil and gas community to the environmental community in order to ensure that these resources were reinvested back into coastal States that produced energy and back into ensuring that we conserve and protect our outdoors and opportunities for future generations. Unfortunately, that legislation, despite passing the House with a strong margin, didn't pass in the Senate.

Rolling forward to the early 2000s, in 2001, as I recall and I believe again in 2003, additional efforts included in the Energy Policy Act, during a conference report, passed the House of Representatives, once again, with a strong margin to share offshore energy revenues with the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, California, Alaska, and those States that produced offshore energy. Unfortunately, those efforts died in the United States Senate.

Then you roll forward to 2006. In 2006, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act—in December of that year—was

enacted. What that did is that largely replicated an offer that President Truman made to the States decades ago whereby President Truman offered those States that produced offshore energy 37½ percent of all of the revenues generated from energy production in Federal waters. Those States, apparently, turned down that offer from President Truman and asked for a higher share. Despite that being offered decades and decades ago, it was not until 2006 when Congress finally acted and enacted again what is known as the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, which would share 37½ percent of revenues from new energy production. I want to be clear on that distinction—new energy production—which is energy production that occurs prospectively after December of 2006.

□ 2015

It is not 37½ percent of all energy production. It is not 37½ percent of these numbers you see here, of the overall energy production, the billions of dollars. It is merely a fraction of that. So it is not anything close to parity with what happens for onshore revenues, but it is a start; and it is establishing parity in onshore and offshore policy, and it is a movement in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, in the State of Louisiana, we actually passed a constitutional amendment with an amazing margin that dedicated every penny of those revenues from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, GOMESA, here, dedicated every penny of it to hurricane protection and coastal restoration, to making our coastal communities and our coastal ecosystem more resilient, ensuring that we don't see a repeat of what we all witnessed from Hurricane Katrina, where in our home State of Louisiana we had over 1,200 of our brothers and sisters, of our neighbors, of our friends, of our coworkers lose their lives—over 1,200.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 caused or resulted in gasoline price spikes nationwide to the tune of 75 cents a gallon—nationwide average. And again in 2008 we saw price spikes $1.40 a gallon on average in the 50 States—$1.40—constituting the largest price spike in gasoline since the Arab oil embargo.

Mr. Speaker, you may be wondering the reason I am here tonight. The reason I am here tonight is to talk about the President's budget request. This year, when the President submitted his budget request, he submitted a request where he proposes to withdraw the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, to withdraw the pittance—or in 2014, the $8.6 million—that was split among the four Gulf States that produce offshore energy, trying to prevent that from ever happening again.

In the President's budget request he says: This proposal generates $5.6 billion in savings over 10 years through legislative reform proposals, including oil and gas management reforms to encourage diligent development of Federal energy resources while improving the return to taxpayers from relative reforms.

Well, let's talk about that for a minute. He says that it is going to generate savings. He says that its management reforms on oil and gas production are going to encourage diligent development. Mr. Speaker, by withdrawing revenue sharing and potentially discouraging offshore energy production, that is not encouraging diligent development. It results in us having to import more energy from other nations.

I remind you, nations like Venezuela, nations like Nigeria and many countries in Africa and the Middle East that don't share America's values, we are sending hundreds of billions of dollars to those countries. In 2011, over one-half of this Nation's trade deficit was attributable to importing energy from other nations. That effectively is sending jobs. It is sending hundreds of billions of dollars to those other countries that in many cases are taking those same dollars and using them against the United States' interests around the globe. It doesn't encourage diligent development of Federal energy resources, as the President's budget request suggests.

They also say that it improves the return to taxpayers. I am struggling with how this improves the return to taxpayers whenever study after study is crystal clear that proactive investment in things like coastal restoration, hurricane protection, hazard mitigation investments, according to the CBO it returns $3 for every $1 invested; according to a FEMA study, it returns $4 in cost savings for every $1 invested; and many, many others have estimated that the cost savings are multiple times that.

Now, what is incredible to me, when we had the Secretary of the Interior, who I asked for a meeting, I believe it was, on February 4, and here we are on May 18 and we still have not been able to get that meeting, including offering to meet with the Deputy Secretary or anyone else who can speak intelligently on this issue. I will take the receptionist, if you are watching. We have asked for that meeting.

In their budget request, it specifically says this cut has been identified as a lower priority program activity for purpose of the GPRA Modernization Act. Now, that is the Government Performance Results Act. So I said: Well, wow, they did an evaluation. So let's go ahead and ask the Secretary, Madam Secretary, could you explain to me how you did an evaluation and what the outcome of that was?

Well, her first response was: What is GPRA?

Well, this is in her budget request, and she asked me what GPRA was, despite the fact that it said they did an analysis and it determined that it was a low-priority program. After I explained it, they were unable to answer the question.

I asked if they would provide us their calculation here to show how it is a lower priority program and how it may compare with other onshore programs. Of course, here we are months later, and you will be shocked to learn that we still have not received that information that simply doesn't exist.

Politics, Mr. Speaker, at its best. Unbelievable.

You can't justify it from a policy perspective; you can't justify it from a financial perspective; you can't justify it from a resiliency perspective; you can't justify it from an environmental perspective. Absolutely incredible.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a quote here from the Environmental Defense Fund, from the National Wildlife Federation, and from the National Audubon Society, where they note, let's see: ''This proposed budget undercuts the administration's previous commitments to restore critical economic infrastructure and ecosystems in the Mississippi River Delta, where we are losing 16 square miles of critical wetlands every year—a preventable coastal erosion crisis.''

''We urge Congress to fund the President's commitments to coastal restoration and conservation by maintaining GOMESA funding that is vital to the Gulf Coast and by identifying additional funding for . . . other priorities.''

That is a quote from the environmental community. This is the administration, I guess, attempting to win accolades from the environmental community, who turned around and criticized him for that.

Now, the irony goes even further in that in 2013, Secretary Jewell actually sends out a press release saying how great these dollars that are being shared are. It talks about how these revenues were distributed to State, local, and Federal tribes to support critical reclamation, conservation, and other projects. So here they are taking credit for it, saying how great it is, and then they come back and make an about-face that they can't explain, justify, can't even meet on, and haven't even been able to provide any documentation as to how they came to their decision.

In December of 2014, once again a press release from the Department of the Interior giving all sorts of accolades to themselves for sharing these revenues and all the great investments that they will result in, yet in the fiscal year 2016 budget request we have seen them attempt to withdraw those dollars.

Now, what is interesting in the press release, the administration said that this should be done because these resources, these public resources, these energy resources offshore, should be shared by all Americans. Well, okay, let's talk about that.

As we noted here, for onshore production, 50 percent of the money goes to the Federal Government, but of that, 80 percent of this actually is returned

back to the States; 50 percent goes directly to the States with no strings attached. So the Federal Government only gets 10 percent. The Federal Government only gets 10 percent, yet they didn't cut this program.

So I am struggling with how they have determined that these resources should be shared with all Americans, yet they are only doing it for this one program and leaving this other program entirely intact. Once again, the disparity cannot be defended.

Let's go ahead and take their idea that resources should be shared with all Americans, and let's apply it to other Federal resources. What about a national park? What about a national wildlife refuge? What about some BLM land somewhere?

These facilities that charge entrance fees, they take all those dollars, and they give it right back to that park. The State of Louisiana doesn't get any of it. It goes back to the park. We don't get any disparate benefit from that. The State that hosts the national park and hosts the national wildlife refuge, it benefits from that in the form of tourism and economic activity and a place for their citizens to recreate. Explain to me that disparity. Once again, it simply can't be done.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make note of the problem in coastal Louisiana and why it is so critical that these dollars be invested, that the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act be continued. In coastal Louisiana, prior to the Federal Government building levees on the Mississippi River, the Atchafalaya River, and our coastal region of the State, the State of Louisiana was growing to the tune of three-quarters of a square mile per year, on average. Our State was accreting; it was growing in land.

When the Corps of Engineers came in and built levees on our river system, we immediately went from growing, or accreting, to losing land. In some decades, we have lost an average of 16 square miles per year. In other decades, we have lost closer to 26 or 28 square miles per year. In 2005, we lost nearly 200 square miles of our coast per year. To add it all up, the total figure, we have lost 1,900 square miles of our State since the 1930s. To put it in comparison, if the State of Rhode Island lost 1,900 square miles, the State of Rhode Island wouldn't exist anymore. If the State of Delaware lost 1,900 square miles, it would consist only of its inland waters. Nineteen hundred square miles is an extraordinary amount of land. Then to watch this administration come out and say: You know what? We are going to propose this new waters of the U.S. definition, because waters of the United States are so important and wetlands are so important to us, we have got to protect them. Yet the Federal Government is causing the greatest wetlands loss in the United States—prospective, ongoing, and historic—the Federal Government, the same agency, the Corps of Engineers, that actually is supposed to be enforcing wetlands laws.

So the State of Louisiana said, yes, we are going to take these dollars whenever they finally begin flowing in some degree in 2017 and 2018, we are going to take those dollars and we are going to invest them. We are going to protect them by constitutional amendment. We are going to complement them with billions of dollars and other State-controlled spending, and we are going to invest them in making the coast of Louisiana more resilient, making our communities more resilient, making the economy of this Nation more resilient.

I remind you, in 2005, because of hurricane impacts to the State of Louisiana, prices spiked 75 cents a gallon nationwide, on average. In 2008, when hurricanes hit the Gulf Coast and Louisiana, prices spiked $1.40 a gallon, on average, nationwide. This is a national issue.

Mr. Speaker, following the 2005 hurricanes, the Federal Government expended over $100 billion—by some estimates, perhaps close to $130 billion or $140 billion—responding to these disasters. If we had taken somewhere in the range of $8 billion to $9 billion, we could have prevented the 1,200 lives that were lost that I referenced earlier. We could have prevented the expenditure of well over $100 billion in taxpayer funds, the majority of that going toward deficit spending.

It doesn't save money to cut the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. To the contrary, Mr. Speaker, it is going to cost our Nation more dollars; and history has proven that, studies by Congressional Budget Office, studies by FEMA, and many others have proven that this is penny-wise and pound-foolish. It will result in additional deaths. It will result in additional flooding. It will result in additional economic disruption in this Nation, and it is the wrong approach.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am going to say it one more time. Onshore energy revenues are shared 90 percent between the Mineral Leasing Act and the Bureau of Reclamation funds, 90 percent; offshore energy revenues, we get well less than 1 percent, well less than 1 percent per year today. And as we try and slowly begin addressing the disparity but nowhere close to what happens for onshore production, when we try to do the right thing and make sure that these funds are constitutionally protected to be invested in making the communities more resilient, making the ecosystem more resilient, and addressing the wrongs of the Federal Government, addressing natural resource flaws of the Federal Government, we now have this administration who is supposed to be the environmental administration coming out and taking these dollars away, which is once again why the Environmental Defense Fund, National Wildlife Federation, Audubon Society, and many, many others came out against this.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just want to urge, as we continue to move through the appropriations bills and continue to work on energy policy, that we truly seek to do what the President says in regard to an all-of-the-above policy, which includes conventional fuels, to ensure that the States that are producing these energies receive some type of mitigative funds or revenue sharing, to ensure that the State of Alaska, that the East Coast and other States that are bringing offshore production online are treated fairly, and to ensure that these dollars are reinvested back in the resilience of these communities and in the ecosystem.

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

□ 2030

CURRENT NEWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KATKO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we have had a lot in the news recently about questions being asked of people running for President. It has been interesting. In taking that issue up, though, it is important to look at some of the current news.

Here is an article on May 17 by Bill Sanderson of the New York Post. It says: ''Saudi Arabia to buy nuclear bombs from Pakistan.''

It says:

> Saudi Arabia will join the nuclear club by buying ''off-the-shelf'' atomic weapons from Pakistan, U.S. officials told a London newspaper.

Wow. Well, that was something that we weren't expecting back when President Bush went into Iraq when he made that call that some day, Saudi Arabia and others in the Middle East would become so nervous about the chaos created in the Middle East that they would determine: We may need to get nuclear weapons ourselves. In the past, we have always been comforted by the fact that the United States would keep peace in the Middle East. They wouldn't let anything get out of hand. They would keep other Middle Eastern countries, especially radical Islamist countries, from having nukes.

This administration has shown it is not capable of preventing nukes from proliferation in the Middle East, so therefore, our allies our getting quite nervous.

Here is an article from today by a brilliant prosecutor of the original bomber of the World Trade Center in 1993, Andrew McCarthy. It is dated today, May 18. The title of his article in National Review says: ''The Iraq Question is the Iran Question—At Least It Should Be.''

He goes on to point to the question that is being asked of some Republican Presidential candidates. Obviously, the mainstream media, those that donate

to the Clinton foundation, and those kind of folks—those that would take a hostile position against Republicans in debates, those who act as mediators or emcees in a debate would actually speak on behalf of the Democrat—they are not asking this question of Democrats, but it is a legitimate question.

This is what Andrew McCarthy brings up. He says: ''Was it a mistake to invade, knowing what we know now?''

He is talking about Iraq.

Mr. McCarthy says:

It is a very fair point that the question should not be asked solely of Republicans—Hillary Clinton and other Democrats who supported the war should be grilled, too.

He says further down: ''Many of us who supported the Iraq war based that support on the principles enunciated in the Bush doctrine.''

Then he sets out his take on the Bush doctrine. I think it is well set out.

It says: ''Attack the jihadists wherever they operate and make rogue states understand that if they support the terrorists we will treat them as enemies. In that calculation, Iraq was an enemy regardless of whether it had weapons of mass destruction. It''—talking about Iraq—''obviously was not the worst such enemy—Iran was. And it obviously was a potentially more dangerous enemy if it had weapons of mass destruction that could have been shared with jihadists. Iraq, nevertheless, was surely in the camp of states that, using Bush's 'with us or against us' metric, was against us.''

Then we have an article here from IJReview: ''U.S. Special Forces Just Took Out a Top ISIS Leader—And Captured His Sex Slavery-Condoning Wife,'' by Justen Charters.

It says: ''While airstrikes continue to hammer ISIS positions, it turns out that that is not the only thing the jihadists need to worry about. U.S. Special Forces appear to be doing more than just training 'rebels,' they're now engaging the enemy. And, they just put down a top Islamic State leader: Abu Sayyaf.

''USA Today reported further on the operation, which will be hurting the terrorists' bankroll and morale.''

It goes out to set out something from USA Today.

That is such an intriguing story, Mr. Speaker. I find it very intriguing because I can't remember how many times, but it was many times that the President and other members of this administration said: There will be no boots on the ground in Syria in this area—no boots on the ground.

We were told that over and over, which is really perplexing because we all trust the same people that told us, If you like your insurance, you can keep it; if you like your doctor, you can keep him—all these things—that they are not going to persecute people of religious beliefs, then they persecuted them.

Who would have thought that this administration would say there will be no boots on the ground and then put boots on the ground?

Now, it could have been, in fairness to the administration, that they hovered and were able to lift up the wife of the ISIS leader without actually getting boots on the ground, or it is quite possible they didn't wear boots. Maybe they were wearing moccasins or something like that; maybe they went barefoot, and that would explain why those in the administration would say: We will never put boots on the ground; no boots are going to be on the ground.

Maybe they really weren't wearing boots. I know boots have come a long way since I was in the Army, and I never did understand why we had to wear those black boots that you had to spit-shine to shine them up. It made no sense to me.

I like the new boots the military is wearing now much better; but maybe they have got some other shoes they have figured out so they don't have to actually put boots on the ground.

In any event, what happened in the Middle East is most intriguing.

Then we have a story today from Judicial Watch. Judicial Watch has now gotten documentation as a result of a court order on May 15. They have been able to get more documentation than Congress has been able to get because they are fighting this administration in court, and they are getting court orders to force the issues.

The only way you will get information out of this transparent Obama administration is if you bring them out kicking and screaming with the documents, under threat of what a judge can order and do; that is obvious because, as a Member of Congress asking for the documents that were provided in discovery in 2008 to the convicted terrorists in the Holy Land Foundation trial, I got on a Web site one time. I asked for the boxes of documents that the Justice Department gave to the terrorists.

I understand Attorney General Holder was saying there may be classification issues, but I keep coming back to the point they gave them to terrorists. Surely, you can give them to Members of Congress, but that also points to a problem that is ongoing in this administration. They keep helping the wrong people.

In Egypt, we have been told by the administration: Gee, President Morsi was elected in a very questionable election, and there were allegations of a great deal of fraud.

But I was told by Egyptians that it was made clear to the opponent of Morsi that, if he raised any issues about fraud in the election, the Muslim Brothers would burn the country down, and he chose not to contest what was some apparent fraud in the election.

Morsi allegedly got 13 million votes or so, and despite the fact—well, at least reported by many news organizations—there were over 30 million Egyptians out of their 90 million or so in the country that went to the streets peaceably.

It was the largest demonstration, peaceable or otherwise, in the history of the world, from the best I can find out. They went to the streets. They demanded a nonradical Islamist President. They demanded the peaceable ouster of Morsi, who they believed had committed treason and who they understood had basically torn up, figuratively, the constitution that the U.S. Government was helpful advising in, but somehow, our advisers did not persist in making sure they had a provision for a peaceful impeachment of the President of Egypt. They had no way to get him out.

These moderate Muslims—and I have talked to a number of them that were there demonstrating—these secularists, Christians, Jews, and the Coptic Pope himself told me how moved he was to have so many people from so many walks being an encouragement: We don't want you persecuted in our country of Egypt anymore. It is not right.

Naturally, what would the Obama administration do? They would demand that the man that was figuratively shredding the constitution in Egypt, that was persecuting Christians, that was weaponizing the Sinai, which was building the radical Islamism organization within Egypt, this administration was giving them weapons, wanted to help them any way they could, which leads to the question that I have been asked by moderate Arab Muslim leaders in the Middle East: Why does this administration keep helping the Muslim Brothers? Do you not understand they are at war with you?

Well, it should have been clear, but this administration was helping the wrong side. It didn't stop with pushing for the ouster of this country's ally in Egypt, Mubarak. This administration decided to oust Qadhafi, a dictator with blood on his hands from the eighties and nineties.

□ 2045

After 2003, after the Bush administration ordered the taking out of Saddam Hussein, Qadhafi got scared, opened up his weapons, says he will not pursue nukes; he will do whatever the United States tells him with regard to his weapons.

As some in Israel have told me, he was really helping with information against terrorists more than anybody but maybe us; yet this administration undertook a bombing effort against Qadhafi.

Now, we find out confirmation from documents that have been acquired by Judicial Watch that this administration was actually helping with weapons, at least that is the way it appears; that is what we have been hearing all along.

Some have said even in my trip to Libya with friends STEVE KING and Michelle Bachmann, if it weren't for the Obama administration bombing Qadhafi, they could not have gotten him out of office, and he would still be helping us find and kill terrorists.

Now, Libya is in chaos. There are Muslim Brothers doing the best they can to put Egypt in chaos. Syria is now in chaos. Iran is taking over more and more, including, just last September, this President referred to the success story in Yemen. Now, Iran is the power player in Yemen, not the United States. The Obama administration in Yemen basically has been whipped by Iran.

This is scary stuff, when you look at what has happened in the Middle East since this administration took over. The story from Judicial Watch dated May 18, it is pretty timely, includes information about the documentation that was ordered by the United States District Court and has now been obtained, even though the administration blacked out a lot of information that apparently would be embarrassing to it.

The story says: ''Judicial Watch announced today that it obtained more than 100 pages of previously classified 'Secret' documents from the Department of Defense and the Department of State revealing that the DOD almost immediately reported that the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi was committed by the al Qaeda and Muslim Brotherhood-linked 'Brigades of the Captive Omar Abdul Rahman,' and had been planned at least 10 days in advance. Rahman is known as The Blind Sheikh''—that is the one that Andrew McCarthy had prosecuted as lead prosecutor—''and is serving life in prison for his involvement in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and other terrorist acts. The new documents also provide the first official confirmation that shows the U.S. Government was aware of arms shipments from Benghazi to Syria. The documents also include an August 2012 analysis warning of the rise of ISIS and the predicted failure of the Obama policy of regime change in Syria.

''The documents were released in response to a court order in accordance with a May 15, 2014, Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed against both the DOD and State Department seeking communications between the two agencies and congressional leaders 'on matters related to the activities of any agency or department of the U.S. Government at the Special Mission Compound and/or classified annex in Benghazi.'

''A Defense Department document from the Defense Intelligence Agency, DIA, dated September 12, 2012, the very day after the Benghazi attack, details that the attack on the compound had been carefully planned by the'' Brigades of the Captive Omar Abdul Rahman'' to 'kill as many Americans as possible.' The document was sent to then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Obama White House National Security Council. The heavily redacted Defense Department 'information report' says that the attack on the Benghazi facility 'was planned and executed by The Brigades of the Captive Omar Abdul Rahman.' The group subscribes to 'al Qaeda ideologies.' ''

Now, that was part of the message of September 12, 2012.

Now, it is understandable why President Obama would not have gotten this message because, clearly, he had to get a good night's sleep because he was going to a campaign event in Las Vegas on September 12. He surely didn't have time to review this material in pursuit of his campaign. Here he was, just less than 2 months away from election day.

It is understandable that he would not get the information and would not know that this was not about a video; it was about a carefully planned attack by subscribers to al Qaeda.

The Defense Intelligence Agency knew that, and that message was sent to Hillary Clinton. It was sent to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and it was sent to those who were not out campaigning in Las Vegas at the White House.

The article goes on: ''The attack was planned 10 or more days prior on approximately 01 September 2012. The intention was to attack the consulate and to kill as many Americans as possible to seek revenge for U.S. killing of Aboyahiye''—also lists him as Alaliby—''in Pakistan and in memorial of the 11 September 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center buildings.''

This is quoting from the DIA report. It says: '' 'A violent radical . . . the leader of BCOAR is Abdul Baset,' '' also called Azuz. '' 'Azuz was sent by Zawari' ''—the leader of al Qaeda, that is—'' 'to set up al Qaeda bases in Libya.' The group's headquarters were set up with the approval of a 'member of the Muslim Brotherhood movement . . . where they have large caches of weapons. Some of those caches are disguised by feeding troughs for livestock. They have SA–7 and SA–2¾ MANPADS . . . they train almost every day focusing on religious lessons and scriptures, including three lessons a day of jihadist ideology.' ''

Mr. Speaker, I am very confused by that. I don't understand how these Muslim Brothers, these jihadists, could be studying scripture, and this is quoting from the Defense Intelligence Agency report, when it says they are focused on religious lessons and scriptures, including three lessons a day of jihadist ideology because this Defense Intelligence Agency reports they are studying religious lessons and scripture, claiming to be Islamists.

That couldn't possibly be because this administration has made clear these people are not religious. They are not Islamists. They have nothing to do with Islam. These people are just ne'er-do-wells. I don't understand why the Defense Intelligence Agency would report that they were studying religious lessons when they are not religious at all, according to this administration.

Mr. Speaker, I take you back to that so-called Arab Spring, when this administration was helping the Muslim Brothers, and I stood right here on this floor and pointed out: Look, we know that there are al Qaeda in these rebels. We don't know what percentage; we don't now how many, but we know there is some al Qaeda in these rebels that this administration is helping. We should wait and not keep militarily supporting people that we know include al Qaeda until we find out more.

But this administration went ahead.

As this story says: ''The Defense Department reported the group maintained written documents in 'a small rectangular room, approximately 12 meters by 6 meters . . . that contain information on all of the al Qaeda activity in Libya' ''—wow, al Qaeda ties.

Anyway, ''The DOD documents also contain the first official documentation that the Obama administration knew that weapons were being shipped from the Port of Benghazi to rebel troops in Syria.''

An October 2012 report also is confirming: ''Weapons from the former Libya military stockpiles''—which word is we helped get there—''were shipped from the Port of Benghazi, Libya, to the Port of Banias and the Port of Borj Islam, Syria. The weapons shipped during late August 2012 were sniper rifles, RPGs, and 125-millimeter and 155-millimeter howitzers missiles.''

Anyway, it goes on. The DIA report said ''the opposition in Syria was driven by al Qaeda and other extremist Muslim groups: 'the Salafist, the Muslim Brotherhood, and AQI are the major forces driving the insurgency in Syria,' '' which this administration wants to keep calling vetted moderate Syrian rebels, when their own report says they have got al Qaeda ties.

As this says: ''The deterioration of the situation has dire consequences on the Iraqi situation,'' and it goes on to set those out.

I think the big question that should be forcefully put to former President George W. Bush and anybody who is running for President the next time, they ought to be asked this question: If you had known before we went into Iraq, going after the brutal dictator Saddam Hussein, who had killed hundreds of thousands of people, including Kurds, with chemical weapons and other weapons, and you knew he could be ousted, and after a surge, the war could be won; but then that, after your victory in Iraq, following the surge, you would be followed as President with an administration that was too incompetent to negotiate a status of forces agreement with Iraq, and so you end up having—that administration is going to have to leave and actually commit other acts that will help create absolute chaos in the Middle East; and you are going to be followed by this administration that will help the Muslim Brothers that your Muslim allies in the Middle East say, The Muslims Brothers are at war with you, yet this administration that follows you will keep helping America's enemies, and that, because of the creation of chaos by this

succeeding administration, Iran will be pursuing nuclear weapons; and that the succeeding administration will be so incompetent and clueless as to what is happening in the Middle East, they think it is okay to let them keep enriching uranium, pursuing nukes, and it gets so bad that this next administration will even cause our allies like Saudi Arabia, to go buy nukes; and then we end up with this subsequent administration that helps the Muslim Brothers create more chaos than we could have imagined, knowing all of that, would you go into Iraq?

That is a question.

□ 2100

But it is really a tough question. How in the world would President George W. Bush have known that he would be followed by such incompetence that would help our enemies and would just create chaos across the entire Middle East such that our friends would be in conferences with people like me going: We don't understand America anymore. You keep helping your enemies. We don't get it. We thought we were your friends, but you are helping the people at war with you.

I mean, how could President George W. Bush be expected to anticipate that that is the kind of thing that would follow his administration and completely destroy the situation in the Middle East and in Iraq and in the Sinai and in Gaza and in Libya, in Lebanon, in Syria, a massive migration into Jordan. Jordanian pilots now to the point they would be burned alive. Christians raped, persecuted, killed in all kinds of horrendous ways. Jews ostracized, killed.

Who would have ever dreamed that we would have an administration come in and take the success after the surge and turn it into the chaos it is today?

So I will be interested, Mr. Speaker, in the days ahead, as people seek to lead this country, to find out which leaders would have gone ahead into Iraq, knowing the chaos they would create in the subsequent administration.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of flight delays.

Mr. LAMBORN (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of a flight delay.

Mr. TIBERI (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of flight delays.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on May 14, 2015, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 651. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, as the ''Sister Ann Keefe Post Office.''

H.R. 1075. To designate the United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at First Street and Pan American Avenue in Douglas, Arizona, as the ''Raul Hector Castro Port of Entry.''

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1491. A letter from the Under Secretary, Rural Development, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Strategic Economic and Community Development (RIN: 0570-AA94) received May 15, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1492. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Bruce A. Litchfield, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1493. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a statement, pursuant to Sec. 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, on a transaction involving Gunes Ekspres Havacilik A.S. of Antalya, Turkey; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1494. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; NAAQS Update [EPA-R05-OAR-2013-0819; FRL-9927-48-Region 5] received May 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1495. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fragrance Components; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0821; FRL-9927-38] received May 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1496. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Trichoderma asperelloides strain JM41R; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0963; FRL-9926-87] received May 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1497. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Trinexapac-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0340; FRL-9926-62] received May 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1498. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau/MD, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of the Commission's Rules with Regard to Commercial Operations in the 3550-3650 MHz Band [GN Docket No.: 12-354] received May 15, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1499. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a statement, pursuant to Sec. 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended, on a transaction involving China Southern Airlines of Guangzhou, China; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1500. A letter from the Executive Analyst, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1501. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Semiannual Report to Congress from the Office of Inspector General, of the Department of Health and Human Services, pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, Pub. L. 95-452, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1502. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1503. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Financial Management, United States Capitol Police, transmitting the Statement of Disbursements for the United States Capitol Police for the period of October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015, pursuant to Pub. L. 109-55, Sec. 1005; (H. Doc. No. 114—38); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

1504. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Trawl Rationalization Program; Catch Monitor Program; Observer Program [Docket No.: 130503447-5336-02] (RIN: 0648-BD30) received May 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1505. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's modification of fishing seasons final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modifications of the West Coast Commercial Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #1 and #2 [Docket No.: 140107014-4014-01] (RIN: 0648-XD868) received May 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1506. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Trawl Rationalization Program; Midwater Trawl Fishery Season Date Change [Docket No.: 141222999-5322-02] (RIN: 0648-BE72) received May 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1507. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Management Reference Point Updates for Three Stocks of Pacific Salmon [Docket No.: 150227200-5347-02] (RIN: 0648-BE79) received May 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1508. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2015 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for Blueline Tilefish in the South Atlantic Region [Docket No.: 140501394-5279-02] (RIN: 0648-XD869) received May 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1509. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2015 Gulf of Alaska Pollock Seasonal Apportionments [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XD845) received May 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1510. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processors Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XD876) received May 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1511. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 Feet (18.3 meters) Length Overall Using Jig or Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bogoslof Pacific Cod Exemption Area in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 131021878-4158-02] (RIN: 0648-XD886) received May 13, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1512. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final and temporary regulations — Notional Principal Contracts; Swaps with Nonperiodic Payments [TD 9719] (RIN: 1545-BM62) received May 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1513. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Revocation of Rev. Rul. 78-130 (Rev. Rul. 2015-09) received May 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1514. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Triple Drop and Check (Rev. Rul. 2015-10) received May 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1515. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Eligibility for Minimum Essential Coverage for Purposes of the Premium Tax Credit [Notice 2015-37] received May 14, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1516. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Attorney General's Second Quarterly Report of FY 2015 on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, pursuant to the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008, Pub. L. 110-389; jointly to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and the Judiciary.

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. ROGERS of Kentucky: Committee on Appropriations. Revised Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2016 (Rept. 114–118). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 2262. A bill to facilitate a pro-growth environment for the developing commercial space industry by encouraging private sector investment and creating more stable and predictable regulatory conditions, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–119). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NEWHOUSE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 271. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1806) to provide for technological innovation through the prioritization of Federal investment in basic research, fundamental scientific discovery, and development to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2250) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2353) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–120). 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. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself and Mr. RICHMOND):

H.R. 2390. A bill to require a review of university-based centers for homeland security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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. CUMMINGS (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2391. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require the payment of an additional rebate to the State Medicaid plan in the case of increase in the price of a generic drug at a rate that is greater than the rate of inflation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself and Mr. ROKITA):

H.R. 2392. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require an applicant for voter registration for elections for Federal office to affirmatively state that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements for voting in such elections as a condition of completing the application, to require States to verify that an applicant for registering to vote in such elections meets the eligibility requirements for voting in such elections prior to registering the applicant to vote, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, 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. CONAWAY (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. VELA, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. FARR, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. YOHO, Mr. BOST, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. UPTON, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. YODER, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BLUM, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. LONG, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. HILL, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, and Mr. RIBBLE):

H.R. 2393. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to repeal country of origin labeling requirements with respect to beef, pork, and chicken, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 2394. A bill to reauthorize the National Forest Foundation Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 2395. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to strengthen the independence of the Inspectors General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 2396. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the regulation of health software, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 2397. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to allow the use of physical damage disaster loans for the construction of safe rooms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 2398. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury and the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration to disclose certain return information related to identity theft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration

of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. HANNA):

H.R. 2399. A bill to establish the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council Advisory Committee to advise the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture on wildlife and habitat conservation, hunting, recreational shooting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself, Mr. COLE, Mr. FLORES, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. RENACCI, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 2400. A bill to establish the Office of the Special Inspector General for Monitoring the Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Education and the Workforce, Ways and Means, Oversight and Government Reform, House Administration, the Judiciary, Rules, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 2401. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to require annual permits and assess annual fees for commercial filming activities on Federal land for film crews of 5 persons or fewer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself and Mr. GOWDY):

H.R. 2402. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to prohibit the public disclosure of protected information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. CLAY, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. BOST, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WHITFIELD, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 2403. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. OLSON, Mr. LANCE, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico):

H.R. 2404. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. AMASH:

H.J. Res. 54. A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself and Mr. VARGAS):

H. Res. 270. A resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the Palestinian Authority's purported accession to the International Criminal Court for the purpose of initiating prosecutions against Israeli soldiers, citizens, officials, and leaders; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

27. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 101, designating the month of May 2015 as ''Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month'' in Pennsylvania; 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.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 2390.

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

The U.S. Constitution including Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 2391.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 2392.

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

Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H.R. 2393.

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

Under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, Congress has the authority to regulate foreign and interstate commerce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 2394.

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

Pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, Congress has the authority to regulate foreign and interstate commerce.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 2395.

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

Article I, Section 8.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 2396.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. COLE:

H.R. 2397.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8 which allows Congress to regulate trade with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 2398.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 which, in part, states: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, . . . and the Sixteenth Amendment which states: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 2399.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 2400.

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

(a) Article I, Section 1, to exercise the legislative powers vested in Congress as granted in the Constitution; and

(b) Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the authority ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof''; and

(c) Article I, Section 9, Clause 7, which states that ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time''; and

(d) Article II, Section 2, Clause 2, which states that the President, ''by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States . . .''

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 2401.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 2402.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 2403.

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

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 2404.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. AMASH:

H.J. Res. 54.

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

This resolution is enacted pursuant to the powers conferred by the United States Constitution upon Congress by Article V. which provides that ''The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution . . . which shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States . . .''

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 24: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. RUSSELL.

H.R. 91: Mr. SIRES, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. YODER, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, and Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 93: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 160: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 169: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 209: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. KUSTER, and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 232: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 239: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. HONDA, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 306: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 402: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 451: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 474: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 528: Mr. BARR and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 585: Mr. ROUZER and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 605: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 627: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 649: Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 662: Mr. WENSTRUP and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 663: Mr. BLUM.

H.R. 675: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 703: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 704: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 721: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 756: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 767: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. GIBBS, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 774: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 793: Mr. HARPER and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 817: Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 825: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 829: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 845: Mr. SCHIFF and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 868: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 874: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 886: Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. BARTON, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 912: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 915: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 920: Mr. SANFORD, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 999: Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 1088: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 1089: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 1112: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 1158: Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 1178: Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 1289: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FARR, and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 1299: Mr. RUSSELL.

H.R. 1300: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 1327: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 1369: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 1382: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1384: Mr. SANFORD and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 1388: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 1399: Mr. YOHO, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1401: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 1424: Ms. ESTY and Mr. BOST.

H.R. 1427: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1439: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 1453: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1464: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1475: Mr. CARTER of Texas and Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1478: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 1482: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 1508: Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 1516: Mr. RUSH, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. NOEM, and Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 1559: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. NOLAN, and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 1567: Mr. DENT and Mr. TROTT.

H.R. 1585: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 1599: Mr. POE of Texas and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 1600: Mr. LANCE and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 1614: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 1627: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 1644: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. COOK.

H.R. 1700: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1718: Mr. YOHO, Mr. COLE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. POE of Texas, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 1748: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 1786: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 1814: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 1836: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SANFORD, and Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 1861: Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1877: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 1902: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 1920: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1921: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1943: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. LEE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. NADLER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BEYER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 1964: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 1971: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 1984: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 1989: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 1992: Mr. KNIGHT.

H.R. 2003: Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 2016: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2025: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2058: Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 2072: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 2077: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 2110: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 2124: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KATKO, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 2125: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2126: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2132: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2141: Mr. HULTGREN and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 2142: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2156: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. BLUM, Mr. LONG, and Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 2170: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. VELA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 2173: Mr. ISRAEL and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 2189: Mr. VELA.

H.R. 2192: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2193: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 2214: Mr. WALZ, Mr. JONES, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 2216: Ms. NORTON and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 2222: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 2233: Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 2260: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 2272: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 2277: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 2280: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 2290: Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 2300: Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 2302: Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2309: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 2315: Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H.R. 2330: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 2352: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 2368: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 2379: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 2383: Mr. BRAT and Mr. PITTENGER.

H. J. Res. 22: Mr. PETERS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. NORCROSS.

H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa and Mr. MICA.

H. Con. Res. 45: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H. Res. 118: Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 130: Mr. WOODALL and Ms. MOORE.

H. Res. 204: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H. Res. 209: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. COOK, and Mr. LAMBORN.

H. Res. 210: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H. Res. 218: Mr. SABIN.

H. Res. 226: Mr. PERRY.

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. BISHOP OF UTAH

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Natural Resources in H.R. 2353, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. RYAN OF WISCONSIN

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Ways and Means in H.R. 2353, ''Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015,'' do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.

OFFERED BY MR. SHUSTER

H.R. 2353 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF TEXAS

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in H.R. 2353, the ''Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015,'' do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. UPTON

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in H.R. 2353, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

The amendment to be offered by Representative SMITH, or a designee, to H.R. 1806, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, thank You for Your steadfast love and unchanging mercy, for we are sustained by Your tender compassion.

Give our lawmakers the wisdom to follow Your example of self-sacrifice and keep them from traveling down dead-end paths. Lord, strengthen them in their challenging work, as they strive to find common ground. Shield them from strife, as they seek to unite for the good of our Nation and world. Empower them to trust You, even during life's storms, believing that in everything You are working for the good of those who love You. Lord, do for them exceedingly, abundantly above all that they can ask or think.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Democratic leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it seems as if every day the majority leader keeps telling us how great the Senate is working—better than ever, he says. Let's take a look at a couple of things today.

The growing backlog on nominations is another story. There are more than 100 nominations pending in committees. This is an interesting way the Republicans do this. They say we do not have anything on the calendar. We cannot have anything on the calendar if they do not report them out of the committees.

There are 48 nominations currently pending in the Foreign Relations Committee, including Ambassadors of really important countries, such as Pakistan, Finland, Sweden, Kosovo, and many other countries. The Environment and Public Works Committee has 11 pending nominations, and 9 nominations are waiting in the HELP Committee. At the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, there is a score—many of them there. There are eight nominations awaiting consideration in the banking committee. Seven are pending in commerce, and six await Senate Finance Committee action.

In the Judiciary Committee—I spoke here a little while ago, a week ago, about Judge Felipe Restrepo. He is a Federal district court judge in Pennsylvania. It is being delayed, even though both Senators—a Democrat and Republican—from Pennsylvania want this nomination to go forward. So they say. He is one of 20 pending nominations awaiting in the Judiciary Committee. That is unbelievable. Committee consideration is not the only obstacle to confirmation, the Republican leader also slows down the consideration once they get here on the floor.

The Republicans' refusal to consider the President's judicial nominations is especially pronounced, especially when you consider that the assistant Republican leader came to the floor here and said we are going to move these expeditiously. He is from Texas. We had one judge, George Hanks, who was confirmed by a vote of 91 to 0. He was only the second judicial nomination we have considered in this Republican Congress in some 5 months.

Imagine that. We know there are judicial emergencies and vacancies throughout the country, but we have only considered two judges in this entire Congress.

When this year started, we had 12 emergencies. Now there are 25, more than double from the beginning of this year alone. In Texas alone, there are seven judicial emergencies, the most of any State in the Nation.

Judge Olvera has been nominated to fill a judicial emergency in the Southern District of Texas. His nomination certainly was not controversial. It was reported out of the Judiciary Committee by voice vote in February.

At his hearing, as I indicated earlier, the assistant majority leader said he wanted to move these judges expeditiously. If this is expeditiously, I do not know what the term means. Why is this noncontroversial nomination being delayed for months? Is this the type of swift type of confirmation that Texans can expect from their leaders?

If our Republican colleagues would make good on their public statements and confirm these qualified executive and judicial nominations before the Memorial Day holiday, that would be great. But they are not going to. Is the Senate working better than ever? I do not think so.

HIGHWAY BILL

Mr. REID. ''America is one big pothole.'' Those are not my words. They are the words of former Republican Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, a longtime Member of Congress and a Republican from Illinois. That is how he described America's crumbling infrastructure: ''America is one big pothole.''

It is hard to argue with Secretary LaHood's assessment. According to the Federal Highway Administration, 50 percent of American roads are in disrepair. Half of the roads we drive on

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

are in disrepair. What are State legislatures around the country doing? Raising the speed limit.

There are a number of places in America where the speed limit is 80 miles an hour. That means that this weekend—Memorial Day weekend—as American families load up their cars and head to the beach or the lake or to visit loved ones, half of the highways they travel on are in dire need of repair.

If that were not troubling enough, 64,000 American bridges are structurally deficient. As each day goes by, these roads and bridges get a little worse—one big pothole.

It is not just our roads and our bridges. Our Nation's infrastructure affects every means of travel. We are all distraught by last week's Amtrak train derailment in Pennsylvania. Eight people were killed. Hundreds were injured. It has been reported that the horrible derailment might have been prevented if speed control safeguards had been installed on this particular section of track.

What we have here in this Congress—my Republican friend, the senior Senator from Kentucky, is talking about the Senate running better than ever. I think not.

The story of our Nation's infrastructure woes is very clear. We have the technology. This great country has the resources. But my friends will not appropriate any money to do this. Stunningly, time and again, we have failed to fix the problems—one big pothole. Fifty percent of our roads are deficient, and 64,000 bridges are structurally deficient. Specifically, Republicans in Congress have refused to work with Democrats in making an adequate long-term investment in our country's service transportation.

What we have here time after time are short-term extensions of the highway bill. Before the Republicans hit town here, we used to do long-term highway bills—they have stood in the way of doing that—so that the Department of Transportation and leaders in all 50 States could plan ahead. That is why we did these long-term bills. The way it is now, a 2-month extension or a 6-month extension does not work. It is terribly inefficient and very, very expensive.

The highway trust fund runs out in about 8 or 10 weeks. The authorization for the Federal highway program expires later this month. Later this month, if we have not extended the highway bill, there could be no money spent on highways.

The fact that these programs are expiring is no secret. Our Republican colleagues have known about this deadline for months and months. Yet here we are at the end of May, and Republicans are no closer to crafting a long-term investment in our roads, bridges, and railways. They have not had a markup in the four committees of jurisdiction. In fact, Republicans are trying to do the opposite. They are going to the extreme of gutting our already inadequate transportation.

Look at what happened with Amtrak. The House Republicans chose to cut Amtrak in the hours just after the derailment by a quarter of a billion dollars. Who could help but be astonished by this act of carelessness?

Former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell, who knows quite a bit about Pennsylvania, speaking of the Republicans in Congress said: ''Normally, after a tragedy, a pipeline bursts, a bridge collapses, everyone for a couple of weeks says 'we've really got to do something.' Here, less than 12 hours after seven people died''—of course, now it is eight—''these Republicans in Congress didn't even have the decency to table the vote.''

They went right ahead and did it, cutting a quarter of a billion dollars from Amtrak.

In addition to what it does and does not do to highways, our bridges, our dams, is the fact that it stops job creation. Every billion dollars we spend on highway construction, infrastructure development, we create 47,500 high-paying jobs. Instead of slashing Federal funding or putting critical transportation infrastructure on the back burner, we should be crafting a long-term plan to boost our Nation's investment and infrastructure.

With precious little time before the Federal highway program expires, there is no hope for anything but a short-term authorization longer than a few months. We understand that. We are not happy about it, but that is the reality of the situation that the Republicans have forced us to be in.

The U.S. highway system is crucial to our Nation's economic well-being. It is how we move goods and services. It is central to American families who use our roads and bridges every day.

The American Society of Civil Engineers predicts that our economy will lose $1 trillion without adequate infrastructure investment. That is almost 3.5 million jobs, and some say more than that.

Congress must invest in working families and businesses by addressing our Nation's transportation needs. I invite congressional Republicans to work with us in building bipartisan consensus to ensure a strong and robust investment in our Nation's infrastructure. What is being done as we speak is that they are trying to patch together a 2-month extension. A 2-month extension or a 6-month extension, I think, is the wrong way to go. It is not good for our country.

Would the Chair announce the business before the Senate today.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Utah.

HIGHWAY BILL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to take just a few minutes today to talk about the ongoing effort to maintain funding for the highway trust fund.

As we all know, while the highway trust fund currently has a large enough balance in terms of funding to last another 2 months, contracting authority expires at the end of May. Therefore, unless this Congress acts before we break for the Memorial Day recess, we will start seeing work stoppages on transportation projects around the country.

No one wants to see that. There is bipartisan agreement on that basic point. There is similar agreement on the desire for a long-term highway bill. Members of both parties are tired of kicking the can down the road and want to see a real, long-term fix. The problem is that the bipartisan agreement tends to end there.

The gold standard for a future, long-term highway bill has been set at 6 years. That is what everyone apparently wants to see happen, though few have offered workable solutions on how to pay for it.

According to CBO, a 6-year highway bill would cost a little more than $90 billion. That is not chump change, even by Congress's standards. It takes real work and significant policy changes to raise that kind of money. One party cannot do it alone. It takes cooperation and compromise, something that, unfortunately, has been lacking around here for some time.

As the chairman of the committee with jurisdiction over the funding for highways, I am committed to finding a solution that gets us as far into the future as possible before we have to revisit the issue again. Toward that end, I have been working with Chairman RYAN of the House Ways and Means Committee and others on a path forward.

Our initial plan was to pull together enough funding to get us through the end of 2015. That would have cost roughly $11 billion—with a ''b''—not an insignificant number, by any means, but very doable under the circumstances.

We had roughly $5 billion in agreed-upon tax compliance offsets from the previous highway episode late last year. Chairman RYAN and I thought it seemed reasonable to couple that with an equal amount in spending reductions and reforms, getting us very close to what we would need to get the country through the rest of the year on highways.

For a time, it appeared as though at least some of our colleagues on the other side were willing to work with us on this general framework. Unfortunately, that cooperation did not last. In fact, it never really began.

Last week, rather than even consider a path forward that includes spending reductions, our Democratic counterparts, at the urging of their leadership here in the Senate, effectively walked away from the negotiating table. As a result, it appears that the only immediate path forward is to extend contracting authority until the end of July, when the funding runs out, setting us up for another deadline and potential cliff in just a few short weeks.

Let me be clear, I do not fault Republican leaders in either Chamber for taking this route. It was, given the short timetable, the only option left after Democrats failed to engage in meeting us halfway with a balanced package of compliance revenue and spending reductions.

But make no mistake, we are going to be here again in 2 months, facing the same problem, because unless someone has $90 billion just lying around, a long-term highway solution is not going to simply materialize between now and July. Don't get me wrong, fixing it in December was going to be difficult as well, but in the end it will likely take at least that long to find a solution that has a chance of passing through both Chambers.

The other side's strategy appears pretty transparent. They clearly have two goals in mind. First, they think that if they make Republicans vote on highway funding over and over again, we can be cajoled into accepting their preferred solution, which is a large tax hike. Second, they think that by maintaining a constant state of chaos and uncertainty, they can make the Republican-led Congress look bad or look ineffectual.

That first goal is pretty predictable. After all, a tax hike is their answer to pretty much every question that arises here. I hope I am wrong on the apparent second goal. If I am right, it is just sad. Apparently, after spending years in the majority trying to make sure the Senate never did anything productive, their goals have not changed now that they are in the minority.

But things are different now. These days, we are getting things done in the Senate, much to the consternation of some of my friends on the other side of the aisle. Despite this most recent shift on highway funding, I am confident we can work together to find a workable path forward. It just may take a few more votes to get us there.

Today, though I am frustrated, I am undeterred. I am committed to finding a long-term solution to our highway problems. I plan to keep working with my colleagues on finding a way to get us there, particularly Chairman INHOFE, whose committee deals with much of the highway policy, as well as those who serve on the Finance and Ways and Means Committees.

The highway bill should be a bipartisan effort. It used to be. Hopefully, after we get this latest episode behind us, it will be again.

PROTECTING STATES' RIGHTS TO PROMOTE AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY ACT

Mr. HATCH. Finally, Mr. President, I would also like to briefly talk about legislation I introduced earlier this year, the Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act, which reinforces States' already effective regulatory practices relating to hydraulic fracturing.

This important piece of legislation recognizes States' demonstrated ability to properly address hydraulic fracturing and allows them to continue regulating on this issue. Importantly, this legislation does not prevent the Bureau of Land Management from promulgating baseline standards where none exist.

As background, for over 60 years, States have safely and successfully regulated hydraulic fracturing in a way that protects the environment. When I was in the oil business back in the early 1970s, hydraulic fracturing was being used then, although it has been brought clearly into a much more safe and responsible way since. Even the Obama administration has admitted there has never been an example of harm to human health or groundwater contamination caused by hydraulic fracturing under existing State regulations and oversight.

States should be able to continue to regulate hydraulic fracturing, and swift passage of this bill will afford needed certainty and future security for emerging U.S. energy development companies.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ENSURING TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS THE RIGHT TO APPEAL ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1314, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1314) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations.

Pending:

Hatch amendment No. 1221, in the nature of a substitute.

Hatch (for Flake) amendment No. 1243 (to amendment No. 1221), to strike the extension of the trade adjustment assistance program.

Hatch (for Lankford) amendment No. 1237 (to amendment No. 1221), to establish consideration of the conditions relating to religious freedom of parties to trade negotiations as an overall negotiating objective of the United States.

Brown amendment No. 1242 (to amendment No. 1221), to restore funding for the trade adjustment assistance program to the level established by the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided between the two managers or their designees.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Thank you, Madam President.

Finally, at long last, the Senate has begun its debate on the Bipartisan Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, a bipartisan and bicameral bill to renew trade promotion authority or TPA. As one of the authors of this legislation, I am glad we have gotten to this point and look forward to a spirited and fulsome debate on the floor.

This legislation has been in the works for a long time. As we all know, the previous iteration of TPA expired in 2007. The original version was originally enacted in 2002. In other words, it has been 13 years since Congress seriously considered legislation to renew trade promotion authority. I think it is safe to say that at least for those who focus on trade policy, the debate and discussion surrounding what would go into the next TPA bill has been going on that entire time.

For me, while I have long been a supporter of free trade and TPA, the real work on this bill began in earnest in the spring of 2013. I worked for the better part of a year with former Chairman Max Baucus and Dave Camp on legislation to renew TPA for a 21st century economy. We introduced our bill—which, in many ways, formed the basis for the legislation we are debating now—in January of last year.

This year, when I became chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I sought to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make improvements to the bill in order to broaden its support. Most notably, I worked closely with my colleagues on the Finance Committee and with chairman PAUL RYAN of the House Ways and Means Committee to craft an improved TPA bill. Senator WYDEN and I work well together, and we were able to bring this bill to fruition. I think we were successful.

Indeed, we were able to build upon the efforts of last Congress to make important changes that will enhance Congress's role in crafting our trade policy and improve overall transparency and accountability. We introduced our bill on April 16, and on April 22, the Finance Committee reported

the bill along with a few other important trade bills you may have heard about.

The vote on our TPA bill was 20 to 6. The last time the Senate Finance Committee reported a TPA bill on the Senate floor was 1988. While we passed other TPA bills in the nearly three decades since that time, this is the first to go through regular order, including a full committee process and original consideration on the floor.

I want to thank my colleagues, in both the House and the Senate, who have worked with me to get us to this point, especially Senator WYDEN and others on the Democratic side as well and certainly everybody on the Republican side. The fact that we are now on the floor debating this bill is, in and of itself, a milestone. In fact, I would call it historic, but let's not fool ourselves. We still have a long way to go.

Let's talk about the bill for just a moment. I would like to begin by addressing the most basic question: What is TPA or trade promotion authority? Put simply, TPA is the most important tool Congress has to advance our Nation's trade agenda. Specifically, TPA represents a compact between the Senate, the House, and the administration. Under this arrangement, the administration agrees to pursue objectives specified by Congress and agrees to consult with Congress as it negotiates trade agreements. In return, both the House and Senate agree to allow for time-specific consideration of trade agreements without amendments. This ensures that Congress leads the way in setting our Nation's trade agenda while giving our trade negotiators in the administration the tools necessary to reach high-standard trade agreements.

Why is this compact so important? There are a number of reasons, but for now I will just focus on two. First, the TPA compact ensures that Congress has a voice in setting trade priorities before a trade agreement is finalized. By setting clear negotiating objectives in a TPA bill, Congress is able to specify what a potential trade agreement must contain in order to gain passage.

Second, the compact allows our trade negotiators to deliver on an agreement. As our negotiators work with our trading partners on trade agreements, they need to be able to give assurance that the deal they sign will be the one Congress votes on. They cannot do that without TPA. In a sense, without TPA, our trading partners are negotiating not only with the professionals at USTR but also with all 535 Members of Congress, whose views and priorities may be unknown or unknowable. Under this scenario, our partners will not put their best efforts on the table because many will have no guarantees that the agreement they reach will remain intact once it goes through Congress. In short, TPA is essential for both the conclusion and passage of strong trade agreements.

I would like to take a few minutes to talk about some of the specifics of our bill. First of all, our TPA bill updates the congressional negotiating objectives to focus trade agreements on setting fair rules and tearing down barriers to trade. In fact, the TPA bill we are now debating now contains the clearest articulation of congressional trade priorities in our Nation's history, including nearly 150 ambitious, high-standard negotiating objectives, most of them designed to break down barriers that American exporters face in the 21st century economy.

Under the bill, future trade agreements must include strong international rules to counter unfair trade practices, including those related to currency, digital piracy, cross-border data flows, cyber theft of trade secrets, localization barriers, nonscientific sanitary and phytosanitary practices, state-owned enterprises, and labor and environmental policies.

Our bill also requires that U.S. trade agreements reflect a standard of intellectual property rights protection similar to that found in U.S. law. We also call for an end to the theft of U.S. intellectual property by foreign governments, including piracy and the theft of trade secrets and for the elimination of measures that require U.S. companies to locate their intellectual property abroad in return for market access.

Finally, the TPA bill expands congressional engagement in ongoing and future negotiations by ensuring that Members can review proposals and discuss them with our trade negotiators. The bill also creates new congressional oversight mechanisms to ensure that the administration—whichever administration it is—closely adheres to the objectives set by Congress, including a new procedure that Congress can employ if our trade negotiators fail to consult or make progress toward meeting the negotiating objectives. As you can see, this bill addresses the needs of our modern economy, and it fully takes into account the concerns expressed by Members of Congress and the American public about the trade negotiating process.

The legislation before us also contains the Finance Committee's bill to reauthorize trade adjustment assistance or TAA. I think I have made it pretty clear that I am not TAA's biggest fan. I oppose the program in general and voted against the TAA bill in committee, but from the outset of this process, it was clear to us on the Republican side that we would have to swallow hard and allow TAA to pass in order to get TPA across the finish line. Toward that end, we joined the two bills together on the floor.

In short, this is a good bill and one that Members of both parties should be able to support.

As I mentioned, the vote in the Finance Committee in favor of TPA was 20 to 6. I hope we will get a similar bipartisan result on the floor. I think we can.

To conclude, I just want to make it clear that I am not naive. I am well aware not everyone agrees with me on these issues. There are some—including a few of our colleagues in the Senate—who oppose what we are trying to do with this legislation. They oppose TPA and virtually all free-trade agreements. In essence, though they usually deny it, they oppose trade in general.

Of course, I respect the views of my colleagues on these matters as well as any others on which we happen to disagree, but let's be clear about a few things. When you oppose TPA and trade agreements, you stand against the creation of new, higher paying jobs for American workers. You stand against American farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, entrepreneurs, and the workers they employ who need access to foreign markets, and you stand against the advancement of American values and interests on the world stage.

I will have more to say on the floor about these issues in the coming days about how TPA and trade agreements can help small businesses agriculture and how important our trade policies are to our national security. I plan to do all I can to make the case that U.S. trade with foreign countries is a good thing and that this legislation represents our best opportunity to advance a trade agenda that works for America.

For now, I will just say once again that while I am pleased—very pleased, in fact—that we made it this far on TPA, I will not be satisfied until we have a bill on the President's desk—a President who is behind this bill, strongly supportive of it, and has encouraged us every step of the way.

As I have stated, we need to have a fair and open debate on these issues. I am committed to hearing arguments, considering amendments, and demonstrating how a functioning Senate is supposed to operate. I hope my colleagues will join me in that type of discussion.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, first, let me thank Chairman HATCH for our partnership over these many months, and let me be clear at the outset that I agree with much of what Chairman HATCH has said. What I would like to start with is what I think is the bedrock principle of this debate about trade and put it all straightforward and upfront; that is, this is about trade done right. This is not the trade policy of the 1990s. This is not the NAFTA playbook. It is not even the 2002 TPA package. I realize the Presiding Officer was not in the Senate at that time. After my opening remarks, I am going to start outlining the 30 progressive changes in the 2015 TPA package that were not in the 2002 program to show how different this trade policy will be.

The point of what I have started with—this focus on trade done right—is to drive home the potential for more good-paying jobs for our workers. This

would be true in Oregon, Utah, Iowa, and across the land. In my State, one out of five jobs revolves around exports. The export jobs often pay better than do the nontrade jobs.

The reason I bring this up is I do not think there is any more pressing economic issue in our country than finding ways to increase wages for Americans and particularly the middle class and those who aspire to be middle class. The facts demonstrate clearly that the export jobs often pay better than do the nonexport jobs. The reason that is the case is because there is often a very large value-added component. There is increased productivity. The fact is, when we grow things in Iowa or Oregon or any other part of the country and make things in America and we add value to them, then we can ship them somewhere.

What the Department of Commerce has found in a number of their analyses is that those export-related jobs often pay better than do the nonexport jobs.

The reason I am starting with this is that this is particularly relevant given the potential market that is out there for the people of Oregon, Iowa, and every other part of our country. The analysis shows that by 2025, there are going to be about 1 billion middle-class consumers in the developing world—1 billion people with a significant amount of disposable income. I think they want to buy the Oregon brand, they want to buy the American brand. They are going to be interested in buying our computers. They are going to want to buy our wine and agricultural products. They are going to buy our helicopters. They are going to buy our planes. They are going to buy a whole host of products. The question is, Are Americans going to reap the fruit of those export opportunities? That, fundamentally, is what this is all about with respect to exports and particularly employment opportunities.

The reality is that our markets are basically open, but a lot of the countries that are part of the region we are looking at for the first agreement—what is called the Trans-Pacific Partnership—have markets that are much more closed. They have double- and triple-digit tariffs. I suspect the Presiding Officer is very concerned about the double- and triple-digit tariffs on agricultural commodities. Certainly, the people of Oregon are very concerned about the consequences of those huge tariffs on our agricultural goods.

So, as we start this discussion, right at the center is this focus on what I call trade done right and my view that trade done right can create an enormous array of economic opportunities for hard-working middle-class Americans who deserve to have us come up with policies that shape a better future for them rather than the alternative.

Make no mistake about the alternative. If we walk off the field, China comes onto the field and China says: Fine; we are happy to write the rules.

To me—I am going to outline this—what Chairman HATCH and I and others have produced is a policy that will force standards up as opposed to much of what critics say about past trade policies, that they drive—it is a race to the bottom, that it drives standards down. This is a piece of legislation which is going to drive up standards.

With that, I am going to start outlining the differences between the 2015 TPA package and the 2002 TPA package. I am going to start with the requirement for labor, the environment, and affordable medicines.

In 2002, there was no requirement for trading partners' laws to comply with core international labor standards. Let me repeat that. In 2002—more than a dozen years ago—there was no requirement for trading partners' laws to comply with core international labor standards. Under the package Chairman HATCH and our colleagues and I on the Finance Committee have produced, trading partners must adopt and maintain core international labor standards, and there are trade sanctions if they do not comply. It could not be more different—the rules from 2002 TPA and the rules for 2015 under what Chairman HATCH and I and others on the Finance Committee insisted on.

Let's talk about the environment. I mentioned labor first. Let's talk about the environment. In 2002, there was no requirement for trading partners' laws to comply with common multilateral environmental agreements. In 2015, under the bipartisan Finance package, trading partners must adopt and maintain common multilateral environmental agreements, and there are trade sanctions if they do not comply. Again, 2002 and 2015—the differences could not be more stark with respect to environmental protection.

With respect to affordable medicines, in 2002, there were no provisions balancing intellectual property protections to ensure access to medicines for developing countries. In 2015, there are directives for trade agreements to promote access to medicine and foster innovation.

I do want to yield to the distinguished majority leader, but I wanted to begin this debate—particularly when Chairman HATCH is on the floor—by highlighting the differences between 2002 and 2015, particularly in areas so important to the American people, such as labor, environmental protection, and access to medicines.

I know we all want to hear from the distinguished majority leader.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I thank my good friend from Oregon, and I congratulate both the Senator from Oregon and the chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator HATCH, for moving this important legislation forward.

Thursday's vote to open this debate on trade was very important for our country. It brought middle-class families one step closer to the increased American exports and American trade jobs our economy needs. It took a lot of work to get us this far. It is going to take a lot more of that kind of work to bring these American jobs over the finish line. Cooperation from both sides of the aisle will be critical to doing so. For instance, we were ready to be in session on Friday to get more of our work done on trade and allow Senators from both parties the chance to offer amendments. All the unnecessary delaying and filibustering we have seen has left us with less time for debate and amendments on this bill—less time for debate and amendments on this bill. It cost the Senate over a week in lost time.

We have been hearing some interesting suggestions from our friends about their level of cooperation over on the minority side. I would certainly agree that putting these words into action would be very good news for our country. This week, our colleagues will have the perfect opportunity to prove they are serious. They will have a chance to turn the page completely from the far left's strategy of wasting time on trade for its own sake, on an issue we all know is President Obama's top domestic legislative priority.

I want to be very clear. The Senate will finish its work on trade this week. We will remain in session as long as it takes to do so. I know we became used to hearing these types of statements in the past, but Senators should know that I am quite serious. I would advise against making any sort of travel arrangements until the path forward becomes clear. It is also my intention this week to address the highways issue and to responsibly extend the expiring provisions of FISA. The quickest way to get there would be to cooperate across the aisle so we can pass the trade bill in a thoughtful but efficient manner. I know Members on both sides are going to want a chance to offer amendments to the bill. They should offer amendments. I am for that. I encourage them to do so, both Republicans and Democrats. Now is the time for Senators from both parties to offer those amendments and work with the bill managers to set up the vote.

This is where our Democratic friends' rhetoric about working cooperatively in the minority will be put to the test. The more our colleagues across the aisle try to throw sand in the gears this week, the less opportunity Members—including Members of their own party—will have for amendments. So I hope they will not do that.

We have a lot to get accomplished. We have 1 less week to do so. That is why I would encourage Members of both parties to bring their amendments to the bill managers and work to get them pending. Let's process amendments from both sides—both sides—and then let's pass this bill so we can boost American jobs and exports by knocking down unfair barriers to the things we make and grow right here in America.

Let me be clear again. This week, we will finish the trade promotion authority bill. We will act on a highway extension and we will act on FISA before we leave for the Memorial Day recess.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Whole yields time?

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I appreciate the majority leader's comments. I know Senator SESSIONS will be speaking in a moment.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator SESSIONS succeed me after I speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I would remind the majority leader that the last time he used the term, ''We shouldn't waste our time on trade,'' meaning not that we shouldn't pass this trade agreement—of course he supports that—but that we should not spend so much time on trade—the last time, 13 years ago, when Congress debated a trade issue, it led to much smaller trade agreements; most immediately, the Central America Free Trade Agreement. That was the one President Bush most wanted to negotiate at that time, if I recall. That debate lasted for 3 weeks. I am not suggesting this debate last 3 weeks, but I am suggesting that to say we are wasting our time on trade, on a long debate, on a thorough debate with a number of amendments, is a bit of a reach.

I would add that this trade agreement, this fast-track, speaks to, ultimately, at least 60 percent of the world's GDP; first, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is pretty much already negotiated, even though the USTR will not let much of this trade agreement actually see the light of day prior to voting on fast-track; and, second, once TTIP—the United States-European Union agreement—is brought to the Senate and House for approval, that will mean 60 percent of the world's GDP will be included.

So to say we can only debate this for 3 days and squeeze the number of amendments, when I know that at least a dozen Senators, at least a dozen more, probably like a dozen and a half on the Democratic side alone—I know a number of Republicans have amendments too—want to offer amendments, want them debated on, and want them voted on.

AMENDMENT NO. 1242

So the first amendment that I believe we will vote on tonight is my amendment on trade adjustment assistance. Everyone acknowledges—from those who oppose TPA and oppose TPP to its most vehement cheerleaders, the Wall Street Journal editorial board, a number of conservative think tanks, and a number of free-trade advocates—that trade agreements result in winners and losers because they bring dislocation in the economy. We can debate whether the winners outweigh the losers—I don't think they do. I think the losers outweigh the winners in what happens in trade.

I know that the wealthiest 5 percent in this country, by and large, gain from these trade agreements, but the broad middle and below typically lose from these trade agreements. I know what they have done to my State. I know what they have done to the Presiding Officer's State, and I know what they have done especially to manufacturing.

What is not debatable is some industries are going to get hurt, some communities will be hollowed out, some worker jobs will be lost. We know that. We owe it to workers who are going to have their lives upended, through no fault of their own, to do everything we can to ease the transition.

Think about that. We make a decision—President Obama asks us to pass this, the Republican leadership asks us to pass this, and the Senate Republican leadership in the House, joining President Obama—to pass this. So the decisions we make here—the President of the United States and Members of Congress—will cost people their jobs. We know that whether you are for TPA or not.

We know some people will lose their jobs because of these trade agreements. We owe it to them, to those workers who have lost jobs, to those communities that experience devastation, small towns that have seen plants close. That creates devastation in those towns. We owe it to provide training and assistance to help those communities, to help those workers get back on their feet.

That is why I am calling on all my colleagues—regardless of how you feel about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, regardless of how you are going to vote on fast-track—to support this amendment, which restores trade adjustment assistance funding levels to $575 million a year. This is the same level that was included in the bipartisan TAA bill in 2011. One-quarter of current Senate Republicans—sitting Senate Republicans, one-quarter of them—voted for that higher number.

This amendment is fully paid for. I know some of you think that $450 million, the amount included in the underlying bill, is sufficient, but it is not. The truth is that $450 million likely will not be enough. In 2009 and 2010, TAA cost $685 million each year.

If you take the average of funding levels for the 3 years when program eligibility was nearly the same as the one we are considering today, TAA expenditures averaged $571 million a year. Put on top of that what has happened with the South Korea trade agreement—predictions of job growth, almost identical numbers, except it was job loss—that means more people eligible for TAA. Put on top of that the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

We know there will be winners and losers. The losers need help. Add that to the dollar figures we need for Trade adjustment assistance. TAA helps workers retrain for new jobs so they can compete. We have clear evidence that TAA works. It helps workers develop the skills they need to find work and stay employed.

If we are going to compete, we need to invest in these workers to make sure they are ready to meet that global competition.

Right now, this body considers fast-track authority for trade agreements that encompass 60 percent of the world's economy. Now is exactly the wrong time to underinvest in training workers. If we don't support my amendment, that is what we are doing. Make no mistake, if you go home after voting no on this dollar figure, of putting it back to where this Congress voted on it only 4 years ago, you are leaving workers behind. You are underinvesting in workers. You are showing that these workers who lose their jobs because of South Korea, these workers who lose their jobs because of NAFTA, CAFTA or what has happened with PNTR or the South Korea trade agreement, you are saying to those workers: Sorry. We don't have enough money to take care of you—even though it was our actions in the House, the Senate, and this President who caused those workers to lose their jobs.

This is the same level that, in 2011, 70 Senators supported, including 14 current Republican Senators who sit in this body today. In 2011, 307 Members of the House of Representatives also supported the dollar figure that this amendment calls for. I ask my colleagues, including the nearly one-quarter—the fully one-quarter of Senate Republicans who supported it at this level—to support it again today. If we are going to pursue aggressive trade promotion, an aggressive trade promotion agenda, we owe it to our workers, we owe it to our businesses, we owe it to our communities to make sure they are ready for the competition that is about to come their way.

We have a moral obligation to help the families whose livelihoods will be yanked out from under them, not from something they did wrong, not from a decision they made but from a decision we in this body made to change the rules.

We know that will happen. We saw it with NAFTA. We saw it with CAFTA. We are seeing it with Korea. We know we will see it again with TPP.

There is no question that potential new trade agreements we are considering will create economic loss. There is no question that Americans will lose jobs. There is no question. Nobody disputes that.

Are we not to take care of those workers who lose their jobs? Again, it wasn't their decision. It was our decision, in this body, to vote for these trade agreements and then not to fund those workers' comebacks, not to help those workers get back on their feet, not to retrain those workers who lost their jobs because of what we did in this body. Talk about a moral issue.

It is our duty to look out for those workers who end up on the losing end

of our defined trade policy. That is why I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting trade adjustment assistance today at levels that this Congress overwhelmingly agreed to in a bipartisan manner 4 years ago.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Ohio for allowing me to speak, for suggesting I speak next, which was my understanding I would be able to do.

We have good people on both sides of this issue, but Senator BROWN is an advocate, and I think he has made some good points with regard to the questions facing America.

Our colleagues earlier said this is a trade deal done right. Well, in a way that seems to say: don't pay attention to previous trade deals that haven't done so well.

We have a number of people who live in the business world, who trade internationally regularly, and they say this is not a good trade deal, and it will not work. We also hear it said frequently that we want increased wages for Americans by everybody on both sides of this issue.

But the proponents of the legislation—if you watch carefully what they have been saying—they are only saying it will only increase wages in export industries, not across the economy. And we know that in this Nation our exports amount to only 13 percent of GDP, which is the lowest in the developed world. We don't have a lot of exports. Perhaps, if we export more, maybe wages will go up a little bit, but if we import more in other industries in the 87 percent, we might see a decline in wages and jobs.

So what are the facts? More exports are good, but if increased imports dwarf increased exports, it is not so good as a result of this agreement, especially when we have had virtually a six-year-record trade deficit in March and one of the worst quarters in years—the first quarter of this year—in importing more than we export.

So the Korea agreement didn't live up to the promises we had for it. I supported it. I voted for it. But will this one be any better? Don't we need to know?

So I asked five questions of the President more than 10 days ago.

First, regarding jobs and wages. On net, will TPP increase the total number of manufacturing jobs in the United States, generally, or reduce them and auto manufacturing jobs, specifically.

Will hourly wages for U.S. workers go up or down? Don't you have that information? Shouldn't that be shared with us before we vote?

Regarding trade deficits, I ask: Will TPP reduce or increase our cumulative trade deficit with TPP countries overall?

And with the big, new members, it will be significantly impacted—Japan and Vietnam, specifically.

Regarding China, could TPP member countries add new countries—including China—to the agreement without future congressional approval?

Some have tried to say it can't be done. You have to go down in the secret room here, read it, and you are very limited in what you can find out. But as I have read the agreement, I don't think there is any doubt that under WTO rules which will be adopted, new members can be added without a vote of Congress.

Regarding the phrase, the ''living agreement'' that is in this deal, the fact that the agreement itself said this is unprecedented. It is the first time we have ever had language like ''living agreement'' in a trade deal.

What does that mean? Can the agreement be changed after adoption without congressional action? It appears so.

So I have asked, Mr. President, make this living agreement language—it is not much—public, and let's discuss and analyze just what it means. Does it mean the President can meet with other countries, even vote against a change in trade policy or an agreement with them, lose the vote and have law of Congress overridden or us be in violation of the agreement, subject to sanctions by the Commission or international body.

And will the President state, explicitly, and accept language that would mean that rules regarding immigration would not be changed? I hope we can do that.

I will just say I see my colleague and admired chairman of the Finance Committee on the floor. He has been willing to meet with my staff, talk respectfully about these issues, and consider how to wrestle through them. I hope we can make some progress, but I am concerned we might not make sufficient progress.

We need to think about these things. It can no longer be denied that wages for American workers have been flat or even falling for decades. One analysis says that real hourly wages today are lower than they were in 1973. At the same time, the share of Americans actually working—the percentage of Americans in their working years who are actually working—has steadily declined to its lowest level in four decades.

The middle class is shrinking. I wish it were not so.

CNN recently summarized the results of a Pew study which found:

> Most states saw median incomes fall between 2000 and 2013, an ominous sign for the well-being of the middle class. . . .

That is really a catastrophe. So in 13 years we have seen a steady decline in wages for the middle class.

A separate Pew Research Center study shows that the share of adults in middle-income households has fallen from 61 percent in 1970 to 51 percent in 2013. The erosion over the past four decades has been sure and steady. That is the Pew research.

They continue:

> If past trends continue to hold, there is little reason to believe the recovery from the Great Recession will eventually lead to a rebound in the share of adults in middle-income households.

In other words, they are going to be below a middle-income level. And that is not good. Don't we, colleagues, have a responsibility to honestly say: What is causing this?

We have had Democratic Presidents and Republican Presidents during this time. Trends are occurring out there. Some of them may be difficult to overcome. But don't we need to talk about it more comprehensively?

Pew further finds that while middle-income families—who are the majority of Americans by far—earned 62 percent of the Nation's household income in 1970, today they earn only 44 percent of the Nation's household income. So the sad fact is that the middle class is getting smaller. This has enormous implications not just economically but socially. The size and strength of a middle class impacts the health of a community and a nation in many ways. What are we here for in the Senate if not to address, consider, and deal with these kinds of issues? We need to ask some tough questions about why the middle class is shrinking and why pay isn't rising.

I have no doubt that bigger government, more regulations, more taxes, our huge $18 trillion debt and the interest we pay on it, and, lately, ObamaCare are important factors in weakening American economic growth and the wages of Americans. I truly believe those are significant factors. But is that all there is? I am afraid there is more. It appears there are two other factors of significance that are not being sufficiently recognized or seriously discussed by any of our political, corporate, and academic leaders, or the media establishment. So it is time for us to begin a vigorous analysis of our conduct of trade. I believe that is one of the factors that may be impacting the wages and income of Americans.

Over a number of years, I have pointed out that I believe immigration actions are also containing the growth of wages, as economic studies repeatedly show. But what about trade? Do our policies like the Trans-Pacific Partnership concede too much to our mercantilist competitor allies? These are good countries—Japan, Vietnam. We want to see Vietnam develop and move into the world orbit. There are other countries, but those are the two big ones that would be most impacted by this agreement.

We already have trade agreements with Canada, Mexico, Australia, Chile, and others. What about those that have a different philosophy on trade than we do—the mercantilist ideas? Do their actions over the years establish that they have developed trade and nontrade barrier systems that provide their workers and manufacturers substantial advantages in the world marketplace? Have they figured out how to utilize other barriers—other than just

tariffs—to advantage their manufacturers and jobs?

It is astounding to me how little serious discussion there has been on these issues.

For some trade advocates, even bad trade deals are good. Truly, this is so. Many advocates are quite open in their belief that as long as the consumer gets a lower price for their product, there should be no concern if American plants close, workers are laid off, and wages fall. They say that in their writings. The politicians don't say it; they have to answer to the people. Many of the theorists for open borders and utterly free trade say that often. So I fear we have almost an obsession with trade agreements and that this is so strong that many TPP advocates don't concern themselves with anything but that we admit more cheaper goods, that lower prices are good for consumers.

That we are all consumers, there can be no doubt. That is a valuable thing, for consumers to have products at lower prices. I don't dispute that. I know some do, but I don't. But is any trade agreement good because it creates more low-cost imports, especially if we are competing against partners who know how to cheat the system and gain manipulative advantage and we don't stand up and try to correct that?

Are trade deficits, which are at all-time-high levels, immaterial? Some say trade deficits don't make much of a difference. They do. Is the continuing shuttering of American manufacturing of no concern? I think it is of great concern. Fundamentally, can America be strong without a manufacturing base? Can we be secure without a steel industry, which is getting hammered through unfair trade and dumping and other actions by our trading competitors?

At bottom, we must ask whether our aggressive trading partners, using a mercantilist philosophy, may be gaining unfair advantage over the American manufacturing base and workers in America.

These nations—good nations, good allies—are not religious about free trade. In general, while they assert their desire for expanded free trade, their actual policies seek fewer U.S. exports to them using nontariff as well as tariff barriers, and our trade competitors use currency manipulation, subsidies, and other actions to expand their exports to us. Their goal is naturally to seek full employment in their countries while exporting their unemployment to our country.

This refusal by many to acknowledge the mercantilist policies of our trading competitors has gone, it seems to me, from promoting healthy trading relationships, to some sort of ideology, even to the nature—I have said, and others have as well—of a religion. If you just knock down all trade barriers, allow our competitors to use whatever tactics they want to use, accept any product that comes in that is cheaper, somehow we will have world peace, cancer will be cured, and the economy will boom. But forgive me if I am not willing to buy into that.

Cheaper products are good, is what our promoters say. That is all you need to know. Don't ask too many questions about facts. You are going to get cheaper products. That is the only thing that counts.

Well, I don't dismiss the advantage of cheaper products. It is a serious issue. This issue deserves everybody's serious discussion. But I have to tell you, I am having my doubts. I have voted for other trade agreements, and I am uneasy about this.

Conservatism is not an ideology; it is, as my friend Bob Tyrrell at the American Spectator likes to say, a cast of mind. It lives in the real world. And certainly the real world is not working so well for Middle America today. It is not. Their financial status continues to decline.

The conservative thing to do at this point in time is to avoid any dramatic and sudden changes that destabilize families and communities further, to not accelerate the problem that exists. And let's dig in deeply to the questions I ask: Will wages go up? Will trade deficits be reduced?

By the way, the Korea Free Trade Agreement didn't work so well. We were promised a number of things. President Obama promised the Korea Free Trade Agreement would increase U.S. goods exported by $10 billion to $11 billion. However, since the deal was ratified several years ago, our exports have risen only $0.8 billion—less than $1 billion—while Korean exports to the United States increased by more than $12 billion, widening our trade gap substantially, almost doubling it. I am just telling you that is what was promised, and the reality didn't match the promises. So is it any wonder the American people are uneasy about these agreements? And I think all of us should be. We should look to be more careful about them.

Capital is mobile. People can move money and invest anywhere in the world almost with the click of a computer button. But many times workers are not mobile like that. So when a company closes its plant in the United States and shifts production to a lower wage country, the company may make more money, but the workers in their communities, who cannot move overseas, suddenly don't have jobs, and they are hurt.

Of course we can't stop globalization in this economy. We can't reverse the effects of trade. But we can work for trade agreements that create a more level playing field against our good but mercantilist, aggressive trading partners who look for advantages every day and who lust after access to the American marketplace. That is what they want, but we don't have to give that access unless they treat our products with respect and allow access to their marketplaces.

So many in our country have an inflexible ideology that the United States and the American people should allow for the completely unrestricted movement of goods and labor into the United States, even when our trading partners manipulate rules for their advantage. Those truest believers are most adamant about passing this fast-track legislation as fast as possible, with the least discussion possible. But the United States is a country, colleagues, not an economy, and a country's job is first and foremost to protect its citizens from military attacks and also from unfair trade policies that threaten our economic well-being.

Any trade agreement we enter into should have a mutually beneficial impact on all parties, not just our country but other countries that enter into the agreement. It should be mutually beneficial. That is what contracts do every day. It must not continue or further the decline of manufacturing in the United States. It should seek to end trade unfairness and to increase, not reduce, wages in the United States.

We cannot afford to lose a single job nowadays to unfair competition or unfair trade agreements. We are experiencing a decline in wages, a decline in employment. We need to fight for every single job. And that means fair trade—you open your markets before you demand that we open ours. They haven't done so, while we have maintained open markets here.

But the fast-track procedures ensure that any trade deal—which is yet unseen—can pass through Congress with a minimum of actual scrutiny after years of soaring trade deficits. Shouldn't we apply more scrutiny to trade agreements, not less? Are we afraid to ask tough questions?

Take the issue of currency manipulation. This President has refused to confront this practice that provides a clear advantage for certain foreign competitors. His negotiations have refused to put any provisions in the Trans-Pacific Partnership that address this issue. And if Congress were to force it in, I am not sure he would even then enforce it.

The people pushing for this trade agreement, my colleagues have to know, don't want to confront the currency manipulation. They think it is all right. They do not think it is a problem. It reduces the price of imports, so we should be thankful, they say. And under fast-track, there will be nothing we can do to amend or stop it.

Finally, the reality is that this fast-track legislation is a significant vote. No fast-track deal, once passed, has ever been blocked. So if we want to confront currency manipulation and other unfair practices, our best bet is to have trade bills come before Congress through the regular order—not as a fast-track deal. Then Congress can properly exercise its responsibilities that have been delegated to us under the Constitution of the United States.

I appreciate the able leaders of the committee who are advancing this legislation. I respect them and many of the arguments they have made. There is much value to them. But I am uneasy about where we are going today. I think we need to spend more time analyzing the actual impact—not the theoretical impact—of trade agreements—the actual results of our ability to penetrate the foreign markets. If we do that, maybe we can figure a way to actually improve the financial condition of mainstream America.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, before he leaves the floor, I just wish to respond to a couple of the points made by our colleague from Alabama, because he brings up issues that Chairman HATCH and I talked a great deal about during the discussion of this proposal. I would just like to respond very specifically to some of the concerns raised by the Senator, my friend from Alabama.

My friend from Alabama said there would be no scrutiny—those were his words—of this particular agreement, and that it would be passed through as quickly as possible without any discussions.

Now, that certainly is an area where I have been very concerned. Chairman HATCH has been concerned that there hasn't been enough discussion in the past. So Chairman HATCH and I have changed this, and I want to be very clear what is going to happen now.

First, for a full 60 days before the President of the United States signs an agreement—starting with TPP, the Trans-Pacific Partnership—it would have to be made public for those full 60 days before the President signs it. Then after that, there would be close to 2 additional months when the American people would have the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, or any other, in their hands before anyone casts a vote on an actual agreement on the floor of the Senate or in the other body, in the House of Representatives.

So as to this idea that my friend from Alabama has said, that there wouldn't be any scrutiny of anything, we are starting to get a little flack that it would be out there for too long before people started voting. But what this——

Mr. SESSIONS. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. WYDEN. If I could just finish my statement.

Mr. SESSIONS. OK.

Mr. WYDEN. I was happy to listen to my colleague.

What this means is the people of Alabama, Iowa, Oregon, and everywhere else could come to one of our townhall meetings, have the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement in our lap, and ask questions of their elected representatives about a trade agreement for close to 4 months before it was voted on here or in the other body.

I am going to have to leave for a meeting to talk again about how we are going to see if we can find some common ground, but I do want to address one other point that my colleague made, and that deals with this question of middle-class wages.

My colleague and I agree completely that middle-class people are hurting. There is no question about it. We have millions of middle-class people in this country walking an economic tightrope, balancing their food bill against their fuel bill and their fuel bill against their housing bill—no question about that.

The difference of opinion here, between two Senators who enjoy each other's company, is that my colleague from Alabama says the principal problem is trade—that trade is the reason for this. Respectfully, the data from the Department of Commerce shows that export jobs—which is the focus of this bill and the focus of trade done right—pay better than do the nontrade jobs because they have a value-added kind of benefit to them. That is why—and I note for my friend from Alabama, who cares a great deal about the steel industry—the steel industry sent a letter to Chairman HATCH and me saying they were for this. The American steel industry sent a letter to Chairman HATCH and me saying they were for this because they know this is connected to producing more high-skilled, high-wage jobs, particularly in manufacturing, where my State is a leader.

So the question then becomes this: What are the big challenges? Certainly, technology is one, and globalization is one. Chairman HATCH and I have talked about flawed tax policy. I think it is particularly ominous that the tax breaks go for shipping jobs overseas rather than rewarding the manufacturers and those who produce what I call ''red, white, and blue'' jobs.

But during the time that I have here on the floor, I am going to be talking about the differences between this trade promotion act proposal and the last one of 2002. Nothing could illustrate the differences more than the new requirements for transparency and opportunity for the American people to weigh in. The facts are that, as a result of what Chairman HATCH and the Finance Committee have put together, the American people, before a vote is cast—before a vote is cast on a trade agreement here on the floor of the Senate or on the floor of the other body, the American people are going to have those trade agreements in their hands for pretty close to 4 months.

If my colleague wants to ask a question, I am happy to yield my time to him.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I thank Senator WYDEN. He is so principled, and I know his heart is right on all these issues. But there are some disagreements.

I do think the Senator gives a little more time between the actual agreement being adopted and its passage, which is preferable. But the truth is that none of our fast-track agreements have ever been defeated. There seems to be a majority in both Houses that would vote for that, and once it is here, it is up or down. There is no other deal. We can't have any amendments and little input from rank-and-file Senators, although the Finance Committee chairman and a few others get some enhanced powers under this agreement—not the average Senator.

So it is not the kind of—if we pass the fast-track, I think with 60 votes, I think we are on a path to adopt an agreement, if history is true.

I noticed again my colleague said it would enhance salaries in export job areas. That might be so. Hopefully, we would have some increase in exports. In Korea, we had about a $1 billion increase or a little less, instead of 10. But it was a little increase. So maybe that would help a few jobs and a few salaries.

But what about the others, the imports that are coming in, imports that are coming in competing with American manufacturing in whole massive areas of the economy? Isn't that likely to close some factories? Isn't it likely to put downward pressure on wages? I think so.

Finally, I think the steel industry and some others are saying they cannot support this trade deal unless we do something about nontariff barriers, currency being one of them. That is what people have told me: If there isn't a fix on currency, we can't go forward with a deal.

So there is no full-fledged support, that I am aware of, from the steel industry for the agreement as it is likely to pass, which is not going to include any currency fix with teeth in it, I am afraid. Then, finally, my concern about not having an adequate debate is less. We have to get into some of these constitutional issues—the ability of two-thirds of the members of this so-called new commission, this transnational commission that will be established, who can add new members without our approval. We have to talk about that some.

But I asked five questions. I would ask them to Senator HATCH.

What would it do to wages? What does the living agreement mean? Does it override American law? What about trade deficits and other issues?

I think those are the issues that are not being discussed that need to be.

So again, with the greatest respect, I thank my colleagues for the hard work they have put into this. There is no committee that has more to do around here than the Finance Committee. I understand their interest in this. I am raising questions. I don't pretend to know all the answers. But I do think the American people are concerned about it, and we should be sure that what we do advances the interests of Middle America as well as corporate America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I have been very interested in the debate, especially between the distinguished Senator from Alabama and the distinguished Senator from Oregon.

I have to say that it is very interesting that almost every business in this country wants this bill. Let me just start with mentioning that all the chairs of the President's Council of Economic Advisers under Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, William Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama have all said:

We believe that agreements to foster greater international trade are in our national economic and security interests, and support a renewal of Trade Promotion Authority.

This is from Alan Greenspan, Michael Boskin, R. Glenn Hubbard, Ben Bernanke, Austan Goolsbee, Charles Schultze, Laura D'Andrea Tyson, N. Gregory Mankiw, Edward B. Lazear, Alan B. Krueger, Martin Feldstein, Martin Baily, Harvey S. Rosen, and Christina D. Romer, just to mention a few.

They say, in a letter to Senator MCCONNELL and HARRY REID, and to the leaders in the House, JOHN BOEHNER and NANCY PELOSI that virtually every chamber of commerce in the country has come behind this bill. To read one paragraph:

TPA is a longstanding and proven partnership between Congress and the President that enables Congress to set negotiating objectives and requires the executive branch to consult extensively with legislators during negotiations. We urge you to act on this essential legislation. . . .

I think these chambers of commerce know what is best for business. I think they know what is best for the economy. In fact, U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Thomas J. Donohue issued the following statement hailing the introduction of the ''Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, which will renew Trade Promotion Authority.''

These are people who take these things seriously. Take the Business Roundtable:

Washington—Business Roundtable, representing CEOs of U.S. companies from every sector of the economy, today commended Senators Orrin Hatch (R–UT) and Ron Wyden (D–OR) and Representative Paul Ryan (R–WI) for their introduction of a bipartisan bill to update and renew Trade Promotion Authority (TPA). Approval of legislation to modernize TPA is a top priority for Business Roundtable.

We can go on and on. Jim Greenwood of the Biotechnology Industry Organization has come out in favor of it. Even Gabe Horwitz of the Third Way has come out in favor of it. Tom Linebarger of the Business Roundtable has come out in favor. Thomas Donohue, as I said, has come out in favor of it. David Thomas of Trade Benefits America has come out for this. Matthew Shay of the National Retail Federation says: We urge Congress to quickly pass TPA legislation. Peter Allgeier, from the Coalition of Service Industries, has come out for it.

If we start to look at businesses throughout the country, they don't seem to be a bit concerned with some of the issues that have been raised by my friend from Alabama because we have covered them in this bill.

Think about it. The tech companies—these are America's moviemakers, software developers, computer manufacturers, the people who drive America's innovation—understand that promoting American trade requires protecting American intellectual property. ''That's the only way to keep our competitive edge in the 21st century. And that's exactly what TPA will do.'' That is quoting them. TPA lays out almost 150 negotiating objectives for the administration to pursue in trade deals.

Chris Dodd, the head of the Motion Picture Association of America, praised TPA.

Microsoft's general counsel, Brad Smith came out and said:

Passage of renewed TPA, with its updated objectives for digital trade, is critical for America to be able to pursue its interests. And passage is important for Microsoft and our network of more than 400,000 partners—the majority of which are small businesses—to compete in the global economy.

Chris Padilla, the vice president of IBM, also spoke in favor: ''TPA is a critical step in preserving the transformative role of data, and in strengthening America's economy and competitiveness.''

Victoria Espinell, CEO of BSA, the software alliance, said: ''This legislation will help ensure that pending trade agreements include necessary rules to promote cross-border data flows.''

Gary Shapiro, CEO of the Consumer Electronics Association, said: ''TPA takes a modern approach to trade agreements to ensure a robust digital economy and growth of the Internet,'' which are ''vital to American innovation.''

Dean Garfield, CEO of the Information Technology Industry Council, said: ''Tech's message to Congress is simple: supporting TPA will promote job creation and propel us forward in building a strong 21st century economy.''

John Neuffer, CEO of the Semiconductor Industry Association, said: ''TPA represents a much-needed shot in the arm for free trade, which is critical to the U.S. semiconductor industry, to American jobs, and to our economy.''

We are talking about real jobs here. We are talking about a potential to raise the average pay by as much as 18 percent.

Carl Guardino, CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, said: ''Our businesses rely on a robust export market and this bill will go a long way in empowering the U.S. and enabling U.S. companies to remain competitive across the globe.''

Mark McCarthy, vice president of the Software & Information Industry Association, said: ''TPA legislation is crucial for finalizing agreements that will set the template for 21st Century trade and for protecting the global digital leadership of the United States.''

Scott Belcher, CEO of the Telecommunications Industry Association said: ''The passage of Trade Promotion Authority legislation is critical to increasing the competitiveness of U.S. companies overseas, particularly in the information and communications industry, and to ensuring continued job growth at home.''

So tech has spoken out—in one voice, really—to support TPA as essential to innovation and competitiveness. We can put our heads in the sand and act as if this is not important, but it is extremely important.

Then, you get into agriculture. Agricultural exports support over 1 million U.S. jobs, both on and off the farm. Fiscal years 2010 to 2014 represented the strongest 5 years in U.S. history for agricultural exports, with sales totaling $675 billion. They are expecting grow once we get fair trade rules with the countries we are currently negotiating with.

By the way, when we are talking about the 11 nations of the TPP negotiations we are undergoing, one of the countries we are talking about is Japan. We have had trouble breaking down trade barriers with Japan for years. We now have a Prime Minister over there who is willing to work with us and seize the advantage—not just for Japan but for the region as well.

If we do not pass this TPA bill, we are just throwing the China the Asia-Pacific. They are already making strides in that area that would not be happening if we had this trade agreement already. I might add that there is the new innovative bank that they have started. At first, there were only a few countries that wanted to join it. Now it is over 60, as I understand it. Upwards of 60 countries have now jumped on board, including some of the major countries in this negotiation. We are going to just stand here and act as if this is not happening and that our interests in free trade are not important unless we get everything we want, which, ironically, we basically get in these agreements.

U.S. producers rely on and prosper from access to foreign markets. Currently, we export half of U.S. wheat, milled rice, and soybean production; 70 percent of walnut and pistachio production; more than 75 percent of cotton production; 40 percent of grape production; 20 percent of cherry production; 20 percent of apple production; 20 percent of poultry and pork production; and 10 percent of beef production.

Today, only a relatively small percentage of U.S. companies export, yet 95 percent of the world's consumers live outside of the United States. What are we going to do—ignore these facts and not acknowledge that we need to pass this bill?

We need to get real about trade. Trade agreements are the most effective way to eliminate foreign tariffs, unscientific regulatory barriers, and bureaucratic administrative procedures designed to block trade.

I could go on and on. Today there are some 400 trade agreements, and we have only been party to a small fraction. That is because we have not had trade promotion authority. Are we going to sit back and put our heads in the sand and act as if this were not important?

The manufacturers are rallying behind this bill throughout the country. They said this:

Manufacturers need TPA and new market-opening trade agreements now more than ever.

That was said by National Association of Manufacturers vice chair for international economic policy and Emerson chairman and CEO David Farr.

He adds:

Trade is increasingly critical for the bottom lines of businesses of all sizes, but U.S. exports face higher tariffs and more barriers abroad than nearly any other major economy. Manufacturers need TPA to restore U.S. leadership in striking new trade deals that will knock down barriers so that manufacturers can improve their access to world's consumers.

The National Association of Manufacturers is the largest manufacturing association in the United States. They are begging us to do this. American manufacturers want TPA. What are we going to do—bury our head in the sand and say that is not so? It is time for us to wake up and realize we have to get in the real world.

This agreement has been well thought through. Is it perfect? No, nothing is perfect around here. But it goes a long way toward resolving our problems, creating more jobs in America, more opportunities in America, more income in America, and more economic stability in America. Without it, my gosh, what are we going to be? Become just a nation that does not participate, when we have the capacity to participate all over the world. This is an important step that we are talking about here and we need to take it.

Let me take a few more moments—I notice the distinguished Senator is here to bring up his amendment. Let me take a few minutes and respond to my colleagues' concerns about provisions contained in the Trans-Pacific Partnership or TPP.

Specifically, there are some who have said that TPP contains an unprecedented, ''living agreement'' provision that would allow parties to amend the agreement after it is adopted and, in the process, change U.S. law without Congress's approval. Let me state this as clearly as possible. These assertions are 100-percent false. No trade agreements—past, present or future—can change U.S. law without the consent of Congress. This is not even a close question.

No reasonable interpretation of our Constitution, our laws or our trade agreements lends credence to that interpretation. Of course, I know that my counter-assertions by themselves will not be enough to convince people they are wrong on this issue. So let's delve into this a bit further.

True enough, TPP, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, reportedly includes a provision to create a forum along the joint working groups to help parties evaluate whether the agreement is being implemented as intended and to provide a way to discuss new issues as they arise. But guess what. Most U.S. free-trade agreements contain similar provisions. This is not new or unprecedented. This is standard for every modern trade agreement. My friend from Alabama raised the Korea agreement. It has only been in existence since 2012. We have not seen it fully implemented yet, and it is not fully implemented.

For example, the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement has a ''joint committee,'' and CAFTA-DR has a ''free trade commission,'' both of which perform the same functions as have been reported for the TPP commission.

These agreements specify that these bodies can oversee operations of the agreement. However, nothing in the text of either agreement gives either committee the power to change U.S. law—nothing whatsoever. The same is true of the commission that is reportedly part of TPP. In addition, TPP will almost undoubtedly include a process for amending the agreement. This, too, is standard procedure for modern trade agreements. That is a good thing.

These provisions, which once again are included in all of our existing trade agreements, help ensure that the United States can protect its interests when new issues arise. Most importantly, they contain a backstop to protect our country's sovereignty.

For example, in our free-trade agreement with South Korea, the relevant provision states that ''an amendment shall enter into force after the parties exchange written notification certifying that they have completed their respective legal requirements and procedures.''

In NAFTA, the section describing the amendment process states: ''When so agreed and approved in accordance with the applicable legal procedures of each party, a modification or addition shall constitute an integral part of this agreement.''

Of course, in the United States, the applicable legal procedure for amending a free-trade agreement and for any and all changes to U.S. law includes approval by Congress. In other words, no free-trade agreement—again, that is past, present or future—to which the United States is a party can be amended without Congress's approval.

Once again, these ''living agreement'' provisions are standard practice for free-trade agreements. For the most part, they have not been remotely controversial, up until now, I guess. In fact, one of our colleagues, who has been very vocal on this issue and has even filed at least one amendment to our TPA bill on this matter, voted in favor of free-trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama, all of which included provisions very similar to those that are reportedly part of TPP. It is not just I who am saying this.

I have a memo sent to my staff from the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service that reiterates these points.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of this memo, immediately following my remarks.

Madam President, this is U.S. Government 101. Under our system, only Congress can change the law. I am certainly not oblivious to the fact a number of my colleagues—both here in the Senate and in the House of Representatives—deeply distrust our current President. I am hardly a shrinking violet when it comes to criticizing President Obama—and even his predecessors—and his propensity for overreach. I have been very critical of this administration's effort to expand executive power, and I will continue to be. But no one should channel distrust of President Obama into opposition to the TPA bill. If anything, the opposite is true.

Our bill contains numerous provisions solidifying the principle that U.S. law cannot be changed without Congress's consent. Under our bill, no secretive provisions of a trade agreement can be withheld from Congress and still enter into force.

Furthermore, the bill goes further than any previous version of TPA in ensuring transparency and accountability in both the trade negotiating process and the approval procedures.

In short, Madam President, if you are suspicious of executive authority but still want to support free trade, you should support our TPA bill. Once again, there is simply no reason to be concerned about ''living agreement'' provisions in the TPP or any other trade agreement. Our Constitution, our laws, our trade agreements, and, of course, our TPA bill all ensure that when it comes to the U.S. trade policy, Congress has the final say.

With that, I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2015.

MEMORANDUM

To: U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Attention: Everett Eissenstat.

From: Daniel T. Shedd, Legislative Attorney, 7–8441; Brandon J. Murrill, Legislative Attorney, 7–8440.

Subject: Amendment of Free Trade Agreements and Role of Congress.

This memorandum responds to your request regarding whether the President, acting alone, can change U.S. domestic law by negotiating an amendment to an existing free trade agreement (FTA). In order for an

amendment to an existing FTA to affect domestic law, Congress would have to implement that change through legislation. Because of the expedited nature of this request, this memorandum does not represent an exhaustive analysis of FTAs and the processes established to amend those FTAs.

Under the Constitution, the President has the authority to negotiate agreements with foreign countries. However, the Constitution on also identifies Congress as the branch with responsibility to regulate commerce with foreign nations. Therefore, although the President can negotiate FTAs and amendments to FTAs, in order for those agreements to have controlling effect in U.S. domestic law, Congress must enact legislation approving the agreement and providing for the implementation of its requirements, as necessary. For FTAs, the implementing legislation is often enacted through procedures established by Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), often referred to as ''fast track'' authority. If any agreement, or any amendment to an agreement, requires a change in U.S. law in order for the United States to come into compliance with the agreement, Congress would have to pass legislation for there to be any change to domestic law.

U.S. FTAs often contain provisions allowing for their amendment. For example, the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) provides: ''The Parties may agree, in writing, to amend this Agreement . . .'' However, it is important to note that FTAs also contain provisions that establish that the domestic legal procedures of each country that is a party to the agreement must be followed in order for the amendment to take effect. Again, the text from KORUS is illustrative: ''An amendment shall enter into force after the Parties exchange written notifications certifying that they have completed their respective applicable legal requirements and procedures . . .'' Other FTAs contain similar provisions providing that an amendment to an agreement will only have legal force if it is approved through the necessary legal procedures of each country that is a party to the agreement. Furthermore, even absent these provisions in FTAs, because FTAs are not viewed as self-executing agreements, an amendment to an FTA would not change domestic law unless Congress enacted a statute to that effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, we are a little bit behind and our colleagues have been very patient.

I ask unanimous consent that Senator PETERS be able to speak briefly about one of his constituents who had a tragic death, followed by our colleague, Senator LANKFORD from Oklahoma. I ask unanimous consent that those Senators be allowed to speak in that order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Michigan.

REMEMBERING RACHEL JACOBS

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise today with a heavy heart and with great sadness to commemorate the life of Rachel Jacobs. Rachel was tragically killed in last week's Amtrak train crash.

This morning, my wife Colleen and I joined hundreds of mourners who attended her funeral as she was laid to rest in Metro Detroit. Rachel was only 39 years old when her life was so tragically cut short. She had a life filled with love, with accomplishment, and with promise. She was the beloved daughter of my dear friends Gilda and John Jacobs. Rachel was a wife, the mother of a 2-year-old son, and the CEO of an education startup in Philadelphia. While she worked in Philadelphia and lived in New York City, this is a profound loss for the Detroit area, where she grew up but which she never left behind.

Rachel was the cofounder of Detroit Nation, an organization to engage former residents of the Detroit area in cities and communities around our great country. Rachel helped to connect people and motivated her friends. She took part in Detroit Homecoming, an event held last fall to engage accomplished leaders across the United States who grew up in the Metro Detroit area and now want to give back to the community they still love and call home.

Rachel was a leader in this important work—work that will now need to be carried on by those whom she inspired. I am heartbroken for her many friends and deeply saddened by this tragic loss for the Metro Detroit area.

My heart goes out to her young son Jacob, her husband Todd, her wonderful parents Gilda and John, her sister Jessica, and her entire family as they struggle with this painful loss.

As parents, we want to give everything to our children. We want to give them a stable home and a loving family. We want to give them a great education and a bright future. But the one thing we cannot give or promise them is a long life. That is in God's hands, and now Rachel is as well.

Madam President, we have suffered an incredible loss with the passing of Rachel Jacobs. We have lost a brilliant businesswoman, an active community leader, and a loving mother, wife, sister, and daughter. May her memory be a blessing.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

AMENDMENT NO. 1237, AS MODIFIED

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment No. 1237 be modified with the changes at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is so modified.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

On page 4, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

(13) to take into account conditions relating to religious freedom of any party to negotiations for a trade agreement with the United States.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I also ask unanimous consent that Senator VITTER be added as a cosponsor to my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, trade agreements are about a set of values and beliefs. Do we believe the American workers and American products can compete with the rest of the world and provide answers and products the world needs? It is an overwhelming yes. When we trade, we not only exchange goods, we exchange ideas and values. Our greatest export is our American value—the dignity of each person, hard work, innovation, and liberty. That is what we send around the world. It has the greatest impact.

What we wrote into our Declaration of Independence is not just an American value statement; we believe it is a statement about every person. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men, not just men and women within the United States but that all people worldwide are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Governments were created to protect the rights given to us by God. We believe every person should have the protection of government to live their faith, not the compulsion of government to practice any one faith or to be forced to reject all faith altogether. That is one of the reasons Americans are disturbed by the trend in our courts, our military, and our public conversation. It is not the task of government to purge religious conversation from public life; it is the task of government to protect the rights of every person to live their faith and to guard those who choose not to have any faith at all.

Thomas Jefferson, in one of the pinnacle works of his life, the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, states:

Almighty God hath created the mind free, and manifested his supreme will that free it shall remain by making it altogether insusceptible of restraint; that all attempts to influence it by temporal punishments, or burthens, or by civil incapacitations, tend only to beget habits of hypocrisy and meanness.

With that backdrop, I worked for 2 years with my colleagues to place language into the negotiating language of this trade bill to push our negotiators to consider religious liberty in their negotiations. I have been told over and over again that we don't talk about religious freedom in our trade negotiations. I have just asked, why not? We should encourage trade with another country when that country acknowledges our basic value of the dignity of every person to live their own faith.

Our Nation is not just an economy; our Nation is a set of ideas and values. We believe each person has value and worth. It benefits every person from each nation in the trade agreement if we lead with our values and not sell out for a dollar people who have been in bondage as a prisoner of conscience for years.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom recently

recommended that the United States should ''ensure that human rights and religious freedom are pursued consistently and publicly at every level of the U.S.-Vietnam relationship, including in the context of discussions relating to military, trade, or economic and security assistance, such as Vietnam's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, as well as in programs that address Internet freedom and civil society development, among others.''

When people have freedom of conscience and faith, they are also better trading partners. Their country is stable, their families are stable, and their economy will grow.

With that, I encourage this body to do something new. Let's start exporting the values we hold dear, not to compel other nations to have our faith but to have other nations recognize the power of the freedom of religion within their own borders.

I have a simple amendment to the trade promotion authority asking the trade negotiators to take into account conditions relating to religious freedom of any party to negotiations for a trade agreement with the United States. It is not complicated. It is a simple encouragement, and it is a step toward us exporting our value.

I ask for the support of this body as we consider our greatest export—freedom.

With that, I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AGRICULTURE IN RURAL AMERICA AND GOVERNMENT REGULATION

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, the Presiding Officer comes from a State very similar to mine, and what I was going to say is that when you do—in fact, our State has twice as many cattle as it has people—you begin to understand the importance of agriculture to our Nation's economy and the communities that comprise our State. In rural Kansas, as it would be in rural Iowa, agriculture is our economic lifeblood.

One of the primary reasons I sought public office was my belief in rural America and that it needed a strong voice in Washington advocating on behalf of that part of the country. Since the time I was first elected to Congress, I believe that has only become even more important.

People involved in farming and ranching endure challenges that no other industry, no other profession faces. They are at the mercy of Mother Nature and rely on favorable weather to produce a crop. The severe drought that has plagued parts of Kansas for a long number of years and is once again crippling this year's wheat crop is evidence of the unique challenges.

Farmers and ranchers also operate in a global marketplace that oftentimes is distorted by high foreign subsidies and tariffs. American farmers are the most efficient producers in the world. Too often, however, our farmers cannot be afforded the opportunity to compete on a level playing field.

Unfortunately, agriculture is also under assault from the Obama administration. Overregulation by the EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service threatens the livelihood of farmers and ranchers in my State, which in turn threatens the viability of family businesses that line main streets in rural towns across our State.

To better understand the damage caused by foolish overregulation, consider waters of the United States. Despite the overwhelming outcry that the Obama administration received from American producers—from agriculture and other businesses—after proposing the potentially harmful regulation, the administration has continued their march forward toward finalizing that rule. The regulation is a troublesome expansion of Federal control over the Nation's waters. The Obama administration has continued to repeat the mantra that the rule is only intended to clarify the scope of the Clean Water Act, but we all know better. Not only has the rule failed to provide clarity or certainty, it also seeks to expand the EPA's jurisdiction to include thousands of new miles of streams, rivers, and even dry ditches.

Where I come from, the term ''navigable waters,'' which is what the statute says, means something on which you can float a boat. We don't have many of those waters in the State of Kansas. Yet, this administration seems to believe they have the right to enforce those burdensome regulations on land that is far removed from what is traditionally considered navigable waters.

People in rural Kansas also faced increased regulation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As my colleagues will recall, I led a debate earlier this year to delist the lesser prairie chicken from the endangered species list. The bird's listing is creating havoc and uncertainty in Kansas, where its habitat is located.

Wind energy projects have been abandoned, oil-and-gas production has slowed, and farmers and ranchers are faced with uncertainty regarding new restrictions as to what they can do on their privately owned land.

Those of us from Kansas know that we need the return of rainfall and moisture and that will increase the habitat and therefore increase the population of the lesser prairie chicken, not burdensome Federal regulations that hinder the rural economy.

While the lesser prairie chicken regulation is directly harming the western part of Kansas, the administration's recent proposal to list the long-eared bat as a threatened species will do the same in our State's eastern communities.

We often speak about the ever-increasing average age of farmers in the country and the need to encourage more young people to stay on the farm and to return from college to the farm. I could not agree more with this goal. I believe a key component in achieving this objective is to make certain our Nation's policies and regulations make farming and ranching an attractive venture for our children and grandchildren. Unfortunately, the regulations we have seen from this administration too often make farming and ranching much less attractive, much less profitable, and young people have made the conclusion that the battle cannot be won.

I am deeply concerned about the impact of this administration's regulatory scheme and the effect that scheme will have on farmers and ranchers, but there remains reason for us to be optimistic about the future of American agriculture. We are faced with a growing rural population who is hungry for high-quality, nutritious food products grown by American farmers. We must continue to work toward reducing foreign barriers to make certain that people from around the globe have affordable access to U.S.-grown products. We must continue to invest in policies that lift up rural America, not hold it back.

I am the chairman of the agriculture subcommittee, and I am working to make certain that Congress is doing its part to support farmers and ranchers. American policies should aim to keep rural America strong by way of implementation of the farm bill, preserving and protecting crop insurance, investing in agriculture research, and supporting rural development.

I often tell my colleagues here in Washington about the special way of life in Kansas and the opportunities that special way of life continues to provide. The strength of rural Kansas is a key component to what makes our State a great place to live, work, and raise families. The future of communities in rural America depends upon the economic viability of our farmers and ranchers, and it is time to make certain that Federal policies and regulatory decisions coming out of Washington, DC, reflect this critical importance.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 7 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. DAINES pertaining to the introduction of S. 1361 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. DAINES. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Madam President, I am here on the floor almost every Monday, and this is the 11th time I have been on the floor over the last 3 months or so to speak about the waste of the week. We are trying to identify those areas of fraud and abuse and waste of taxpayers' money so we can take reasonable steps, hopefully soon in the Congress, to end this misuse of taxpayers' funds. Then we can either return it back to the taxpayers or sometimes use the funds to offset other spending that may be necessary to make for a more efficient government. The taxpayers deserve to have their dollars they send here, after a lot of hard work, treated carefully. We continue to expose areas, and the Office of the Inspector General of the Office of Management and Budget and nonpartisan committees are looking at ways to identify misuse of those funds.

One of the areas we haven't spoken about but will today are the benefits for higher education. Many of these are well intended and many of them are used effectively. For example, there is a lifetime learning credit for graduate courses and other classes. There is the Hope credit for undergraduate expenses. There is the American opportunity tax credit, which temporarily replaced the Hope credit, but that is set to expire. There are a raft of confusing proposals that are designed to help people who want to work through their education and get tax credits for the expenses they pay. So this is well intended. However, what has happened is that it has become a confusing mess as to how these are applied and how they are used.

The Treasury inspector general for tax administration determined that the IRS paid out billions of dollars in potentially erroneous education tax credits to more than 3.6 million taxpayers. So Congress has passed a law. They have adjusted the Tax Code to give credits and benefits to those who are going to school to get a graduate education or to get their postsecondary education. This is a worthwhile use, in most cases, but it has been deemed by Congress to be so and made part of the Tax Code. Yet the inspector general who looks at all this has said it has become a ripe area for fraud, waste, and abuse, as well as some honest mistakes.

I wish to repeat that again. The IRS paid out billions of dollars in erroneous education tax credits to more than 3.6 million taxpayers seeking these credits. Now, some say, What do you mean? What are some of the mistakes? Students who weren't eligible for the benefit got the benefit. Institutions that received the benefits were ineligible to receive the benefits for a number of reasons.

In most cases, higher education institutions send out returns known as 1098–Ts to taxpayers who pay for tuition. These forms help taxpayers and the IRS determine if students qualify for the education tax benefits, including by indicating whether the student is enrolled more than half time or is a graduate student. In other words, they must show that the student qualifies for the tax benefit. They found out that many don't qualify but nevertheless receive those benefits.

The inspector general reports that 2 million taxpayers did not submit the form or have the form—the 1098–T paperwork—to indicate they had actually paid the tuition. Of these almost 40,000 taxpayers, some received credits for students who are under the age of 14. These tax credits are for postsecondary education. There may be a couple of genius kids out there who are enrolled in college at the age of 14 or under, but I don't think there are very many, if any under the age of 14 or over the age of 65.

Additionally, tax credits were awarded improperly to over 2,100 incarcerated people.

How do we correct this? Well, there is a pretty basic idea I wish to propose. Many of us are familiar with the letters we receive back when we make a charitable contribution, and most of us know that if that contribution is over $250, the IRS wants to know that we have proof that we have actually made that charitable contribution. So our tax preparers always ask: Do you have a receipt? Do you have the letter back from the Boy Scouts or your church or wherever you give the money? Do you have that available for when we might happen to need it if the IRS requires it when they are looking into that?

So what we are proposing is simply a requirement that taxpayers should claim a tuition tax credit, have proof that they have actually received the credit and are eligible to receive the credit. That proof is the 1098–T form. We are proposing to simply require that taxpayers hold a valid 1098–T or some form of substantiation in their possession when they fill out their tax returns and claim tuition deductions.

The Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that this very simple requirement would save $576 million over the next 10 years. We have already proven we can save billions by better management of taxpayers' money and now we are going to add another $576 million to this. As my colleagues see, we are on the way to $100 billion of savings through some very basic and simple modifications and changes in our Tax Code and in our procedures in terms of how we run this government.

Next week, we will be sharing again the fraud and waste of the week, but Congress now has a pool of funds that are misused and a way in which we can either, as I said, offset needed spending programs or return that money to the taxpayers or not have them send it in in the first place.

It is a dysfunctional government that can't better manage taxpayers' funds. If we are going to maintain credibility and the support of our taxpayers for what we do that is right, we better stop and pay attention and look and change and modify the abuse that is taking place and bring it to an end. We need to demonstrate that we are looking out carefully at the use of taxpayers' dollars.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1242

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be added as cosponsors to the Brown amendment: STABENOW, KLOBUCHAR, BALDWIN, SCHUMER, BLUMENTHAL, WHITEHOUSE, UDALL, SANDERS, WARREN, MANCHIN, MARKEY, REED, FRANKEN, and HEINRICH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. The support for this amendment is broad and deep. The support for this funding level reached 300-some House Members 4 years ago and 70 Senators—including, obviously, a number in each party—4 years ago when we decided to support this number. So this funding level of $575 million is bipartisan. It was established 4 years ago.

Some say that $450 million—the amount included in the underlying bill—is enough to operate the program and that we should not bring the funding level back to the $575 million. The fact is that we do not really know. What we do know is that TAA—the trade adjustment assistance, the money we provide to workers to be retrained after they have lost a job because of a decision President Obama and the Congress made to pass a trade agreement, which always produces winners and losers—free trade supporters and free trade opponents all agree and even cheerleaders as passionate as the Wall Street Journal, as strongly supportive as they are of these free-trade agreements, even they acknowledge there are winners and there are losers. The losers are those people who lost their jobs in Indiana, Ohio, Utah, and all over the country because of decisions we made in this body. They are not decisions they made to not show up to work, not decisions they made to

not do their work well; they are decisions we made in this Congress and President Obama made at the White House to push these trade agreements, resulting in dislocation, so some workers lose their jobs. That is why it is a moral issue that we provide adequate funding for training for these workers.

I mentioned the years 2009, 2010—it cost $685 million each year. Of course, those are years during the great recession. But if you take the average of funding levels for the 3 years when program eligibility was nearly the same as it is now, TAA expenditures were about $571 million a year. That is roughly the figure we are choosing for our amendment, the number the President asked for in his budget originally.

TAA works. Seventy-six percent of participants who completed training in fiscal year 2013 received a degree or an industry-recognized credential. Seventy-five percent of workers who exited the program found employment within 6 months. Of those workers who became employed, over 90 percent were still employed at the end of the year. So we know trade adjustment assistance works.

This reduction of $125 million a year, in other words, is simply cuts for the sake of cuts.

It helps workers retrain for new jobs so they can compete in the global economy. We know that even though the economy is better today than when President Obama took office or it is better today then it was in 2010 before we did the RECOVERY Act or it is better today than it was that year when we did the auto rescue that helped the Presiding Officer's State of Indiana and my State of Ohio and the whole national economy so much—we do know that since that time, we have had the South Korea trade agreement, and the President and supporters of that promised 70,000 increased jobs. We have actually lost 70,000 jobs instead because of a swelling trade deficit with South Korea. We have the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Even its supporters acknowledge there will be workers who lose their jobs—they believe a net gain, but nonetheless numbers of workers will lose their jobs and will need retraining.

So that conservative number of only $450 million, when it is clear we need the larger number of $575 million—the same level President Obama included in his budget; the same level that 70 Senators—a number in each party—and 300-plus Members of the House supported. I ask my colleagues to support it again today.

Again, it was not the choice of these workers to lose their jobs; it was the choice of this institution to pass a trade agreement that results in some workers losing their jobs. We all acknowledge that on both sides. That is why this amendment is so important to adopt.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 30 seconds more.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, look, significantly increasing funding levels for TAA may very well make TAA much harder to pass both here and in the House of Representatives. It is a program that is not supported by a great number of us. That being the case, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting no on this amendment.

We have put together a bill that literally has brought together both sides as well as we possibly could. Hopefully, we will vote no on this amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to Brown amendment No. 1242.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Alaska (Mrs. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''nay'' and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) would have voted ''nay.''

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 181 Leg.]

YEAS—45

Baldwin	Franken	Murphy
Bennet	Gillibrand	Nelson
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Peters
Booker	Heitkamp	Reed
Boxer	Hirono	Reid
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Burr	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	McCaskill	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Donnelly	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse

NAYS—41

Ayotte	Blunt	Capito
Barrasso	Boozman	Cassidy
Coats	Hatch	Risch
Cochran	Heller	Roberts
Cornyn	Hoeven	Rounds
Cotton	Inhofe	Sasse
Crapo	Johnson	Sessions
Daines	Kirk	Shelby
Enzi	Lankford	Sullivan
Ernst	Lee	Thune
Fischer	McConnell	Tillis
Flake	Moran	Wicker
Gardner	Paul	Wyden
Grassley	Perdue	

NOT VOTING—14

Alexander	Isakson	Rubio
Corker	McCain	Scott
Cruz	Murkowski	Toomey
Durbin	Murray	Vitter
Graham	Portman	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

VOTE ANNOUNCEMENT

● Mr. DURBIN. I was unavoidably delayed on United flight No. 616 and not present for the vote on Senator BROWN's amendment No. 1242 to increase funding levels for the Trade Adjustment Assistance program. Had I been here, I would have voted yea.●

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1237, AS MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 1237, as modified, offered on behalf of the Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. LANKFORD.

Mr. PAUL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 182 Leg.]

YEAS—92

Alexander	Coats	Gillibrand
Ayotte	Cochran	Grassley
Baldwin	Collins	Hatch
Barrasso	Coons	Heinrich
Bennet	Corker	Heitkamp
Blumenthal	Cornyn	Heller
Blunt	Cotton	Hirono
Booker	Crapo	Hoeven
Boozman	Daines	Inhofe
Boxer	Donnelly	Johnson
Brown	Durbin	Kaine
Burr	Enzi	King
Cantwell	Ernst	Kirk
Capito	Feinstein	Klobuchar
Cardin	Fischer	Lankford
Carper	Flake	Leahy
Casey	Franken	Lee
Cassidy	Gardner	Manchin

Markey	Peters	Shelby
McCaskill	Reed	Stabenow
McConnell	Reid	Sullivan
Menendez	Risch	Tester
Merkley	Roberts	Thune
Mikulski	Rounds	Tillis
Moran	Sanders	Udall
Murkowski	Sasse	Warner
Murphy	Schatz	Warren
Murray	Schumer	Whitehouse
Nelson	Scott	Wicker
Paul	Sessions	Wyden
Perdue	Shaheen	

NOT VOTING—8

Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Graham	Portman	Vitter
Isakson	Rubio	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment, as modified, is agreed to.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 20 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, April 18, 2012, was not the first time I spoke on the Senate floor on the dangers of carbon pollution, but it was the first in the weekly series that brings me here today with my increasingly dog-eared sign.

Opponents of responsible climate action do best in the dark, so I knew if anything was going to change around here, we would need to shine some light on the facts, on the science, and on the sophisticated scheme of denial being conducted by the polluters.

I decided to come to the floor every week the Senate is in session to put at least my little light to work, and today I do so for the 100th time, and I thank very much my colleagues who have taken time from their extremely busy schedules to be here, particularly my colleagues from the House, JIM LANGEVIN and DAVID CICILLINE, who traveled all the way across the building.

I am not a lone voice on this subject. Many colleagues have been speaking out, particularly our ranking member on the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator BOXER. Senator MARKEY has been speaking out on the climate longer than I have been in the Senate. Senators SCHUMER, NELSON, BLUMENTHAL, SCHATZ, KING, and BALDWIN have each joined me to speak about the effects of carbon pollution on their home States and economies. Senator MANCHIN and I—from different perspectives—spoke here about our shared belief that climate change is real and must be addressed. More than 30 fellow Democrats held the floor overnight to bring attention to climate change under the leadership of Senator SCHATZ. Our Democratic leader, Senator REID, has pressed the Senate to face up to this challenge, and thousands of people in Rhode Island and across the country have shown their support.

Sometimes people ask me: How do you keep coming up with new ideas? It is easy. There are at least 100 reasons to act on climate. Hundreds of Americans have sent me their reasons through my Web site, Facebook, and Twitter using the hashtag ''100Reasons.'' I will highlight some of their reasons in this speech.

What is my No. 1 reason? Easy. Rhode Island. The consequences of carbon pollution for my Ocean State are undeniable. The tide gauge at Naval Station Newport is up nearly 10 inches since the 1930s. The water in Narragansett Bay is 3 to 4 degrees Fahrenheit warmer in the winter than just 50 years ago.

Lori from West Kingston, RI, said that is her top reason too. ''We stand to lose the best part of Rhode Island,'' she wrote, ''the 400 miles of coastline, which will be severely impacted, environmentally and economically.''

Even Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife has warned—get this—that sea level rise and increased storms along our eastern seaboard could get so bad that it would trigger ''unprecedented'' population migration from our east coasts to Kentucky. That is serious.

Winston Churchill talked about ''sharp agate points upon which the ponderous balance of destiny turns.'' What if we now stand at a hinge of history? Will we awaken to the duty and responsibility of our time or will we sleepwalk through it? That is the test we face.

I have laid out in these speeches the mounting effects of carbon pollution all around us, and the evidence abounds. This March, for the first time in human history, the monthly average carbon dioxide in our atmosphere exceeded 400 parts per million. The range had been 170 to 300 parts per million for hundreds of thousands of years.

Mr. President, 2014 was the hottest year ever measured. Fourteen of the warmest 15 years ever measured have been in this century. Our oceans warm as they absorb more than 90 percent of the heat captured by greenhouse gases. You measure their warming with a thermometer. As seawater warms, it expands and sea levels rise. Global average sea level rose about 1 inch from 2005 to 2013. You measure that with a yardstick. Ocean water absorbs roughly a quarter of all of our carbon emissions, making the water more acidic and upsetting the very chemistry of ocean life. You measure this, too, with a pH test like a third grade class would use for its fish tank.

It is virtually universal in peer-reviewed science that carbon pollution is causing these climate and oceanic changes. Every major scientific society in our country has said so. Our brightest scientists at NOAA and NASA are unequivocal. But time and again we hear ''I am not a scientist'' from politicians who are refusing to acknowledge the evidence. We are not elected to be scientists; we are elected to listen to them.

If you don't believe scientists, how about generals? Our defense and intelligence leaders have repeatedly warned of the threats posed by climate change to national security and international stability.

How about faith leaders? Religious leaders of every faith appeal to our moral duty to conserve God's creation and to protect those most vulnerable to catastrophe.

How about our titans of industry? Leaders such as Apple and Google, Coke and Pepsi, Walmart and Target, Nestle and Mars are all greening their operations and their supply chains and calling on policymakers to act.

How about constituents? I have talked with community and business groups across the United States. Local officials—many of them Republicans—don't have the luxury of ignoring the changes we see. State scientific agencies and State universities are doing much of the leading research on climate change.

If you are a Senator who is not sure climate change is real, manmade, and urgent, ask your home State university. Even in Kentucky. Even in Oklahoma.

Flooding puts mayors in kayaks on South Florida streets. New Hampshire and Utah ski resorts struggle with shorter and warmer winters, and Alaskan villages are falling into the sea. Yet, no Republican from these States yet supports serious climate legislation.

This resistance to plain evidence is vexing to many Americans. Elizabeth from Riverside, RI, says her grandchildren are her top reason for action. She wrote:

> I fail to understand the Republican opposition to what is clearly factual scientific information about climate change. Are they not educated? Can they not read? Do they not have children and grandchildren to be concerned about the future they leave? Or is it money that clouds their vision?

The truth is that Republican cooperation in this area, which existed for some time, has been shut down by the fossil fuel industry. The polluters have constructed a carefully built apparatus of lies propped up by endless dark money.

Dr. Riley Dunlap of Oklahoma State University calls it the ''organized climate-denial machine.'' He found that nearly 90 percent of climate-denial books published between 1982 and 2010 had ties to conservative fossil fuel-funded think tanks such as the Heartland Institute. In other words, it is a scam.

Dr. Robert Brulle of Drexel University has documented the intricate propaganda web of climate denial with over 100 organizations, from industry trade organizations, to conservative think tanks, to plain old phony front groups. The purpose of this denial beast, to quote Dr. Brulle, is ''a deliberate and organized effort to misdirect the public discussion and distort the public's understanding of climate.''

John from Tucson, AZ, says this is his top reason to act:

These ''merchants of doubt,'' the professional climate denier campaigners, have lied to us and attacked the people who can help us most; the scientists.

Sound familiar? It should because the fossil fuel industry is using a playbook perfected by the tobacco industry. Big Tobacco used that playbook for decades to bury the health risks of smoking. Ultimately, the truth came to light. It ended in a racketeering judgment against that industry.

The Supreme Court has handed the polluters a very heavy cudgel with its misguided Citizens United decision, allowing corporations to spend—or, more importantly, to threaten to spend—unlimited amounts of undisclosed money in our elections. More than anyone, polluters use that leverage to demand obedience to their climate denial script.

Jan from Portland, OR, said this kind of corruption is her top reason to act on climate. She said: It would be beneath our dignity to ruin our planet just for money.

Jan, I hope you are right.

There has been progress.

The Senate has held votes showing that a majority believes climate change is real, not a hoax, and is driven by human activity. Republican colleagues such as the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the senior Senator from Georgia, and the senior Senator from South Carolina have made comments here recognizing the need to do something. The senior Senator from Maine has a bill on non-CO_2 emissions against the relentless pressure of the fossil fuel industry and its front groups. That takes real courage.

The President's Climate Action Plan is ending the polluters' long free ride. The administration has rolled out strong fuel and energy efficiency standards. Its Clean Power Plan will, for the first time, limit carbon emissions from powerplants. The United States heads an ambitious international climate effort as well, even engaging China, now the world's largest producer of carbon pollution.

Perhaps most heartening are the American people. Eighty-three percent of Americans, including 6 in 10 Republicans, want action to reduce carbon emissions. And with young Republican voters, more than half would describe a climate-denying politician as ''ignorant,'' ''out of touch'' or ''crazy.''

With all this, I think the prospects for comprehensive climate change legislation are actually pretty good. But as Albert Einstein once said, ''politics is more difficult than physics.'' That seems literally to be the case here as Citizens United political gridlock keeps us, for now, from heeding laws of nature.

But when the polluters' grip slips, I will be ready with legislation that many Republicans can support: a fee on carbon emissions. Pricing carbon corrects the market failure that lets polluters push the cost of air pollution on to everybody else. A carbon fee is a market-based tool aligned with conservative free-market values. Many Republicans, at least those beyond the swing of the Citizens United fossil fuel cudgel, have endorsed exactly that idea.

Let's have a real debate about it. It is time. I will be announcing my carbon fee proposal on June 10, during an event at the American Enterprise Institute.

Climate change tests us. First, it is an environmental test—a grave one. We will be graded in that test against the implacable laws of science and nature. Pope Francis has described a conversation with a humble gardener who said to him:

God always forgives. Men, women, we forgive sometimes. But, Father, creation never forgives.

There are no do-overs, no mulligans—not when we mess with God's laws of nature.

Behind nature's test looms a moral test. Do we let the influence of a few wealthy industries compromise other people's livelihoods, even other people's lives, all around the planet and off into the future? It is morally wrong, in greed and folly, to foist that price on all those others. That is why Pope Francis is bringing his moral light to bear on climate change, and to quote him: ''There is a clear, definitive and ineluctable ethical imperative to act.'' Our human morality is being tested.

Lastly, this is a test of American democracy. All democracies face the problem of how well they address not just the immediate threat but the looming ones. America's democracy faces an added responsibility of example, of being the city on a hill. In a world of competing ideologies, why would we want to tarnish ours?

This is the top reason for Ralph from Westerly, RI. He wrote:

Someday, world leaders will look back on this time that something should have been done to save the planet. . . . We had the chance but let it slip through our fingers.

We have all done something wrong in our lives. Some things we do that are wrong don't cause much harm. But there is not an oddsmaker in Vegas who would bet against climate change causing a lot of harm. And some things that we do wrong we get away with. But there is no way people in the world won't know why this happened when that harm hits home. There is no way the flag we fly so proudly won't be smudged and blotted by our misdeeds and oversights today.

Think how history regards Neville Chamberlain when he misjudged the hinge of history in its time. At least Chamberlain's goal was noble: peace, peace after the bloody massacres of World War I, peace in his time. Our excuse is what—on climate change? Keeping big polluting special interests happy?

Anybody who is paying attention knows those special interests are lying. Anybody paying attention knows they are influence-peddling on a monumental scale. And while the polluters have done their best to hide that their denial tentacles are all part of the same denial beast, people all over who are paying attention have figured it out.

One day, there will be a reckoning. There always is.

If we wake up, if we get this right, if we turn that ponderous balance of destiny in our time, then it can be their reckoning, and not all of ours. It can be their shame, not the shame of our democracy, not the shame of our beloved country, not the shame of America. As we close in on this weekend, on Memorial Day, we will remember those who fought and bled and died for this great Republic. The real prospect of failing and putting America to shame makes it seriously time for us to wake up.

Mr. President, once again, I thank my colleagues for their courtesy in attending this 100th speech.

I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of the entire Democratic caucus, I wish to extend my accolades, my admiration for the persistence and integrity of Senator WHITEHOUSE. This is an issue that speaks well of him and our entire country, and I am very proud of the work he has done and will continue to do.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I will be very brief. I have had the privilege of serving longer in this body than any other Member of the Senate, currently. I can count on my one hand, or probably a few fingers, some of the great speeches I have heard by both Republicans and Democrats in this body. One great speech I will never forget was that of the Senator from Rhode Island. He speaks to a subject that every single Vermonter would agree with, and this veteran Senator thanks him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, my dear friend and colleague deserves a great moment of recognition today. We are all passionate about issues here in the Senate. But very few of us take to the floor each week to stoke the fire on a single issue and to inspire others to action. That is what Senator WHITEHOUSE has done on one of the defining issues of our time—climate change.

Today's speech is the 100th such speech he has made on the floor of the Senate, pleading us to take meaningful action on climate change. It is the 100th time he has brought that now iconic poster to the floor. We can tell it is getting a little frayed. It is getting a little dented. It is the 100th time many of us have paused and said: ''It's time to wake up.''

One hundred is a significant number today for many reasons. The first rough calculations on the impact of

human carbon emissions on the climate began over 100 years ago in the late 19th century. For decades we have been certain of the science connecting human activity to changes in the global climate. Yet these incremental changes in the climate did not spur us to act. As the good Senator from Rhode Island just said, the years of incremental change are over.

In my home State of New York, Superstorm Sandy was a wake-up call. Those who for years have been telling us that a changing climate and rising seas are figments of the imagination had to eat their words after Sandy—the third significant storm to hit New York in those 2 years. Those who continue to deny the real and very tangible evidence of climate change are like ostriches with their heads buried in the sand.

Senator WHITEHOUSE is right, and whether he tells us it is time to wake up 10 times more or another 100, until we do something, he will continue to be right. I thank him for his leadership, his persistence, his eloquence, and his devotion to the cause. I hope for his sake and for all of our sakes that this body takes his words to heart.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I stand here as the ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee. The day Senator WHITEHOUSE got elected, I knew I wanted him on that committee. I think he has shown through the weeks and months and years that what he is going to do is very simple, which is to come to the floor and tell the truth to the American people about this issue and bring the facts about this issue to the Senate.

What I think is fascinating and something he and I always look at is the deniers on the other side and their latest argument, which is that ''we are not scientists.'' Well, that is obvious. And we are not, either. That is the reason we listen to the scientists. There is no scientist who is going to say something because he feels it is going to benefit him or her. They are going to tell the truth. And 98, 99 percent of the scientists agree that what is happening in terms of carbon pollution is hurting this planet and will hurt it irreversibly forever. Anyone in this body who doesn't listen to this, who turns away from this will be judged by history and their Maker. But that is not good enough, because it is my grandkids and the grandkids of my colleagues who are going to have to deal with this.

I will close with this. This whole notion of ''I am not a scientist'' is ridiculous and it is ludicrous. If one of our Republican friends went to the doctor and, God forbid, the doctor said you have a serious cancerous tumor and you really need to have it taken care of, they are not going to look at the doctor and say: Well, I don't know, I am not a doctor. You might get a second opinion. That is good. In the case of climate, we have 97, 98, 99 percent of scientists agreeing on this problem.

You wouldn't say to your doctor: Gee, I don't know, maybe I will let this cancer go because I am not a doctor and what do I know? You have to rely on the people who know. And I have never seen anything like this. This is the tobacco company stance, when politicians cleared the way and tobacco businesses stood up and raised their right hand and said that nicotine was not a problem—and we know how that story ended—too late for a lot of people who died of cancer, too late for a lot of people who got hooked on cigarettes.

We want to make sure SHELDON WHITEHOUSE and those of us who agree with him are not going to wait too long. It is not going to be too late. We can actually save our families from the devastation of the ravages of climate change.

So I say to Senator WHITEHOUSE: It takes a lot of fortitude to stand up here in the Chamber time after time after time, and I think what he has done is make a record, which is very important because he has really touched on and continues to touch on all the new information. That is critical, and everyone should read it because it really does spell it out in very direct terms.

It also shows the fight that Senator WHITEHOUSE has, the belief that he has that we can win this battle. I share that view. It is because, as Senator WHITEHOUSE points out, a vast majority of the American people, including the vast majority of Republicans out there, think if you are a denier, you are losing it—that is my vernacular. They just don't believe it. They can't believe it. They think there is something wrong with you if you are a denier. So that is what we have in our back pocket, and right here in the Senate we have this treasure of a person, a Senator who will continue to fight, continue to work, and I can assure him, as long as I am here and even when I am not, I will be echoing many of the things he is saying.

Thank you very much.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order during today's session of the Senate to call up the following amendments: No. 1299, Portman-Stabenow; No. 1251, Senator Brown; No. 1312, Inhofe, as modified; No. 1327, Warren; No. 1226, McCain; and No. 1227, Shaheen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object. I have no intent to object at this point. I just want to say this, to me, seems like a very balanced package. We have three amendments on each side raising important issues. Chairman HATCH has indicated, and I support him on this, that we are ready to go again first thing in the morning. I think that is what it is going to take to ensure that all sides feel that they have a chance to have their major concerns aired, have their amendments actually voted on.

I withdraw my reservation and I commend Chairman HATCH for working with us cooperatively so we can have this balanced package go forward. With that, I withdraw my reservation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 1312, AS MODIFIED, AND 1226 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1221

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, on behalf of Senators INHOFE and MCCAIN, I call up amendment No. 1312, as modified, and amendment No. 1226, and ask unanimous consent that they be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report en bloc by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH] proposes en bloc amendments numbered 1312, as modified, and 1226 to Amendment No. 1221.

The amendments en bloc are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1312, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To amend the African Growth and Opportunity Act to require the development of a plan for each sub-Saharan African country for negotiating and entering into free trade agreements)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

(a) PLAN REQUIREMENTS AND REPORTING.—Section 116 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3723) is amended by striking subsections (b) and (c) and inserting the following:

''(b) PLAN REQUIREMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall develop a plan for the purpose of negotiating and entering into one or more free trade agreements with all sub-Saharan African countries and ranking countries or groups of countries in order of readiness.

''(2) ELEMENTS OF PLAN.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall include, for each sub-Saharan African country, the following:

''(A) The steps such sub-Saharan African country needs to be equipped and ready to enter into a free trade agreement with the United States, including the development of a bilateral investment treaty.

''(B) Milestones for accomplishing each step identified in (A) for each sub-Saharan African country, with the goal of establishing a free trade agreement with each sub-Saharan African country not later than 10 years after the date of the enactment of the Trade Act of 2015.

''(C) A description of the resources required to assist each sub-Saharan African country in accomplishing each milestone described in subparagraph (B).

''(D) The extent to which steps described in subparagraph (A), the milestones described

in subparagraph (B), and resources described in subparagraph (C) may be accomplished through regional or subregional organizations in sub-Saharan Africa, including the East African Community, the Economic Community of West African States, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Economic Community of Central African States.

''(E) Procedures to ensure the following:

''(i) Adequate consultation with Congress and the private sector during the negotiations.

''(ii) Consultation with Congress regarding all matters relating to implementation of the agreement or agreements.

''(iii) Approval by Congress of the agreement or agreements.

''(iv) Adequate consultations with the relevant African governments and African regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations during the negotiation of the agreement or agreements.

''(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of the Trade Act of 2015, the President shall prepare and transmit to Congress a report containing the plan developed pursuant to subsection (b).''.

(c) MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE COMPACTS.—After the date of the enactment of this Act, the United States Trade Representative and Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall consult and coordinate with the Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation regarding countries that have entered into a Millennium Challenge Compact pursuant to section 609 of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7708) that have been declared eligible to enter into such a Compact for the purpose of developing and carrying out the plan required by subsection (b) of section 116 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3723), as amended by subsection (a).

(d) COORDINATION OF USAID WITH FREE TRADE AGREEMENT POLICY.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS.—Funds made available to the United States Agency for International Development under section 496 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2293) may be used in consultation with the United States Trade Representative—

(A) to carry out subsection (b) of section 116 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3723), as amended by subsection (a), including for the deployment of resources in individual eligible countries to assist such country in the development of institutional capacities to carry out such subsection (b); and

(B) to coordinate the efforts of the United States to establish free trade agreements in accordance with the policy set out in subsection (a) of such section 116.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term ''eligible country'' means a sub-Saharan African country that receives—

(i) benefits under for the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.); and

(ii) funding from the United States Agency for International Development.

(B) SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY.—The term ''sub-Saharan African country'' has the meaning given that term in section 107 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3706).

AMENDMENT NO. 1226

(Purpose: To repeal a duplicative inspection and grading program)

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—EXPANDING TRADE EXPORTS

SEC. 301. REPEAL OF DUPLICATIVE INSPECTION AND GRADING PROGRAM.

(a) FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008.—Effective June 18, 2008, section 11016 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 2130) is repealed.

(b) AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 2014.—Effective February 7, 2014, section 12106 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79; 128 Stat. 981) is repealed.

(c) APPLICATION.—The Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) shall be applied and administered as if the provisions of law struck by this section had not been enacted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

AMENDMENT NO. 1299 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1221

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I want to say, first of all, thank you to our distinguished leader of the Finance Committee for including the Portman-Stabenow amendment.

First, before calling it up, I ask unanimous consent to add Senator DONNELLY as a cosponsor and thank Senators BURR, GRAHAM, COLLINS, BALDWIN, BROWN, CASEY, HEITKAMP, KLOBUCHAR, MANCHIN, SCHUMER, SHAHEEN, and WARREN for being cosponsors as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1299.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Ms. STABENOW], for Mr. PORTMAN, proposes an amendment numbered 1299 to amendment No. 1221.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To make it a principal negotiating objective of the United States to address currency manipulation in trade agreements)

In section 102(b), strike paragraph (11) and insert the following:

(11) CURRENCY MANIPULATION.—The principal negotiating objective of the United States with respect to unfair currency exchange practices is to target protracted large-scale intervention in one direction in the exchange markets by a party to a trade agreement to gain an unfair competitive advantage in trade over other parties to the agreement, by establishing strong and enforceable rules against exchange rate manipulation that are subject to the same dispute settlement procedures and remedies as other enforceable obligations under the agreement and are consistent with existing principles and agreements of the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization. Nothing in the previous sentence shall be construed to restrict the exercise of domestic monetary policy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

AMENDMENT NO. 1251 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1221

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 1251.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Ohio [Mr. BROWN] proposes an amendment numbered 1251 to amendment No. 1221.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require the approval of Congress before additional countries may join the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement)

At the end of section 107, add the following:

(c) LIMITATIONS ON ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES JOINING THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The trade authorities procedures shall apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to an agreement described in subsection (a)(2) with the Trans-Pacific Partnership countries only if that implementing bill covers only the countries that are parties to the negotiations for that agreement as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF TRADE AUTHORITIES PROCEDURES TO ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES.—If a country or countries not a party to the negotiations for the agreement described in subsection (a)(2) as of the date of the enactment of this Act enter into negotiations to join the agreement after that date, the trade authorities procedures shall apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to an agreement with such country or countries to join the agreement described in subsection (a)(2) only if—

(A) the President notifies Congress of the intention of the President to enter into negotiations with such country or countries in accordance with section 105(a)(1)(A);

(B) during the 90-day period provided for under section 105(a)(1)(A) before the President initiates such negotiations—

(i) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate each certify that such country or countries are capable of meeting the standards of the Trans-Pacific Partnership; and

(ii) the House of Representatives and the Senate each approve a resolution approving such country or countries entering into negotiations to join the agreement described in subsection (a)(2);

(C) the agreement with such country or countries to join the agreement described in subsection (a)(2) is entered into before—

(i) July 1, 2018; or

(ii) July 1, 2021, if trade authorities procedures are extended under section 103(c); and

(D) that implementing bill covers only such country or countries.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, very briefly, in 30 seconds, I will explain the amendment.

There are 12 countries in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. If at some point the President of the United States would like to add another country or two, this amendment simply says that Congress must approve; there must be a vote of the U.S. House of Representatives and a vote of the Senate in order to admit a new country.

There is some concern that the People's Republic of China, which is now the second largest economy in the world, would come in through the backdoor without congressional approval.

We want to make sure that neither the President who is in the White House today nor the next President nor the President after that can admit China or any other country with any other large economy or small economy in the TPP without congressional approval.

We will discuss and debate this amendment more tomorrow.

I thank Senator WYDEN and Senator HATCH for moving this process forward and bringing up many amendments to debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

AMENDMENT NO. 1227 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1221

(Purpose: To make trade agreements work for small businesses)

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator SHAHEEN, I call up her amendment, which is amendment No. 1227.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN], for Mrs. SHAHEEN, proposes an amendment numbered 1227 to amendment No. 1221.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of May 14, 2015, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

AMENDMENT NO. 1327 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1221

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator WARREN, I call up amendment No. 1327.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN], for Ms. WARREN, proposes an amendment numbered 1327 to amendment No. 1221.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the application of the trade authorities procedures to an implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement that includes investor-state dispute settlement)

At the end of section 106(b), add the following:

(7) FOR AGREEMENTS THAT THREATEN UNITED STATES SOVEREIGNTY.—The trade authorities procedures shall not apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements entered into under section 103(b) if such agreement or agreements, the implementing bill, or any statement of administrative action described in subsection (a)(1)(E)(ii) proposed to implement such agreement or agreements, includes investor-state dispute settlement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. 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. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMEMORATING 35 YEARS SINCE THE ERUPTION OF MOUNT ST. HELENS

● Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, today marks the 35th anniversary of one of the largest and most devastating volcanic eruptions in the history of our Nation—the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens. Today, the people of my State continue to embrace the mountain's beauty, but retain a profound respect for its power given the potential for a recap of the 1980 eruption and the devastation that it brought.

On the morning of May 18, 1980, small eruptions and earthquakes finally culminated in a destructive eruption that changed surrounding geography and rendered the neighboring ridges void of life. David Johnston, a scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey was conducting measurements on the mountain. At 8:32 a.m., as an earthquake brought magma to St. Helens surface, Johnston sent the now infamous radio transmission: ''Vancouver, Vancouver. This is it!'' Sadly, just seconds later, Johnston was engulfed by the explosion and the ensuing landslide that swept laterally from the mountain at speeds as high as 670 miles per hour. Tragically, 57 lives were lost as a result of the eruption and 200 homes were destroyed along with bridges, roads, and railways in the vicinity. And the blast incinerated 100-year-old trees and all forms of plant life within the blast zone. Estimates put the total loss of trees at 4 billion board feet.

In the 35 years since the eruption, the private sector and the Federal Government's approach to forestry has changed significantly. Following the eruption, Congress directed the Forest Service to embark on a new approach to forest management. In 1982, Congress created the Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument. This 110,000 acre designation has created a kind of ''biological laboratory'' at the site of the eruption to let nature take its course. That foresight has allowed ecologists to learn that forests didn't regenerate from clearings the way scientists had believed for almost a century. We also learned the importance of leaving behind a legacy of dead trees to serve as homes for birds and that patches of remnant areas existed which supported sporadic groups of live trees. The learnings from this natural disaster shaped the forest policy that we see throughout much of Washington and the country today.

Now, as residents in Washington and around the country are witnessing unusually large forest fires—the Federal Government needs to take the lessons learned following the Mount St. Helens eruptions and apply them to this new challenge. The government needs to do its part to rapidly provide the emergency services communities need after large fire and natural disasters. But we also need to stabilize slopes to prevent mudslides through investments in seismic monitoring equipment and Light Detection and Ranging or LiDAR. Just as we learned in the Mount St. Helens experiment, a great deal of wildlife thrive in the early forest conditions that come after a wildfire. Those areas need to be considered as managers look at what's the best for our Federal lands. And what better place to visit that conversation, than on the National Forest that houses the ecological record of the Mount St. Helens eruption of 35 years ago.

Seismic activity in the Pacific Northwest isn't just a once in a generation event, but an ever present reality in Washington State. The eruption of Mount St. Helens provides a clear reminder of the value of early earthquake monitoring and warning systems. The Pacific Northwest Seismic Network offers early warning systems and comprehensive seismic monitoring that can warn communities up to a minute before an earthquake occurs, or even future volcanic eruptions. With constant seismic activity throughout much of Washington State, including at volcanos such as Glacier Peak in the Cascades, we must continue to make the vital investments in these early warning systems.

I look forward to taking lessons learned on Mount St. Helens and applying them to a new approach to forest policy. I have also called for us as legislators and constituents to begin a conversation around what we want our national forests to look like over the next 50 years. What is working well, and what problems we do not want to see as we think about our 21st century vision for our national forests.

As we reflect today on the tragic and watershed event that happened on Mount St. Helens 35 years ago, we must work to put our forests on a long-term track to successfully delivering the things we expect from them—quality recreation, clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, and a sustainable supply of wood products.●

TRIBUTE TO WALTON GRESHAM

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Walton Gresham of Indianola, MS, for his service and

contributions to the State of Mississippi while serving as the 79th president of the Delta Council. This important organization was formed in 1935 and has grown into a widely respected economic development group representing the business, professional, and agricultural interests of the Mississippi Delta. I am grateful to Delta Council for its continuous role in meeting the economic and quality of life challenges in this unique part of our country.

Walton Gresham's tenure as council president began soon after Congress enacted the Agricultural Act of 2014, and his effective leadership has helped Mississippi producers adapt to the new federal agriculture policies established by this new farm bill. Mr. Gresham has been an active leader on transportation issues in our State, and he is constructively engaged as Congress prepares to consider legislation to reauthorize Federal spending on highway and public transportation programs that are vitally important to the Mississippi Delta and its future. Mr. Gresham's dedication to confronting health care disparities and higher education needs in our State should also be commended. Through its work with Delta Council, Mr. Gresham's family has improved Mississippi's workforce training and readiness.

In addition to his role as president of Delta Council, Mr. Gresham has been active in the Mississippi Propane Gas Association, the National Propane Gas Association, the Petroleum Marketers Association of America, the Mississippi Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Stores Association, and the Mississippi Economic Council. He serves on the board of directors of Planters Bank, Propane Energy Group, Delta Terminal, Gresham-McPherson Oil Company, DoubleQuick, and Indianola Insurance Agency. He is a past president of the Indianola Rotary Club and Indianola Country Club.

Walton Gresham is a respected businessman and his performance as president of Delta Council will complement his well-earned reputation for unselfish service to improve the quality of life for those who live and do business in the Mississippi Delta region. His dedication to the future of the delta and all of those who live there is sincere. I am pleased to join the people of my State in commending Walton Gresham and sharing our appreciation with his wife Laura and their children Lenore and Elizabeth as they prepare for the 80th annual meeting of the Delta Council organizational membership, at which time, he will reflect on his successful tenure before passing the torch to a new president.●

CONGRATULATING TIM WILSON

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Mr. Timothy P. Wilson on receiving the Gerda Haas Award for Excellence in Human Rights Education and Leadership from the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine.

The Gerda Haas Award recognizes and honors individuals who demonstrate excellence and initiative in human rights education and leadership. In the late 1970s, Gerda Haas was appointed to the Maine State School Board of Education and while serving on the board learned that students were not being taught about the Holocaust in Maine schools. Gerda identified this critical educational void and took action to remedy it, establishing the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine with the goal of combating prejudice and discrimination while encouraging individuals to reflect and act upon their ethical and moral responsibilities in the modern world.

Tim Wilson certainly lives up to this philosophy. Over the course of his vibrant life as a teacher, coach, philanthropist, consultant, government official, husband, father, and grandfather, Tim has dedicated his time to serving others both at home in Maine and in the international community.

After graduating from Slippery Rock University and the University of Washington, where he was certified to teach English as a second language, Tim served in the Peace Corps in Thailand from 1962 to 1965. When he returned to the U.S., Tim took over as the head coach of the Dexter High School football team leading them to two Class C co-state championships and two Little Ten Conference titles. Over the course of his coaching career Tim has been a mentor to hundreds, if not thousands of students throughout Maine advocating education and sportsmanship.

One of Tim's greatest legacies is his work with Seeds of Peace. This student exchange program is focused on bringing young people from conflict zones around the world together in order to build lasting relationships and develop the skills needed to advance peace. In the program's first year, Tim managed the International Camp in Otisfield, ME where a group of 46 Israeli, Palestinian, Egyptian, and American teenagers attended the camp for the inaugural season. As Seeds of Peace grew to accommodate over 100 students every year, Tim worked as director of both the Seeds of Peace International Camp in Maine and the Seeds of Peace Center for Coexistence in Jerusalem. Currently, Tim serves as a special international advisor to Seeds of Peace which has generated over 5,000 international alumni and which continues to help young people work towards peace in international conflict areas.

Tim Wilson has worked under four Maine Governors, including myself. He has served in posts such as chair of the Maine Human Rights Commission, State ombudsman, and associate commissioner of programming for the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Corrections. He served as director of the State Offices of Energy, Community Services, and Civil Emergency Preparedness. He has also been the director of admissions at Maine Central Institute in Pittsfield, the associate headmaster at the Hyde School in Bath, ME, and the annual key note speaker at Dirigo Girls State.

In 1997, the late King Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan presented Tim with a Medal of Honor. Seeds of Peace has recognized his efforts with a Distinguished Leadership Award and the Maine Youth Camping Association honored him with the Halsey Gulick Award. Tim has also been honored with the Distinguished American Award by the Maine Chapter of the National Football Foundation. Most recently, Tim received the Franklin H. Williams Award which recognizes ethnically diverse returned Peace Corps Volunteers who exemplify a commitment to community service and the Peace Corps' goal of promoting a cultural awareness among Americans.

Tim Wilson has devoted his life to promoting peace and understanding, to educating young people, and to empowering them to make their communities—and the world—a better place. I can think of no one more deserving of the Gerda Haas Award. Tim has led a career dedicated to teaching the next generation of young people and he has done a truly spectacular job of preparing them.●

TRIBUTE TO JERRY DUNFEY

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to extend my best wishes to Jerry Dunfey on his 80th birthday this Saturday and to salute his lifetime of remarkable achievements as a business leader and political activist.

Jerry is one of 12 siblings born to Catharine and Leroy Dunfey, who emigrated from Ireland, worked in the textile mills of Lowell, MA, and later opened a small clam stand in Hampton, NH. In the years since, the Dunfeys have gone on to become one of the grand families of Granite State business and politics.

As a teenager, Jerry went to work managing Dunfey's Restaurant at Hampton Beach and then made his way through the University of New Hampshire by working at the family's restaurant in Durham. He and his brothers went on to operate other restaurants, acquired small inns across New England, and founded Dunfey Hotels, which under subsequent owners became Omni Hotels.

In 1968, they purchased the historic Parker House hotel in Boston, where they found the archives of the 19th century Saturday Club salon, which included Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and Oliver Wendell Holmes. Jerry Dunfey reincarnated this famous club by founding what would become known as the Global Citizens Circle. Since 1974, the circle has brought together elected officials, activists, and ordinary citizens to debate leading issues, advocate for civil

rights, and promote peaceful change in South Africa, Northern Ireland, and across the globe. Under auspices of the circle, Jerry has brought to New Hampshire speakers ranging from Archbishop Desmond Tutu to Ambassador Andrew Young to Arn Chorn-Pond, a survivor of the Cambodian killing fields. Hundreds of circle forums have been convened in Belfast, Soweto, Jerusalem, Havana, and in cities across the United States.

Jerry and his wife Nadine Hack have a long history of engagement in the U.S. civil rights movement, including a close friendship with the family of Martin Luther King, Jr. They both served on the board of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, read a psalm at Coretta Scott King's private family funeral, and were honorary pall bearers at her larger public funeral. They also have close ties with leaders of South Africa's liberation movement and were guests of state at Nelson Mandela's inauguration as President in 1994.

For more than six decades, the large Dunfey and Kennedy families have been closely intertwined in both friendship and politics—though Ted Kennedy used to joke that, when it came to children, ''the Dunfeys are size 12 but the Kennedys are only size 9.'' Jerry was close friends with John, Bobby, and Ted Kennedy, dating back to the 1950s, and John announced for the Presidency in 1960 at a Dunfey hotel in Manchester. In 2009, Jerry and Nadine had the singular honor of sitting in the final hour of vigil by Ted Kennedy's casket at the JFK Presidential Library.

Jerry Dunfey's activism in progressive politics has continued strongly into the second decade of the 21st century. He and Nadine have had five children and six grandchildren, and they are especially proud that all three generations of their family actively campaigned for President Barack Obama. Now on the cusp of his ninth decade, Jerry is retired but far from retiring.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, ''Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?'' Across a lifetime in public life, Jerry Dunfey has answered that question in powerful ways: fighting for civil rights, advancing the cause of social and economic justice here at home, and promoting peace and reconciliation across the globe. I congratulate Jerry on his 80th birthday and send my best wishes to Nadine, their children and grandchildren, and the entire Dunfey clan. They have contributed so much to the civic life of our State and our country. ●

TRIBUTE TO DR. NICHOLAS WOLTER

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a Montanan whose life's work is helping to improve the health of folks in my home State and across this country.

As a board-certified physician in internal medicine and pulmonary medicine, Dr. Nicholas Wolter has been dedicated to improving the health of folks in Montana for several decades. His distinguished career in Montana began more than 30 years ago at the Billings Clinic, where he now serves as the chief executive officer. Under his leadership, the Billings Clinic has become the largest health care organization in Montana, with more than 3,700 employees, including 350 physicians and 400 inpatient nurses. Dr. Wolter is known for his commitment to the people of Billings, and under his direction the clinic has provided more charity care than any other health care organization in the State and has gained a reputation nationally as a leader in patient safety, quality, and service.

For the past decade, Dr. Wolter has been one of the most influential voices on Capitol Hill in helping to reform our fragmented health care delivery system and championing the medical-group delivery model. His successes can be seen in several pieces of legislation, including the Affordable Care Act, and have improved care for countless numbers of patients. Dr. Wolter's close partnership with our former colleague, Senator Max Baucus, resulted in Montana serving as a model for the rest of the Nation on how best to deliver care in the most rural parts of this Nation.

Dr. Wolter is a former member of the board of directors of the American Medical Group Association and the American Hospital Association. He served two terms as a Commissioner on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, advising Congress on how to improve care and reduce costs in the health care system. Dr. Wolter was recognized by the Medical Group Management Association in 2004 as the Physician Executive of the Year and was named by Modern Healthcare as one of the 100 Most Influential People in Health Care in 2010 and 2011, and by Modern Physicians as one of the 50 Most Influential Physicians in Health Care in 2011.

Dr. Wolter has been a tireless advocate in improving our health care system and today I am delighted to recognize him as he is being entered into the American Medical Group Association's Policy Hall of Fame.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr Pate, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13047 OF MAY 20, 1997, WITH RESPECT TO BURMA, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON MAY 15, 2015—PM 17

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared on May 20, 1997, is to continue in effect beyond May 20, 2015. The Government of Burma has made significant progress across a number of important areas, including the release of over 1,300 political prisoners, continued progress toward a nationwide cease-fire, the discharge of hundreds of child soldiers from the military, steps to improve labor standards, and expanding political space for civil society to have a greater voice in shaping issues critical to Burma's future. In addition, Burma has become a signatory of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Additional Protocol and ratified the Biological Weapons Convention, significant steps towards supporting global nonproliferation. Despite these strides, the situation in the country continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States.

Concerns persist regarding the ongoing conflict and human rights abuses in the country, particularly in ethnic minority areas and Rakhine State. In addition, Burma's military operates with little oversight from the civilian government and often acts with impunity. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma.

Despite this action, the United States remains committed to supporting and strengthening Burma's reform efforts and to continue working both with the Burmese government and people to ensure that the democratic transition is sustained and irreversible.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 15, 2015.*

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 15, 2015, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1191) 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, and agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the title of the bill.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate on January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 15, 2015, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 606. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income.

H.R. 1191. An act to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2252. An act to clarify the effective data of certain provisions of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2297. An act to prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) announced that on today, May 18, 2015, he had signed the following bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 606. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income.

H.R. 1191. An act to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2297. An act to prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1350. A bill to provide a short-term extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 1357. A bill to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 until July 31, 2015, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2048. An act to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 611. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114–47).

S. 653. A bill to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under that Act (Rept. No. 114–48).

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. NELSON (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1360. A bill to amend the limitation on liability for passenger rail accidents or incidents under section 28103 of title 49, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 1361. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and improve the Indian coal production tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 1362. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify waiver authority regarding programs of all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE programs); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO:

S. 1363. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to submit to Congress a report assessing the capability of the Department of Energy to authorize, host, and oversee privately funded fusion and fission reactor prototypes and related demonstration facilities at sites owned by the Department of Energy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 1364. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require the payment of an additional rebate to the State Medicaid plan in the case of increase in the price of a generic drug at a rate that is greater than the rate of inflation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 1365. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to use designated funding to pay for construction of authorized rural water projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 1366. A bill to amend the charter of the Gold Star Wives of America to remove the restriction on the federally chartered corporation, and directors and officers of the corporation, attempting to influence legislation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 1367. A bill to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act with respect to membership eligibility of certain institutions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 183

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 352

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 389

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 389, a bill to amend section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require that annual State report cards reflect the same race groups as the decennial census of population.

S. 391

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina

(Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 391, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 447

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 447, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prohibit the exclusion of individuals from service on a Federal jury on account of sexual orientation or gender identity.

S. 491

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba.

S. 559

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 559, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Education from engaging in regulatory overreach with regard to institutional eligibility under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 578

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 599

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 599, a bill to extend and expand the Medicaid emergency psychiatric demonstration project.

S. 613

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 613, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 682

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 682, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 688

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 688, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to adjust the Medicare hospital readmission reduction program to respond to patient disparities, and for other purposes.

S. 799

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 799, a bill to combat the rise of prenatal opioid abuse and neonatal abstinence syndrome.

S. 851

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 851, a bill to promote neutrality, simplicity, and fairness in the taxation of digital goods and digital services.

S. 890

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 890, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize the effectiveness of the Fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 933

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 933, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 1006

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1006, a bill to incentivize early adoption of positive train control, and for other purposes.

S. 1119

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1119, a bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission.

S. 1121

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1121, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1126

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1126, a bill to modify and extend the National Guard State Partnership Program.

S. 1135

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1135, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for fairness in hospital payments under the Medicare program.

S. 1142

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1142, a bill to clarify that noncommercial species found entirely within the borders of a single State are not in interstate commerce or subject to regulation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 or any other provision of law enacted as an exercise of the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce.

S. 1193

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1193, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent and expand the temporary minimum credit rate for the low-income housing tax credit program.

S. 1212

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1212, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1214

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1214, a bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States.

S. 1294

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1294, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture to collaborate in promoting the development of efficient, economical, and environmentally sustainable thermally led wood energy systems.

S. 1300

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1300, a bill to amend the section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide relief for adoptive families from immigrant visa feeds in certain situations.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter.

S. 1324

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Alabama

(Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1324, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to fulfill certain requirements before regulating standards of performance for new, modified, and reconstructed fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 87

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 87, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe and to encourage greater cooperation with the European governments, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in preventing and responding to anti-Semitism.

S. RES. 168

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 168, a resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system.

AMENDMENT NO. 1237

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1237 proposed to H.R. 1314, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations.

AMENDMENT NO. 1242

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1242 proposed to H.R. 1314, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations.

AMENDMENT NO. 1244

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1244 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1314, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 1361. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and improve the Indian coal production tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this year marks the 10-year anniversary of the Indian coal production tax credit. This is a crucial tax incentive that levels the playing field for the future development of tribal coal resources that are currently subject to more regulatory requirements than comparable development on private, State or Federal land. The credit protects the economic viability of existing tribal coal mining projects which support much needed tribal jobs and provide a major source of non-Federal revenue for coal-producing tribes.

Over the past 10 years, the Indian production coal tax credit has proven to be an essential tool in the work of Montana tribes to achieve self-sufficiency, increase economic opportunity, and create good-paying jobs for tribal members. It also has had a significant impact on Montana's economy as a whole.

In fact, in the State of Montana, the Crow tribe relies on coal production for good-paying jobs and as much as two-thirds of the Crow Nation's annual non-Federal budget, partially funding Crow elder programs, higher education for tribal youth, and other essential services for the Crow's 13,000 enrolled members.

Current unemployment on the Crow reservation is 47 percent. It would be over 80 percent if it weren't for the coal jobs. In fact, just last month, I chaired the first ever energy and jobs Senate field hearing on the Crow reservation back in Montana. I heard firsthand how the tax credit is creating economic opportunities for members of the Crow tribe. Yet the current nature of annual reauthorization has resulted in unnecessary uncertainty.

The Crow tribe, as well as all who rely on the Indian coal production tax credit, deserve a long-term solution that provides them with the support and certainty they desperately need. In fact, at last month's hearing, Crow chairman Darrin Old Coyote testified, ''There are a few federal tax incentives that encourage investment and development in Indian country, but their utility is diminished by their short-term nature.''

For those who have spent time on the Crow reservation and throughout Southeastern Montana, the economic benefits are most evident. The Indian coal production tax credit has served as a catalyst for creating jobs and fostering tribal self-determination.

In fact, the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development recently published a study of preliminary findings which analyzed the economic effects of this tax provision. The study found that the Indian coal production tax credit contributed 1,600 jobs across Montana and generated $107 million in royalties and tax revenue for the Crow tribe in 2013 alone. In addition, the tax credit stimulates $95 million in wages for the State of Montana. The Indian coal production tax credit, which expired at the end of 2014 after a 1-year extension, continues to serve the Crow tribe as an effective mechanism for economic development. However, it is a constant source of angst due to Congress's unwillingness to adopt an extension of this provision.

The benefits of this tax credit are evident on tribal lands, especially in Montana. In fact, displayed prominently in my Washington, DC, office is a note from Crow chairman Old Coyote's daughter Evelyn. I have it framed in my office. She wrote: ''Please keep the coal tax credit going to help me and other Crow kids have a brighter future.''

A permanent extension provides much needed certainty to invest in large-scale energy production projects and provides a path forward for the long-term prosperity of our tribal nations.

Today, I am introducing much needed legislation that addresses the problem and gives our tribes certainty. I appreciate my colleague Montana Senator JON TESTER for joining me in this important effort. I wish to thank Montana Representative RYAN Zinke for introducing a companion bill in the House of Representatives. I also wish to thank the bipartisan Senate team that includes Senators BARRASSO, MORAN, and HEITKAMP for sponsoring this bill. Together, we will continue to advance this legislation for the betterment of Native American tribes.

While there is still more to be done to better serve our tribes, the permanent extension of the Indian coal production tax credit is a good start. I believe this vital piece of legislation will continue to bring more good-paying jobs to Montana and to our Nation, and I strongly urge my colleagues in the Senate to support it.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1249. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1250. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1251. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra.

SA 1252. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1253. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1254. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1255. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1256. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1257. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1258. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1259. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1260. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1261. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1262. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1263. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1264. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1265. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1266. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1267. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1268. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1269. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1270. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1271. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1272. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1273. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1274. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1275. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1276. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1277. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1278. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1279. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1280. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1281. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1282. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1283. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1284. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1285. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1286. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1287. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1288. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1289. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1290. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1291. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1292. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1293. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1294. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1295. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1296. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1297. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1298. Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1299. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BURR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221

proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra.

SA 1300. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BURR, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1301. Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1302. Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1303. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1304. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1305. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1306. Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1307. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1308. Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1309. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1310. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1311. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1312. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra.

SA 1313. Mr. COATS (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1314. Mr. COATS (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1315. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1316. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. KAINE, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1317. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1318. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1319. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1320. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1321. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1322. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1323. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1324. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1325. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1326. Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1327. Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra.

SA 1328. Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1329. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1330. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1331. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1332. Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1333. Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1334. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1335. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1336. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1337. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1338. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1339. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1340. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1341. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1342. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1343. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1344. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1345. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1346. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1347. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1348. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1349. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1350. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill

H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1351. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1352. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1353. Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1354. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1355. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1356. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1357. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1358. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1359. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1360. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1361. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1362. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1363. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1364. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1365. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1249. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 102(b), add the following:

(21) ACCESS TO THE INTERNET.—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to the Internet shall be to preserve equal access to the Internet and to not undermine any law or regulation of the United States with respect to net neutrality.

SA 1250. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 102(b), add the following:

(21) PRIVACY.—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to privacy shall be to protect the privacy of data of consumers and individuals and to not reduce protections for privacy under the law and regulations of the United States.

SA 1251. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; as follows:

At the end of section 107, add the following:

(c) LIMITATIONS ON ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES JOINING THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The trade authorities procedures shall apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to an agreement described in subsection (a)(2) with the Trans-Pacific Partnership countries only if that implementing bill covers only the countries that are parties to the negotiations for that agreement as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF TRADE AUTHORITIES PROCEDURES TO ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES.—If a country or countries not a party to the negotiations for the agreement described in subsection (a)(2) as of the date of the enactment of this Act enter into negotiations to join the agreement after that date, the trade authorities procedures shall apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to an agreement with such country or countries to join the agreement described in subsection (a)(2) only if—

(A) the President notifies Congress of the intention of the President to enter into negotiations with such country or countries in accordance with section 105(a)(1)(A);

(B) during the 90-day period provided for under section 105(a)(1)(A) before the President initiates such negotiations—

(i) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate each certify that such country or countries are capable of meeting the standards of the Trans-Pacific Partnership; and

(ii) the House of Representatives and the Senate each approve a resolution approving such country or countries entering into negotiations to join the agreement described in subsection (a)(2);

(C) the agreement with such country or countries to join the agreement described in subsection (a)(2) is entered into before—

(i) July 1, 2018; or

(ii) July 1, 2021, if trade authorities procedures are extended under section 103(c); and

(D) that implementing bill covers only such country or countries.

SA 1252. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—AMENDMENTS TO ANTI-DUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAWS

SEC. 301. CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN A PROCEEDING.

Section 776 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (4) as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively, and by moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the right;

(B) by striking ''ADVERSE INFERENCES.—If'' and inserting the following: ''ADVERSE INFERENCES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If'';

(C) by striking ''under this title, may use'' and inserting the following: ''under this title—

''(A) may use''; and

(D) by striking ''facts otherwise available. Such adverse inference may include'' and inserting the following: ''facts otherwise available; and

''(B) is not required to determine, or make any adjustments to, a countervailable subsidy rate or weighted average dumping margin based on any assumptions about information the interested party would have provided if the interested party had complied with the request for information.

''(2) POTENTIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR ADVERSE INFERENCES.—An adverse inference under paragraph (1)(A) may include'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''CORROBORATION OF SECONDARY INFORMATION.—When the'' and inserting the following: ''CORROBORATION OF SECONDARY INFORMATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), when the''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) EXCEPTION.—The administrative authority and the Commission shall not be required to corroborate any dumping margin

or countervailing duty applied in a separate segment of the same proceeding.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) SUBSIDY RATES AND DUMPING MARGINS IN ADVERSE INFERENCE DETERMINATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If the administering authority uses an inference that is adverse to the interests of a party under subsection (b)(1)(A) in selecting among the facts otherwise available, the administering authority may—

''(A) in the case of a countervailing duty proceeding—

''(i) use a countervailable subsidy rate applied for the same or similar program in a countervailing duty proceeding involving the same country, or

''(ii) if there is no same or similar program, use a countervailable subsidy rate for a subsidy program from a proceeding that the administering authority considers reasonable to use, and

''(B) in the case of an antidumping duty proceeding, use any dumping margin from any segment of the proceeding under the applicable antidumping order.

''(2) DISCRETION TO APPLY HIGHEST RATE.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the administering authority may apply any of the countervailable subsidy rates or dumping margins specified under that paragraph, including the highest such rate or margin, based on the evaluation by the administering authority of the situation that resulted in the administering authority using an adverse inference in selecting among the facts otherwise available.

''(3) NO OBLIGATION TO MAKE CERTAIN ESTIMATES OR ADDRESS CERTAIN CLAIMS.—If the administering authority uses an adverse inference under subsection (b)(1)(A) in selecting among the facts otherwise available, the administering authority is not required, for purposes of subsection (c) or for any other purpose—

''(A) to estimate what the countervailable subsidy rate or dumping margin would have been if the interested party found to have failed to cooperate under subsection (b)(1) had cooperated, or

''(B) to demonstrate that the countervailable subsidy rate or dumping margin used by the administering authority reflects an alleged commercial reality of the interested party.''.

SEC. 302. DEFINITION OF MATERIAL INJURY.

(a) EFFECT OF PROFITABILITY OF DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES.—Section 771(7) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(7)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(J) EFFECT OF PROFITABILITY.—The Commission shall not determine that there is no material injury or threat of material injury to an industry in the United States merely because that industry is profitable or because the performance of that industry has recently improved.''.

(b) EVALUATION OF IMPACT ON DOMESTIC INDUSTRY IN DETERMINATION OF MATERIAL INJURY.—Subclause (I) of section 771(7)(C)(iii) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(7)(C)(iii)) is amended to read as follows:

''(I) actual and potential decline in output, sales, market share, gross profits, operating profits, net profits, ability to service debt, productivity, return on investments, return on assets, and utilization of capacity,''.

(c) CAPTIVE PRODUCTION.—Section 771(7)(C)(iv) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(7)(C)(iv)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (I), by striking the comma and inserting '', and'';

(2) in subclause (II), by striking '', and'' and inserting a comma; and

(3) by striking subclause (III).

SEC. 303. PARTICULAR MARKET SITUATION.

(a) DEFINITION OF ORDINARY COURSE OF TRADE.—Section 771(15) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(15)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) Situations in which the administering authority determines that the particular market situation prevents a proper comparison with the export price or constructed export price.''.

(b) DEFINITION OF NORMAL VALUE.—Section 773(a)(1)(B)(ii)(III) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677b(a)(1)(B)(ii)(III)) is amended by striking ''in such other country.''.

(c) DEFINITION OF CONSTRUCTED VALUE.—Section 773(e) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677b(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''business'' and inserting ''trade''; and

(2) By striking the flush text at the end and inserting the following:

''For purposes of paragraph (1), if a particular market situation exists such that the cost of materials and fabrication or other processing of any kind does not accurately reflect the cost of production in the ordinary course of trade, the administering authority may use another calculation methodology under this subtitle or any other calculation methodology. For purposes of paragraph (1), the cost of materials shall be determined without regard to any internal tax in the exporting country imposed on such materials or their disposition that is remitted or refunded upon exportation of the subject merchandise produced from such materials.''.

SEC. 304. DISTORTION OF PRICES OR COSTS.

(a) INVESTIGATION OF BELOW-COST SALES.—Section 773(b)(2) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677b(b)(2)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE OR SUSPECT.—

''(i) REVIEW.—In a review conducted under section 751 involving a specific exporter, there are reasonable grounds to believe or suspect that sales of the foreign like product have been made at prices that are less than the cost of production of the product if the administering authority disregarded some or all of the exporter's sales pursuant to paragraph (1) in the investigation or, if a review has been completed, in the most recently completed review.

''(ii) REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.—In an investigation initiated under section 732 or a review conducted under section 751, the administering authority shall request information necessary to calculate the constructed value and cost of production under subsections (e) and (f) to determine whether there are reasonable grounds to believe or suspect that sales of the foreign like product have been made at prices that represent less than the cost of production of the product.''.

(b) PRICES AND COSTS IN NONMARKET ECONOMIES.—Section 773(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) DISCRETION TO DISREGARD CERTAIN PRICE OR COST VALUES.—In valuing the factors of production under paragraph (1) for the subject merchandise, the administering authority may disregard price or cost values without further investigation if the administering authority has determined that broadly available export subsidies existed or particular instances of subsidization occurred with respect to those price or cost values or if those price or cost values were subject to an antidumping order.''.

SEC. 305. REDUCTION IN BURDEN ON DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY RESPONDENTS.

Section 782(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677m(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and by moving such clauses, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the right;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and by moving such subparagraphs, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the right;

(3) by striking ''INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEWS.—In'' and inserting the following: ''INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEWS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In'';

(4) in paragraph (1), as designated by paragraph (3), by amending subparagraph (B), as redesignated by paragraph (2), to read as follows:

''(B) the number of exporters or producers subject to the investigation or review is not so large that any additional individual examination of such exporters or producers would be unduly burdensome to the administering authority and inhibit the timely completion of the investigation or review.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) DETERMINATION OF UNDULY BURDENSOME.—In determining if an individual examination under paragraph (1)(B) would be unduly burdensome, the administering authority may consider the following:

''(A) The complexity of the issues or information presented in the proceeding, including questionnaires and any responses thereto.

''(B) Any prior experience of the administering authority in the same or similar proceeding.

''(C) The total number of investigations under subtitle A or B and reviews under section 751 being conducted by the administering authority as of the date of the determination.

''(D) Such other factors relating to the timely completion of each such investigation and review as the administering authority considers appropriate.''.

SEC. 306. APPLICATION TO CANADA AND MEXICO.

Pursuant to article 1902 of the North American Free Trade Agreement and section 408 of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3438), the amendments made by this title shall apply with respect to goods from Canada and Mexico.

SA 1253. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 203(d)(2) and insert the following:

(2) TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FIRMS.—Section 255(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2345(a)) is amended by striking ''$16,000,000'' and all that follows through ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2021''.

SA 1254. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 102(b), add the following:

(21) PRINCIPAL NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''principal negotiating objective'' means a mandatory negotiating objective of the United States required to be achieved by the President for an agreement to be eligible for trade authorities procedures, as defined in section 3(b).

SA 1255. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 102(b)(1), add the following:

(C) to obtain competitive opportunities for United States exports of goods by—

(i) providing reasonable adjustment periods for import-sensitive products manufactured in the United States and maintaining close consultation with Congress with respect to those products before initiating negotiations for a trade agreement that reduces tariffs;

(ii) taking into account whether a party to negotiations for a trade agreement has failed to adhere to any provision of an existing trade agreement with the United States or has circumvented any obligation under any such existing trade agreement; and

(iii) taking into account whether a product is subject to market distortions by reason of—

(I) the failure of a major producing country, as determined by the President, to adhere to any provision of an existing trade agreement with the United States; or

(II) the circumvention by that country of its obligations under an existing trade agreement with the United States.

SA 1256. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 102(b)(4), strike subparagraph (G).

SA 1257. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 102(b)(4), after subparagraph (E), insert the following:

(F) strengthening the capacity of trading partners of the United States to protect the rights and interests of investors through the establishment and maintenance of fair and efficient legal proceedings consistent with the legal principles and practices of the United States;

SA 1258. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 102(b)(10), strike subparagraph (G).

SA 1259. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 102(b), add at the end the following:

(21) RULES OF ORIGIN.—The principal negotiating objective of the United States with respect to rules of origin is to ensure that the benefits of a trade agreement accrue to the parties to the agreement, particularly with respect to goods produced in the United States and goods that incorporate materials produced in the United States.

SA 1260. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 105(a), add at the end the following:

(6) NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Before initiating or continuing negotiations with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements relating to industrial products, the President shall—

(i) assess—

(I) whether there is global overcapacity in industrial products, including industrial products subject to the provisions of such agreement or agreements; and

(II) the enhanced access to the United States market that such agreement or agreements would provide; and

(ii) consult with the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives with respect to—

(I) the potential impact of such agreement or agreements on industrial products produced in the United States;

(II) the results of the assessment conducted under clause (i)(I);

(III) whether it is appropriate for the President to agree to reduce tariffs on industrial products based on any conclusions reached in that assessment; and

(IV) how the President intends to comply with all negotiating objectives applicable to such agreement or agreements.

(B) ASSESSMENT.—The assessment conducted under subparagraph (A)(i) shall include, at a minimum, an assessment of the following industrial products:

(i) Steel and steel products.

(ii) Aluminum and aluminum products.

(iii) Solar products.

(iv) Glass, including flat glass and glassware.

(v) Cement.

(vi) Wood.

(vii) Paper products.

SA 1261. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 106(b), add at the end the following:

(7) FOR AGREEMENTS WITH COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT PROTECT RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the trade authorities procedures shall not apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements with a country that does not protect religious freedoms, as determined in the most recent report on international religious freedom under section 102(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)).

SA 1262. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 106(b), add at the end the following:

(7) FOR AGREEMENTS WITH NONMARKET ECONOMY COUNTRIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the trade authorities procedures shall not apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements with a nonmarket economy country, as defined in section 771(18) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(18)).

SA 1263. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 106(b), add at the end the following:

(7) FOR AGREEMENTS WITH COUNTRIES CLASSIFIED AS TAX HAVENS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the trade authorities procedures shall not apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements with a country—

(A) that is classified as a tax haven by the Government Accountability Office; and

(B) with which the United States does not have a tax treaty in force.

SA 1264. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 104(a)(3), add at the end the following:

(D) SUBMISSION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GUIDELINES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The United States Trade Representative shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a copy of the written guidelines developed under subparagraph (A)(i) and any revision to those guidelines under subparagraph (A)(ii).

(ii) IMPLEMENTATION.—The United States Trade Representative may not implement the written guidelines or revisions, as the case may be, submitted under clause (i) until the date that is 30 days after the submission of those guidelines or revisions under that clause.

SA 1265. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 107, add at the end the following:

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION ON NONMARKET ECONOMY COUNTRIES.—Nothing in this Act, or negotiations for an agreement that were commenced before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be construed to suggest that any country that is a nonmarket economy country, as defined in section 771(18) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(18)), on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act has transitioned to a market economy for purposes of accession to the World Trade Organization.

SA 1266. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 107, add at the end the following:

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON TREATMENT OF CHINA.—It is the sense of Congress that the People's Republic of China may not join negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership until the President certifies to Congress that China—

(1) has not manipulated the exchange rate of its currency for a period of not less than one year preceding the certification; and

(2) has fully transitioned to a market economy country.

SA 1267. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 107, add the following:

(c) LIMITATION ON ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES JOINING THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), this section shall not apply with respect to an agreement described in subsection (a)(2) with the Trans-Pacific Partnership countries if a country that is not a party to the negotiations for that agreement as of the date of the enactment of this Act joins those negotiations.

(2) APPROVAL BY CONGRESS.—This section shall apply to an agreement described in subsection (a)(2) with the Trans-Pacific Partnership countries if, for each country that joins the negotiations for the agreement after the date of the enactment of this Act, the House of Representatives and the Senate each approve a resolution approving that country joining the negotiations.

(3) CERTIFICATION.—Before a resolution described in paragraph (2) with respect to a country may be voted on by the House of Representatives or the Senate, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Finance of the Senate, as the case may be, shall certify that the country meets the standards for the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

SA 1268. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 104(a)(2) and insert the following:

(2) CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO ENTRY INTO FORCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Prior to exchanging notes providing for the entry into force of a trade agreement, the United States Trade Representative shall consult closely and on a timely basis with Members of Congress and committees as specified in paragraph (1), and keep them fully apprised of the measures a trading partner has taken to comply with those provisions of the agreement that are to take effect on the date that the agreement enters into force.

(B) VOTE BY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND COMMITTEE ON FINANCE BEFORE ENTRY INTO FORCE.—

(i) NOTICE.—Not later than 90 days before a trade agreement enters into force, the United States Trade Representative shall submit to Members of Congress and the committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate with jurisdiction over laws that could be affected by the agreement written notice that the agreement will enter into force.

(ii) VOTE BY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.—Not later than 30 days after receiving notice under clause (i) that a trade agreement will enter into force, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate shall each meet and vote on whether or not each country that is a party to the agreement meets the standards of the agreement.

SA 1269. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 104(d), add at the end the following:

(5) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS.—The United States Trade Representative shall make available to the public each proposal made by the United States in negotiations for a trade agreement conducted under this Act on the day on which the Trade Representative shares the proposal with any other party to the negotiations.

SA 1270. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 104(d), add at the end the following:

(5) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.—The United States Trade Representative shall—

(A) make available to the public each proposed chapter of a trade agreement being negotiated under this Act; and

(B) provide for a period for public comment on each such chapter.

SA 1271. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 106(b)(2) and insert the following:

(2) PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERING RESOLUTIONS.—(A) Procedural disapproval resolutions—

(i) in the House of Representatives—

(I) may be introduced by any Member of the House;

(II) shall be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and, in addition, to the Committee on Rules;

(III) may not be amended by either Committee; and

(IV) shall be discharged from both such Committees on the day on which not less than one-third of the Members of the House become cosponsors of the resolution; and

(ii) in the Senate—

(I) may be introduced by any Member of the Senate;

(II) shall be referred to the Committee on Finance;

(III) may not be amended; and

(IV) shall be discharged from the Committee on Finance on the day on which not less than one-third of the Members of the Senate become cosponsors of the resolution.

(B) The provisions of subsections (d) and (e) of section 152 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2192) (relating to the floor consideration of certain resolutions in the House and Senate) apply to a procedural disapproval resolution introduced with respect to a trade agreement if no other procedural disapproval resolution with respect to that trade agreement has previously been reported in that House of Congress by the Committee on Ways and Means or the Committee on Finance, as the case may be, and if no resolution described in clause (ii) of section 5(b)(3)(B) with respect to that trade agreement has been reported in that House of Congress by the Committee on Ways and Means or the Committee on Finance, as the case may be, pursuant to the procedures set forth in clauses (iii) through (vii) of such section.

SA 1272. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 23, beginning on line 14, strike ''(as defined in'' and all that follows through line 20 and insert ''or its labor laws, or''.

SA 1273. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 112. REPORT ON IMPACT OF TRADE AGREEMENTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make available to the public an assessment of the anticipated impact of each trade agreement subject to section 103 on access to medicines in the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment shall include, for each trade agreement, the following:

(1) An estimate of the implications of applicable elements of the trade agreement for the cost of medical tools and technologies.

(2) An estimate of any delays of limits to generic competition for medical products that may arise as a result of the trade agreement above and beyond existing rules in the United States and in United States trading partners.

SA 1274. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 17, strike line 23 and all that follows through page 18, line 4, and insert the following:

(C) to respect—

(i) the Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, adopted by the World Trade Organization at the Fourth Ministerial Conference at Doha, Qatar on November 14, 2001;

(ii) the bipartisan congressional agreement on trade policy relating to trade agreements with Peru, Colombia, and Panama, dated May 10, 2007 (commonly referred to as the ''May 10 agreement'');

(iii) the World Intellectual Property Organization Development Agenda, adopted in 2007; and

(iv) World Health Organization Resolution 61.21 (2008); and

(D) to ensure that trade agreements protect all public health intellectual property flexibilities afforded by the agreements specified in subparagraph (C) and all other current and subsequent related agreements, included the flexibility to define the scope of patentability nationally, to foster patient-driven innovation, and to promote access to medicines for all people.

SA 1275. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 65, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

(g) PUBLICATION OF VISITORS TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE.—The United States Trade Representative shall publish on a publicly available Internet website of the Office of the United States Trade Representative a list of all individuals who visit that Office and are not employees of the Federal Government to facilitate the ability of the public to identify individuals and entities that are seeking to influence trade negotiations.

SA 1276. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 112. ASSESSMENT OF FOOD SAFETY SYSTEMS OF TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall jointly submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report assessing the food safety systems of the countries involved in the negotiations for a Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include, with respect to each country involved in the negotiations for a Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement, the following:

(1) An assessment of the following:

(A) The food safety legal and regulatory system in place in that country.

(B) The microbiological and chemical contaminant standards used by that country, as compared to such standards in the United States.

(C) The frequency of testing conducted for microbiological and chemical contaminants by the government of that country.

(D) The food safety laboratory capacity for that country.

(E) The food safety inspection system used by that country and the frequency of such inspections.

(F) Whether that country has a formal food safety equivalency agreement or a similar agreement in effect with the United States.

(G) The volume of food products imported into the United States from that country, expressed in pounds amd broken down by classification under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, for each of the 5 years preceding the date of the report.

(H) The amount of each such food product that received physical inspection at United States ports of entry each year during the 5-year period preceding the date of the report, expressed as a percentage of the total number of pounds imported from that country during that 5-year period.

(I) The amount of each such food product that received laboratory analysis by United States food safety authorities each year during that 5-year period, expressed as a percentage of the total number of pounds imported from that country during that 5-year period.

(2) A list of food products that country rejected for exportation to the United States during that 5-year period.

(3) A description of any incidents that led to complete bans of food products from being exported to the United States from that country during that 5-year period and the reasons for such bans.

(4) A description of any incidents in which that country has been found to have transshipped food products the importation of which is prohibited by the United States from other foreign countries for exportation to the United States.

(5) A description of major food safety incidents within that country during the 5 years preceding the date of the report that have raised concerns about the food safety system of the country.

SA 1277. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 112. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REPORT ON CLASSIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the classification by the United States Trade Representative of documents relating to trade negotiations, including an assessment of whether or not the classification levels are appropriate, consistent with historical practices, consistent with other the practices of other Federal agencies, and consistent with the practices of trading partners of the United States.

SA 1278. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 54, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

(C) ACCESS OF CONGRESSIONAL STAFF.—In developing guidelines under subparagraph (A), the United States Trade Representative may not require a staff member of a Member of Congress with a proper security clearance described in subparagraph (B)(ii) to be accompanied by the Member of Congress to have access to documents related to trade negotiations.

SA 1279. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative

appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 65, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

(g) REPORT ON CLASSIFICATION OF NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the United States Trade Representative shall submit to Congress a report—

(1) describing the policy of the Trade Representative with respect to the classification of proposed text for trade agreements and the use of other methods for limiting access to such text; and

(2) providing a justification for that policy.

SA 1280. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 65, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

(g) LIMITATION ON EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE ACTING AS FOREIGN AGENTS.—Section 141 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2171) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) An individual who serves as employee of the Office of the United States Trade Representative may not register as an agent of a foreign principal under section 2 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 612) until the date that is 3 years after the date on which the employment of the individual with the Office terminates.''.

SA 1281. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 22, strike lines 1 through 14 and insert the following:

(8) STATE-OWNED AND STATE-CONTROLLED ENTERPRISES.—The principle negotiating objectives of the United States regarding competition by state-owned and state-controlled commercial enterprises, including those enterprises for which the share of the enterprise owned by the country is less than 50 percent, are—

(A) to require each state-owned or state-controlled enterprise to act solely in a manner consistent with commercial considerations in all investments, operations, and other activities of the enterprise in the territory of a country that is a party to the trade agreement and is not the country that owns or controls the enterprise;

(B) to prohibit each country that is a party to the trade agreement from providing to an enterprise that is owned or controlled by that country any subsidies or other benefits—

(i) that are not generally available on commercial terms; and

(ii) that provide an advantage to the enterprise or its operations with respect to any investment, operation, or other activity in the territory of another country that is a party to the trade agreement;

(C) to not restrict temporary measures taken by a country that is a party to the trade agreement that the country determines are necessary to safeguard an essential economic or security interest of that country;

(D) to require each country that is a party to the agreement to make public an annual report with respect to each enterprise that is owned or controlled by that country and that invests in or conducts operations or other activities in the territory of another country that is a party to the trade agreement that—

(i) describes in detail the governing structure of the enterprise;

(ii) identifies the share of the interests in the capital structure of the enterprise that are held by the government of that country;

(iii) identifies the members of the board of directors of the enterprise; and

(iv) identifies the annual revenue and total assets of the enterprise;

(E) to subject all state-owned or state-controlled enterprises in a country that is a party to the trade agreement to dispute settlement mechanisms in enforcing the trade agreement; and

(F) to preserve the ability of state-owned or state-controlled enterprises to provide legitimate public services.

SA 1282. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 33, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

(H) to incorporate into the agreement the due process protections of the Constitution of the United States and provisions of the Constitution relating to access to documents, open hearings, transparency, and fair and impartial tribunals;

(I) to require that any dispute settlement panel, including an appellate panel, considering a dispute relating to intellectual property rights or environmental, health, labor, or other related issues include panelists with expertise in the issues that are the subject of the dispute; and

(J) to require that dispute resolution proceedings be open to the public and provide timely public access to information regarding enforcement of the agreement, disputes under the agreement, and ongoing negotiations relating to disputes under the agreement.

SA 1283. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 73, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

(6) REPORT ON FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days before the President initiates negotiations for a trade agreement with a foreign country, the President shall submit to Congress and make available to the public a report on the foreign country that includes an assessment of whether the foreign country—

(i) has a democratic form of government;

(ii) has adopted the core labor standards into the laws and regulations of the foreign country and effectively enforces those standards as reflected in reports by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards, and the Committee on Freedom of Association of the International Labour Organization;

(iii) respects fundamental human rights, as reflected in the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices of the Department of State;

(iv) is designated as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under section 402(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1));

(v) is included on the list described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 110(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(1)) (commonly known as tier 2 and tier 3 of the Trafficking in Persons Report of the Department of State);

(vi) complies with the multilateral agreements relating to the environment to which the foreign country is a party;

(vii) has adequate environmental laws and regulations, has devoted sufficient resources to implementing those laws and regulations, and has an adequate record of enforcement of those laws and regulations;

(viii) enforces the rights and flexibilities provided under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights referred to in section 101(d)(15) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(15)); and

(ix) provides for government transparency, due process of law, and respect for international agreements.

(B) REPORT ON ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress and make available to the public a report on each foreign country with which negotiations for a trade agreement are ongoing on such date of enactment that includes the matters required to be included in the report under paragraph (1) with respect to that foreign country.

(C) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

SA 1284. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 103 and insert the following:

SEC. 103. TRADE AGREEMENTS AUTHORITY.

(a) AGREEMENTS REGARDING TARIFF BARRIERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the President determines that one or more existing duties or other import restrictions of any foreign country or the United States are unduly burdening and restricting the foreign trade of the United States and that the purposes, policies, priorities, and objectives of this title will be promoted thereby, the President—

(A) may enter into trade agreements with foreign countries before July 1, 2018; and

(B) may, subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), proclaim—

(i) such modification or continuance of any existing duty,

(ii) such continuance of existing duty free or excise treatment, or

(iii) such additional duties,

as the President determines to be required or appropriate to carry out any such trade agreement.

Substantial modifications to, or substantial additional provisions of, a trade agreement entered into after July 1, 2018, shall not be eligible for approval under this title.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—The President shall notify Congress of the President's intention to enter into an agreement under this subsection.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—No proclamation may be made under paragraph (1) that—

(A) reduces any rate of duty (other than a rate of duty that does not exceed 5 percent ad valorem on the date of the enactment of this Act) to a rate of duty which is less than 50 percent of the rate of such duty that applies on such date of enactment;

(B) reduces the rate of duty below that applicable under the Uruguay Round Agreements or a successor agreement, on any import sensitive agricultural product; or

(C) increases any rate of duty above the rate that applied on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) AGGREGATE REDUCTION; EXEMPTION FROM STAGING.—

(A) AGGREGATE REDUCTION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the aggregate reduction in the rate of duty on any article which is in effect on any day pursuant to a trade agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall not exceed the aggregate reduction which would have been in effect on such day if—

(i) a reduction of 3 percent ad valorem or a reduction of 1/10 of the total reduction, whichever is greater, had taken effect on the effective date of the first reduction proclaimed under paragraph (1) to carry out such agreement with respect to such article; and

(ii) a reduction equal to the amount applicable under clause (i) had taken effect at 1-year intervals after the effective date of such first reduction.

(B) EXEMPTION FROM STAGING.—No staging is required under subparagraph (A) with respect to a duty reduction that is proclaimed under paragraph (1) for an article of a kind that is not produced in the United States. The United States International Trade Commission shall advise the President of the identity of articles that may be exempted from staging under this subparagraph.

(5) ROUNDING.—If the President determines that such action will simplify the computation of reductions under paragraph (4), the President may round an annual reduction by an amount equal to the lesser of—

(A) the difference between the reduction without regard to this paragraph and the next lower whole number; or

(B) ½ of 1 percent ad valorem.

(6) OTHER LIMITATIONS.—A rate of duty reduction that may not be proclaimed by reason of paragraph (3) may take effect only if a provision authorizing such reduction is included within an implementing bill provided for under section 106 and that bill is enacted into law.

(7) OTHER TARIFF MODIFICATIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1)(B), (3)(A), (3)(C), and (4) through (6), and subject to the consultation and layover requirements of section 115 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3524), the President may proclaim the modification of any duty or staged rate reduction of any duty set forth in Schedule XX, as defined in section 2(5) of that Act (19 U.S.C. 3501(5)), if the United States agrees to such modification or staged rate reduction in a negotiation for the reciprocal elimination or harmonization of duties under the auspices of the World Trade Organization.

(8) AUTHORITY UNDER URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENTS ACT NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this subsection shall limit the authority provided to the President under section 111(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3521(b)).

(b) AGREEMENTS REGARDING TARIFF AND NONTARIFF BARRIERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—(A) If the President determines that—

(i) 1 or more existing duties or any other import restriction of any foreign country or the United States or any other barrier to, or other distortion of, international trade unduly burdens or restricts the foreign trade of the United States or adversely affects the United States economy, or

(ii) the imposition of any such barrier or distortion is likely to result in such a burden, restriction, or effect,

and that the purposes, policies, priorities, and objectives of this title will be promoted thereby, the President may enter into a trade agreement described in subparagraph (B) during the period described in subparagraph (C).

(B) The President may enter into a trade agreement under subparagraph (A) with foreign countries providing for—

(i) the reduction or elimination of a duty, restriction, barrier, or other distortion described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) the prohibition of, or limitation on the imposition of, such barrier or other distortion.

(C) The President may enter into a trade agreement under this paragraph before July 1, 2018.

Substantial modifications to, or substantial additional provisions of, a trade agreement entered into after July 1, 2018, shall not be eligible for approval under this title.

(2) CONDITIONS.—A trade agreement may be entered into under this subsection only if such agreement makes progress in meeting the applicable objectives described in subsections (a) and (b) of section 102 and the President satisfies the conditions set forth in sections 104 and 105.

(3) BILLS QUALIFYING FOR TRADE AUTHORITIES PROCEDURES.—(A) The provisions of section 151 of the Trade Act of 1974 (in this title referred to as ''trade authorities procedures'') apply to a bill of either House of Congress which contains provisions described in subparagraph (B) to the same extent as such section 151 applies to implementing bills under that section. A bill to which this paragraph applies shall hereafter in this title be referred to as an ''implementing bill''.

(B) The provisions referred to in subparagraph (A) are—

(i) a provision approving a trade agreement entered into under this subsection and approving the statement of administrative action, if any, proposed to implement such trade agreement; and

(ii) if changes in existing laws or new statutory authority are required to implement such trade agreement or agreements, only such provisions as are strictly necessary or appropriate to implement such trade agreement or agreements, either repealing or amending existing laws or providing new statutory authority.

(c) COMMENCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS.—In order to contribute to the continued economic expansion of the United States, the President shall commence negotiations covering tariff and nontariff barriers affecting any industry, product, or service sector, and expand existing sectoral agreements to countries that are not parties to those agreements, in cases where the President determines that such negotiations are feasible and timely and would benefit the United States. Such sectors include agriculture, commercial services, intellectual property rights, industrial and capital goods, government procurement, information technology products, environmental technology and services, medical equipment and services, civil aircraft, and infrastructure products. In so doing, the President shall take into account all of the negotiating objectives set forth in section 102.

SA 1285. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 107, add the following:

(c) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION ON AUTOMOBILE SUPPLY CHAINS.—The United States Trade Representative shall make available to all Members of Congress and their staff with proper security clearances upon request and in a timely and comprehensive manner—

(1) an analysis of the supply chains in each of the Trans-Pacific Partnership countries with respect to automobiles and the estimated impact that the rules of origin proposal with respect to automobiles by the United States for the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement will have on those supply chains; and

(2) a comparison of the rules of origin with respect to automobiles under the North American Free Trade Agreement to the rules of origin proposal with respect to automobiles by the United States for the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and an analysis of the effect of each of the rules on the supply chain in the United States with respect to automobiles.

SA 1286. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 107, add the following:

(c) REPORT BY SECRETARY OF LABOR ON LABOR LAWS OF TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall submit to Congress a report on the labor laws of the Trans-Pacific Partnership countries.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of whether the labor laws of each of the Trans-Pacific Partnership countries comply with the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

(B) If those laws are not in compliance with that agreement, a description of the steps each such country would be required to take to comply with the agreement during the following periods:

(i) Before the agreement is signed.

(ii) Before the agreement is implemented.

(iii) After the agreement takes effect.

(C) An assessment of the monitoring, investigatory, and enforcement mechanisms that each such country has in place to ensure continued compliance with the labor standards under that agreement.

SA 1287. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 112. REPORT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL ON COMPLIANCE WITH AND ENFORCEMENT OF LABOR PROVISIONS OF TRADE AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than every two years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on compliance by trading partners of the United States with, and enforcement by Federal agencies of, labor provisions of trade agreements to which the United States is a party.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall assess the status of the implementation by trading partners of the United States of labor provisions of trade agreements to which the United States is a party during the period covered by the report, including—

(1) a description of the steps that trading partners have taken, including any assistance provided by the United States to carry out those steps, to implement those provisions and any other labor initiatives, including the results of those steps;

(2) a description of any submission accepted by the Department of Labor regarding a possible violation of a labor provision of a trade agreement to which the United States is a party and any issues relating to the submission process in general, as determined by the Comptroller General; and

(3) an assessment of the extent to which Federal agencies monitor and enforce the implementation by trading partners of the United States of labor provisions of trade agreements to which the United States is a party and report the results of that monitoring and enforcement to Congress.

SA 1288. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 112. REPORT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL ON INVESTOR-STATE CASES BROUGHT AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) each case brought against the Government of the United States under investor-state dispute settlement procedures;

(2) the outcome of each such case; and

(3) the resources of the Government of the United States expended on each such case.

SA 1289. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 112. ANNUAL REPORT BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ON UNITED STATES IMPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to Congress and publish in the Federal Register a report on imports into the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall identify, for the year covered by the report, disaggregated by country of origin of the import—

(1) the industry sectors in the United States with the most imports;

(2) the industry sectors in the United States with the largest increase in imports as compared to the previous year; and

(3) the trade agreements, if any, under which imports described in paragraph (1) or (2) were imported into the United States and the impact of those imports on employment in the United States.

SA 1290. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 21, strike lines 5 through 14 and insert the following:

and interoperable standards, as appropriate; and

SA 1291. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 20, strike line 21 and insert the following:

practices; and

(vii) the prevention of conflicts of interest in the development of regulations;

SA 1292. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 19, line 24, insert '', including public and civil society stakeholders,'' after ''parties''.

SA 1293. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 16, strike lines 20 through 24 and insert the following:

(iii) recognizing that laws and rules that distinguish the availability, acquisition, scope, maintenance, use, and enforcement for medical products are not discriminatory and the legal rights of trading partners to implement safeguards for the protection of access to medicines and public health, in accordance with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (known as the ''TRIPS Agreement''), signed in Marrakesh, Morocco, on April 15, 1994;

SA 1294. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 16, line 12, strike ''United States'' and insert ''international''.

SA 1295. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, line 9, insert ''ensure that workers in the United States benefit equally from international trade,'' after ''United States,''.

SA 1296. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 13, strike line 23 and all that follows through page 14, line 2, and insert the following:

(D) establishing standards for expropriation that require compensation when a government seizes or appropriates an investment for its own use or the use of a third party but that do not require compensation when a government regulates an investment in a nondiscriminatory manner that does not transfer ownership or control of the investment;

SA 1297. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 104, strike subsection (d) and insert the following:

(d) CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC.—

(1) TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the United States Trade Representative shall make available to Members of Congress and the public, through means including publication on a publicly available Internet website, all formal proposals advanced by the United States in negotiations for a trade agreement pursuant to this title not later than 5 calendar days after the earliest of—

(i) the date on which the proposal is shared with another party to the negotiations;

(ii) the date on which the proposal is submitted to an advisory committee established under section 135 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155); or

(iii) the date on which the proposal is cleared through the interagency process established to approve official positions in trade negotiations.

(B) CLASSIFIED PROPOSALS SHARED WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—If text proposed by the United States Trade Representative to be included in a trade agreement is classified and is shared with any official of a foreign government, that text shall be declassified when the text is shared with that official and made available to Members of Congress and the public in accordance with subparagraph (A).

(C) EXCEPTIONS.—The Trade Representative shall not be required to make available under subparagraph (A)—

(i) any formal proposal advanced by the United States in negotiations for a trade agreement that is intended to be contained in the provisions of the agreement relating to market access for goods and relates to such market access; or

(ii) subject to subparagraph (B), any classified information that does not constitute a formal proposal advanced by the United States in negotiations for a trade agreement.

(D) FORMAL PROPOSAL DEFINED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term ''formal proposal advanced by the United States in negotiations for a trade agreement''—

(I) means any proposed language, position paper, summary of position, or other document that—

(aa) includes analysis or other language intended to inform negotiations for a trade agreement;

(bb) is offered or intended to be offered on behalf of the United States to any party to the negotiations; and

(cc) reflects the official position of the United States with respect to the negotiations; and

(II) includes any communication regarding the negotiations that is shared with other parties to the negotiations after being cleared through the interagency process established to approve official positions in trade negotiations or that is submitted to an advisory committee established under section 135 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155).

(ii) EXCLUSION.—The term ''formal proposal'' does not include any communication between negotiators or other officials participating in negotiations for a trade agreement that is not intended to reflect the official position of the United States, including any communication not cleared through the interagency process described in clause (i)(II).

(E) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of this paragraph apply with respect to negotiations for a trade agreement initiated on or after or pending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(ii) PENDING TRADE AGREEMENTS.—In the case of a trade agreement pending on the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall, not more than 30 calendar days after such date of enactment, make available to Members of Congress and the public all formal proposals that have been advanced by the United States in negotiations for that trade agreement in accordance with this paragraph.

(F) SHARING OF INFORMATION WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND STAFF.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent or otherwise limit the sharing of classified or unclassified information with Members of Congress and staff in accordance with subsections (a) and (b).

(2) GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the requirements of paragraph (1), the United States Trade Representative, in consultation with the chairmen and the ranking members of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, respectively—

(i) shall, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, develop written guidelines on public access to information regarding negotiations conducted under this title; and

(ii) may make such revisions to the guidelines as may be necessary from time to time.

(B) PURPOSES.—The guidelines developed under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) facilitate transparency;

(ii) encourage public participation; and

(iii) promote collaboration in the negotiation process.

(C) CONTENT.—The guidelines developed under subparagraph (A) shall include procedures that—

(i) provide for rapid disclosure of information in forms that the public can readily find and use; and

(ii) provide frequent opportunities for public input through Federal Register requests for comment and other means.

(D) DISSEMINATION.—The United States Trade Representative shall disseminate the guidelines developed under subparagraph (A) to all Federal agencies that could have jurisdiction over laws affected by trade negotiations.

SA 1298. Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—AGRICULTURAL EXPORT EXPANSION

SEC. 301. PRIVATE FINANCING OF SALES OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES TO CUBA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (other than section 908 of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7207), as amended by subsection (c)), a person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States may provide payment or financing terms for sales of agricultural commodities to Cuba or an individual or entity in Cuba.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term ''agricultural commodity'' has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

(2) FINANCING.—The term ''financing'' includes any loan or extension of credit.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 908 of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7207) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**AND FINANCING**'';

(2) by striking subsection (b);

(3) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''PROHIBITION'' and all that follows through ''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding'' and inserting ''IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding''; and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively, and by moving those subsections, as so redesignated, 2 ems to the left; and

(4) by striking ''paragraph (1)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (a)''.

SA 1299. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BURR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; as follows:

In section 102(b), strike paragraph (11) and insert the following:

(11) CURRENCY MANIPULATION.—The principal negotiating objective of the United States with respect to unfair currency exchange practices is to target protracted large-scale intervention in one direction in the exchange markets by a party to a trade agreement to gain an unfair competitive advantage in trade over other parties to the agreement, by establishing strong and enforceable rules against exchange rate manipulation that are subject to the same dispute settlement procedures and remedies as other enforceable obligations under the agreement and are consistent with existing principles and agreements of the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization. Nothing in the previous sentence shall be construed to restrict the exercise of domestic monetary policy.

SA 1300. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BURR, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF TEMPORARY DUTY SUSPENSIONS AND REDUCTIONS

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2015''.

SEC. 302. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE NEED FOR A MISCELLANEOUS TARIFF BILL.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) As of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States imposes duties on imported

goods for which there is no domestic availability or insufficient domestic availability.

(2) The imposition of duties on such goods creates artificial distortions in the economy of the United States that negatively affect United States manufacturers and consumers.

(3) It is in the interests of the United States to update the Harmonized Tariff Schedule every 3 years to eliminate such artificial distortions by suspending or reducing duties on such goods.

(4) The manufacturing competitiveness of the United States around the world will be enhanced if Congress regularly and predictably updates the Harmonized Tariff Schedule to suspend or reduce duties on such goods.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, to remove the competitive disadvantage to United States manufactures and consumers resulting from an outdated Harmonized Tariff Schedule and to promote the competitiveness of United States manufacturers, Congress should consider a miscellaneous tariff bill not later than 180 days after the United States International Trade Commission and the Department of Commerce issue reports on proposed duty suspensions and reductions under this title.

SEC. 303. PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF DUTY SUSPENSIONS AND REDUCTIONS.

(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to establish a process by the appropriate congressional committees, in conjunction with the Commission pursuant to its authorities under section 332 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332), for the submission and consideration of proposed duty suspensions and reductions.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than October 15, 2015, and October 15, 2018, the appropriate congressional committees shall establish and, on the same day, publish on their respective publicly available Internet websites a process—

(1) to provide for the submission and consideration of legislation containing proposed duty suspensions and reductions in a manner that, to the maximum extent practicable, is consistent with the requirements described in subsection (c); and

(2) to include in a miscellaneous tariff bill those duty suspensions and reductions that meet the requirements of this title.

(c) REQUIREMENTS OF COMMISSION.—

(1) INITIATION.—Not later than October 15, 2015, and October 15, 2018, the Commission shall publish in the Federal Register and on a publicly available Internet website of the Commission a notice requesting members of the public to submit to the Commission during the 60-day period beginning on the date of such publication—

(A) proposed duty suspensions and reductions; and

(B) Commission disclosure forms with respect to such duty suspensions and reductions.

(2) REVIEW.—

(A) COMMISSION SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—As soon as practicable after the expiration of the 60-day period specified in paragraph (1), but not later than 15 days after the expiration of such 60-day period, the Commission shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the proposed duty suspensions and reductions submitted under paragraph (1)(A) and the Commission disclosure forms with respect to such duty suspensions and reductions submitted under paragraph (1)(B).

(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED DUTY SUSPENSIONS AND REDUCTIONS.—Not later than 15 days after the expiration of the 60-day period specified in paragraph (1), the Commission shall publish on a publicly available Internet website of the Commission the proposed duty suspensions and reductions submitted under paragraph (1)(A) and the Commission disclosure forms with respect to such duty suspensions and reductions submitted under paragraph (1)(B).

(C) COMMISSION REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of publication of the proposed duty suspensions and reductions under subparagraph (B), the Commission shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on each proposed duty suspension or reduction submitted pursuant to subsection (b)(1) or paragraph (1)(A) that contains the following information:

(i) A determination of whether or not domestic production of the article that is the subject of the proposed duty suspension or reduction exists and, if such production exists, whether or not a domestic producer of the article objects to the proposed duty suspension or reduction.

(ii) Any technical changes to the article description that are necessary for purposes of administration when articles are presented for importation.

(iii) The amount of tariff revenue that would no longer be collected if the proposed duty suspension or reduction takes effect.

(iv) A determination of whether or not the proposed duty suspension or reduction is available to any person that imports the article that is the subject of the proposed duty suspension or reduction.

(3) PROCEDURES.—The Commission shall prescribe and publish on a publicly available Internet website of the Commission procedures for complying with the requirements of this subsection.

(4) AUTHORITIES DESCRIBED.—The Commission shall carry out this subsection pursuant to its authorities under section 332 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332).

(d) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of publication of the proposed duty suspensions and reductions under subsection (c)(2)(B), the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on each proposed duty suspension and reduction submitted pursuant to subsection (b)(1) or (c)(1)(A) that includes the following information:

(1) A determination of whether or not domestic production of the article that is the subject of the proposed duty suspension or reduction exists and, if such production exists, whether or not a domestic producer of the article objects to the proposed duty suspension or reduction.

(2) Any technical changes to the article description that are necessary for purposes of administration when articles are presented for importation.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—A proposed duty suspension or reduction submitted under this section by a Member of Congress shall receive treatment no more favorable than the treatment received by a proposed duty suspension or reduction submitted under this section by a member of the public.

SEC. 304. REPORT ON EFFECTS OF DUTY SUSPENSIONS AND REDUCTIONS ON UNITED STATES ECONOMY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than May 1, 2018, and May 1, 2020, the Commission shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effects on the United States economy of temporary duty suspensions and reductions enacted pursuant to this title, including a broad assessment of the economic effects of such duty suspensions and reductions on producers, purchasers, and consumers in the United States, using case studies describing such effects on selected industries or by type of article as available data permit.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Commission shall also solicit and append to the report required under subsection (a) recommendations with respect to those domestic industry sectors or specific domestic industries that might benefit from permanent duty suspensions and reductions or elimination of duties, either through a unilateral action of the United States or though negotiations for reciprocal tariff agreements, with a particular focus on inequities created by tariff inversions.

(c) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by this section shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 305. JUDICIAL REVIEW PRECLUDED.

The exercise of functions under this title shall not be subject to judicial review.

SEC. 306. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the United States International Trade Commission.

(3) COMMISSION DISCLOSURE FORM.—The term ''Commission disclosure form'' means, with respect to a proposed duty suspension or reduction, a document submitted by a member of the public to the Commission that contains the following:

(A) The contact information for any known importers of the article to which the proposed duty suspension or reduction would apply.

(B) A certification by the member of the public that the proposed duty suspension or reduction is available to any person importing the article to which the proposed duty suspension or reduction would apply.

(4) DOMESTIC PRODUCER.—The term ''domestic producer'' means a person that demonstrates production, or imminent production, in the United States of an article that is identical to, or like or directly competitive with, an article to which a proposed duty suspension or reduction would apply.

(5) DUTY SUSPENSION OR REDUCTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''duty suspension or reduction'' means an amendment to subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States that—

(i)(I) extends an existing temporary duty suspension or reduction of duty on an article under that subchapter; or

(II) provides for a new temporary duty suspension or reduction of duty on an article under that subchapter; and

(ii) otherwise meets the requirements described in subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—A duty suspension or reduction meets the requirements described in this subparagraph if—

(i) the duty suspension or reduction can be administered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

(ii) the estimated loss in revenue to the United States from the duty suspension or reduction does not exceed $500,000 in a calendar year during which the duty suspension or reduction would be in effect, as determined by the Congressional Budget Office; and

(iii) the duty suspension or reduction is available to any person importing the article that is the subject of the duty suspension or reduction.

(6) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—The term ''Member of Congress'' means a Senator or a Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, Congress.

(7) MISCELLANEOUS TARIFF BILL.—The term ''miscellaneous tariff bill'' means a bill of either House of Congress that contains only—

(A) duty suspensions and reductions that—

(i) meet the applicable requirements for—

(I) consideration of duty suspensions and reductions described in section 303; or

(II) any other process required under the Rules of the House of Representatives or the Senate; and

(ii) are not the subject of an objection because such duty suspensions and reductions do not comply with the requirements of this title from—

(I) a Member of Congress; or

(II) a domestic producer, as contained in comments submitted to the appropriate congressional committees, the Commission, or the Department of Commerce under section 303; and

(B) provisions included in bills introduced in the House of Representatives or the Senate pursuant to a process described in subparagraph (A)(i)(II) that correct an error in the text or administration of a provision of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

SA 1301. Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 203(c) and insert the following:

(c) REEMPLOYMENT TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.—Section 246 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2318) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(B)(ii), by striking ''$50,000'' and inserting ''$55,000''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''December 31, 2013'' and inserting ''June 30, 2021''.

SA 1302. Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. RESTORATION OF BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS INTERNATIONAL PRICE PROGRAM EXPORT PRICE INDICES.

The Secretary of Commerce shall restore the activities of the Bureau of Labor Statistics International Price Program relating to export price indices.

SA 1303. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 103 and insert the following:

SEC. 103. TRADE AGREEMENTS AUTHORITY.

(a) AGREEMENTS REGARDING TARIFF BARRIERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the President determines that one or more existing duties or other import restrictions of any foreign country or the United States are unduly burdening and restricting the foreign trade of the United States and that the purposes, policies, priorities, and objectives of this Act will be promoted thereby, the President—

(A) may enter into trade agreements with foreign countries before January 19, 2017; and

(B) may, subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), proclaim—

(i) such modification or continuance of any existing duty,

(ii) such continuance of existing duty free or excise treatment, or

(iii) such additional duties,

as the President determines to be required or appropriate to carry out any such trade agreement.

Substantial modifications to, or substantial additional provisions of, a trade agreement entered into after January 19, 2017, shall not be eligible for approval under this Act.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—The President shall notify Congress of the President's intention to enter into an agreement under this subsection.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—No proclamation may be made under paragraph (1) that—

(A) reduces any rate of duty (other than a rate of duty that does not exceed 5 percent ad valorem on the date of the enactment of this Act) to a rate of duty which is less than 50 percent of the rate of such duty that applies on such date of enactment;

(B) reduces the rate of duty below that applicable under the Uruguay Round Agreements or a successor agreement, on any import sensitive agricultural product; or

(C) increases any rate of duty above the rate that applied on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) AGGREGATE REDUCTION; EXEMPTION FROM STAGING.—

(A) AGGREGATE REDUCTION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the aggregate reduction in the rate of duty on any article which is in effect on any day pursuant to a trade agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall not exceed the aggregate reduction which would have been in effect on such day if—

(i) a reduction of 3 percent ad valorem or a reduction of 1/10 of the total reduction, whichever is greater, had taken effect on the effective date of the first reduction proclaimed under paragraph (1) to carry out such agreement with respect to such article; and

(ii) a reduction equal to the amount applicable under clause (i) had taken effect at 1-year intervals after the effective date of such first reduction.

(B) EXEMPTION FROM STAGING.—No staging is required under subparagraph (A) with respect to a duty reduction that is proclaimed under paragraph (1) for an article of a kind that is not produced in the United States. The United States International Trade Commission shall advise the President of the identity of articles that may be exempted from staging under this subparagraph.

(5) ROUNDING.—If the President determines that such action will simplify the computation of reductions under paragraph (4), the President may round an annual reduction by an amount equal to the lesser of—

(A) the difference between the reduction without regard to this paragraph and the next lower whole number; or

(B) 1/2 of 1 percent ad valorem.

(6) OTHER LIMITATIONS.—A rate of duty reduction that may not be proclaimed by reason of paragraph (3) may take effect only if a provision authorizing such reduction is included within an implementing bill provided for under section 6 and that bill is enacted into law.

(7) OTHER TARIFF MODIFICATIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1)(B), (3)(A), (3)(C), and (4) through (6), and subject to the consultation and layover requirements of section 115 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3524), the President may proclaim the modification of any duty or staged rate reduction of any duty set forth in Schedule XX, as defined in section 2(5) of that Act (19 U.S.C. 3501(5)), if the United States agrees to such modification or staged rate reduction in a negotiation for the reciprocal elimination or harmonization of duties under the auspices of the World Trade Organization.

(8) AUTHORITY UNDER URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENTS ACT NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this subsection shall limit the authority provided to the President under section 111(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3521(b)).

(b) AGREEMENTS REGARDING TARIFF AND NONTARIFF BARRIERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—(A) Whenever the President determines that—

(i) 1 or more existing duties or any other import restriction of any foreign country or the United States or any other barrier to, or other distortion of, international trade unduly burdens or restricts the foreign trade of the United States or adversely affects the United States economy, or

(ii) the imposition of any such barrier or distortion is likely to result in such a burden, restriction, or effect,

and that the purposes, policies, priorities, and objectives of this Act will be promoted thereby, the President may enter into a trade agreement described in subparagraph (B) during the period described in subparagraph (C).

(B) The President may enter into a trade agreement under subparagraph (A) with foreign countries providing for—

(i) the reduction or elimination of a duty, restriction, barrier, or other distortion described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) the prohibition of, or limitation on the imposition of, such barrier or other distortion.

(C) The President may enter into a trade agreement under this paragraph before January 19, 2017.

Substantial modifications to, or substantial additional provisions of, a trade agreement entered into after January 19, 2017, shall not be eligible for approval under this Act.

(2) CONDITIONS.—A trade agreement may be entered into under this subsection only if such agreement makes progress in meeting the applicable objectives described in subsections (a) and (b) of section 2 and the President satisfies the conditions set forth in sections 4 and 5.

(3) BILLS QUALIFYING FOR TRADE AUTHORITIES PROCEDURES.—(A) The provisions of section 151 of the Trade Act of 1974 (in this Act referred to as ''trade authorities procedures'') apply to a bill of either House of Congress which contains provisions described in subparagraph (B) to the same extent as such section 151 applies to implementing bills under that section. A bill to which this paragraph applies shall hereafter in this Act be referred to as an ''implementing bill''.

(B) The provisions referred to in subparagraph (A) are—

(i) a provision approving a trade agreement entered into under this subsection and approving the statement of administrative action, if any, proposed to implement such trade agreement; and

(ii) if changes in existing laws or new statutory authority are required to implement

such trade agreement or agreements, only such provisions as are strictly necessary or appropriate to implement such trade agreement or agreements, either repealing or amending existing laws or providing new statutory authority.

(c) COMMENCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS.—In order to contribute to the continued economic expansion of the United States, the President shall commence negotiations covering tariff and nontariff barriers affecting any industry, product, or service sector, and expand existing sectoral agreements to countries that are not parties to those agreements, in cases where the President determines that such negotiations are feasible and timely and would benefit the United States. Such sectors include agriculture, commercial services, intellectual property rights, industrial and capital goods, government procurement, information technology products, environmental technology and services, medical equipment and services, civil aircraft, and infrastructure products. In so doing, the President shall take into account all of the negotiating objectives set forth in section 2.

SA 1304. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 103, add the following:

(e) TERMINATION OF TRADE AGREEMENTS AUTHORITY IF AN AGREEMENT INCREASES THE TRADE DEFICIT.—The authority to enter into trade agreements under this section shall terminate on the date on which the Secretary of Commerce determines that the United States annual bilateral trade deficit with any country that is a party to a trade agreement entered into under this section after the date of the enactment of this Act increases by more than 10 percent after that agreement enters into force.

SA 1305. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 103, add the following:

(e) TERMINATION OF TRADE AGREEMENTS AUTHORITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF LABOR COMMITMENTS.—The authority to enter into trade agreements under this section shall terminate if—

(1) the Secretary of Labor receives a submission from an organization alleging that a country that is a party to a trade agreement entered into under this section is not fulfilling its labor commitments under that agreement; and

(2) the Secretary does not issue, by the date that is one year after the date on which the Secretary receives that submission, a publicly available report that—

(A) summarizes the investigation of the Secretary with respect to the allegations in the submission; and

(B) sets forth any findings and recommendations of the Secretary based on that investigation, including any recommendation that the United States request consultations with that country under the agreement.

SA 1306. Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. CONTINUED OPERATION OF BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS MASS LAYOFF STATISTICS PROGRAM.

The Secretary of Commerce shall ensure that the Bureau of Labor Statistics Mass Layoff Statistics program, including the collection of data on plant closings, receives funding sufficient to ensure that the program continues operating.

SA 1307. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 65, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

(g) COMMUNICATIONS OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES MADE PUBLIC.—The President shall ensure that any communications made by an advisory committee established under section 135 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155) with respect to negotiations under this title are made available to the public if more than 50 percent of the members of the advisory committee represent industry interests, as determined by the United States Trade Representative.

SA 1308. Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 102(b), add the following:

(21) PROTECTING CLEAN AIR, WATER, AND FOOD.—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to clean air, clean water, and food safety are to preserve the rights of all governments to regulate and enact laws providing for public health and environmental protections and to ensure the rights of all governments to exercise any legal rights or safeguards, including under any existing law or regulation, to protect and provide clean air, clean water, and safe food without the threat of trade-related penalties.

SA 1309. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 102(a), add the following:

''(13) to ensure that trade policies and trade agreements contribute to the reduction of poverty and the elimination of hunger.''.

SA 1310. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 301. ENFORCEMENT UNDER TITLE III OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN ACTS, POLICIES, AND PRACTICES RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

Section 301(d)(3)(B) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2411(d)(3)(B)) is amended—

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

(2) in clause (iii)(V), by striking the period at the end and inserting '', or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) constitutes a persistent pattern of conduct by the government of the foreign country under which that government—

''(I) fails to effectively enforce the environmental laws of the foreign country,

''(II) waives or otherwise derogates from the environmental laws of the foreign country or weakens the protections afforded by such laws,

''(III) fails to provide for judicial or administrative proceedings giving access to remedies for violations of the environmental laws of the foreign country,

''(IV) fails to provide appropriate and effective sanctions or remedies for violations of the environmental laws of the foreign country, or

''(V) fails to effectively enforce environmental commitments under agreements to which the foreign country and the United States are a party.''.

SA 1311. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—ENGAGEMENT ON CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE AND ECONOMIC POLICIES

SEC. 311. ENHANCEMENT OF ENGAGEMENT ON CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE AND ECONOMIC POLICIES WITH CERTAIN MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) MAJOR TRADING PARTNER REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary shall submit

to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the macroeconomic and currency exchange rate policies of each country that is a major trading partner of the United States.

(2) ELEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall contain—

(i) for each country that is a major trading partner of the United States—

(I) that country's bilateral trade balance with the United States;

(II) that country's current account balance as a percentage of its gross domestic product;

(III) the change in that country's current account balance as a percentage of its gross domestic product during the 3-year period preceding the submission of the report;

(IV) that country's foreign exchange reserves as a percentage of its short-term debt; and

(V) that country's foreign exchange reserves as a percentage of its gross domestic product; and

(ii) an enhanced analysis of macroeconomic and exchange rate policies for each country—

(I) that is a major trading partner of the United States;

(II) the currency of which is persistently and substantially undervalued;

(III) that has—

(aa) a significant bilateral trade surplus with the United States; and

(bb) a material global current account surplus; and

(IV) that has engaged in persistent one-sided intervention in the foreign exchange market.

(B) ENHANCED ANALYSIS.—Each enhanced analysis under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall include, for each country with respect to which an analysis is made under that subparagraph—

(i) a description of developments in the currency markets of that country, including, to the greatest extent feasible, developments with respect to currency interventions;

(ii) a description of trends in the real effective exchange rate of the currency of that country and in the degree of undervaluation of that currency;

(iii) an analysis of changes in the capital controls and trade restrictions of that country; and

(iv) patterns in the reserve accumulation of that country.

(b) ENGAGEMENT ON EXCHANGE RATE AND ECONOMIC POLICIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the President, through the Secretary, shall commence enhanced bilateral engagement with each country for which an enhanced analysis of macroeconomic and currency exchange rate policies is included in the report submitted under subsection (a), in order to—

(A) urge implementation of policies to address the causes of the undervaluation of its currency, its bilateral trade surplus with the United States, and its material global current account surplus, including undervaluation and surpluses relating to exchange rate management;

(B) express the concern of the United States with respect to the adverse trade and economic effects of that undervaluation and those surpluses;

(C) develop measureable objectives for addressing that undervaluation and those surpluses; and

(D) advise that country of the ability of the President to take action under subsection (c).

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may determine not to enhance bilateral engagement with a country under paragraph (1) for which an enhanced analysis of macroeconomic and exchange rate policies is included in the report submitted under subsection (a) if the Secretary submits to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes how the currency and other macroeconomic policies of that country are addressing the undervaluation and surpluses specified in paragraph (1)(A) with respect to that country, including undervaluation and surpluses relating to exchange rate management.

(c) REMEDIAL ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If, on the date that is one year after the commencement of enhanced bilateral engagement by the President with respect to a country under subsection (b)(1), the country has failed to adopt appropriate policies to correct the undervaluation and surpluses described in subsection (b)(1)(A) with respect to that country, the President may take one or more of the following actions:

(A) Prohibit the Overseas Private Investment Corporation from approving any new financing (including any insurance, reinsurance, or guarantee) with respect to a project located in that country on and after such date.

(B) Except as provided in paragraph (2), and pursuant to paragraph (3), prohibit the Federal Government from procuring, or entering into any contract for the procurement of, goods or services from that country on and after such date.

(C) Instruct the United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund to use the voice and vote of the United States to call for additional rigorous surveillance of the macroeconomic and exchange rate policies of that country and, as appropriate, formal consultations on findings of currency manipulation.

(D) Instruct the United States Trade Representative to take into account, in consultation with the Secretary, in assessing whether to enter into a bilateral or regional trade agreement with that country or to initiate or participate in negotiations with respect to a bilateral or regional trade agreement with that country, the extent to which that country has failed to adopt appropriate policies to correct the undervaluation and surpluses described in subsection (b)(1)(A).

(2) EXCEPTION.—The President may not apply a prohibition under paragraph (1)(B) with respect to a country that is a party to the Agreement on Government Procurement or a free trade agreement to which the United States is a party.

(3) CONSULTATIONS.—

(A) OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.—Before applying a prohibition under paragraph (1)(B), the President shall consult with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to determine whether such prohibition would subject the taxpayers of the United States to unreasonable cost.

(B) CONGRESS.—The President shall consult with the appropriate committees of Congress with respect to any action the President takes under paragraph (1)(B), including whether the President has consulted as required under subparagraph (A).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGREEMENT ON GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT.—The term ''Agreement on Government Procurement'' means the agreement referred to in section 101(d)(17) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(17)).

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(3) COUNTRY.—The term ''country'' means a foreign country, dependent territory, or possession of a foreign country, and may include an association of 2 or more foreign countries, dependent territories, or possessions of countries into a customs union outside the United States.

(4) REAL EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATE.—The term ''real effective exchange rate'' means a weighted average of bilateral exchange rates, expressed in price-adjusted terms.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 312. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE RATE POLICY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established an Advisory Committee on International Exchange Rate Policy (in this section referred to as the ''Committee'').

(2) DUTIES.—The Committee shall be responsible for advising the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the impact of international exchange rates and financial policies on the economy of the United States.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed of 9 members as follows, none of whom shall be employees of the Federal Government:

(A) Three members shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, upon the recommendation of the chairmen and ranking members of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

(B) Three members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon the recommendation of the chairmen and ranking members of the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

(C) Three members shall be appointed by the President.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members shall be selected under paragraph (1) on the basis of their objectivity and demonstrated expertise in finance, economics, or currency exchange.

(3) TERMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Members shall be appointed for a term of 2 years or until the Committee terminates.

(B) REAPPOINTMENT.—A member may be reappointed to the Committee for additional terms.

(4) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Committee shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(c) DURATION OF COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall terminate on the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act unless renewed by the President for a subsequent 2-year period.

(2) CONTINUED RENEWAL.—The President may continue to renew the Committee for successive 2-year periods by taking appropriate action to renew the Committee prior to the date on which the Committee would otherwise terminate.

(d) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall hold not less than 2 meetings each calendar year.

(e) CHAIRPERSON.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall elect from among its members a chairperson for a term of 2 years or until the Committee terminates.

(2) REELECTION; SUBSEQUENT TERMS.—A chairperson of the Committee may be reelected chairperson but is ineligible to serve consecutive terms as chairperson.

(f) STAFF.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall make available to the Committee such

staff, information, personnel, administrative services, and assistance as the Committee may reasonably require to carry out the activities of the Committee.

(g) APPLICATION OF THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the Committee.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Meetings of the Committee shall be exempt from the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of section 10 and section 11 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (relating to open meetings, public notice, public participation, and public availability of documents), whenever and to the extent it is determined by the President or the Secretary of the Treasury that such meetings will be concerned with matters the disclosure of which—

(A) would seriously compromise the development by the Government of the United States of monetary or financial policy; or

(B) is likely to—

(i) lead to significant financial speculation in currencies, securities, or commodities; or

(ii) significantly endanger the stability of any financial institution.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Treasury for each fiscal year in which the Committee is in effect $1,000,000 to carry out this section.

SA 1312. Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

(a) PLAN REQUIREMENTS AND REPORTING.—Section 116 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3723) is amended by striking subsections (b) and (c) and inserting the following:

''(b) PLAN REQUIREMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall develop a plan for the purpose of negotiating and entering into one or more free trade agreements with all sub-Saharan African countries and ranking countries or groups of countries in order of readiness.

''(2) ELEMENTS OF PLAN.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall include, for each sub-Saharan African country, the following:

''(A) The steps such sub-Saharan African country needs to be equipped and ready to enter into a free trade agreement with the United States, including the development of a bilateral investment treaty.

''(B) Milestones for accomplishing each step identified in (A) for each sub-Saharan African country, with the goal of establishing a free trade agreement with each sub-Saharan African country not later than 10 years after the date of the enactment of the Trade Act of 2015.

''(C) A description of the resources required to assist each sub-Saharan African country in accomplishing each milestone described in subparagraph (B).

''(D) The extent to which steps described in subparagraph (A), the milestones described in subparagraph (B), and resources described in subparagraph (C) may be accomplished through regional or subregional organizations in sub-Saharan Africa, including the East African Community, the Economic Community of West African States, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Economic Community of Central African States.

''(E) Procedures to ensure the following:

''(i) Adequate consultation with Congress and the private sector during the negotiations.

''(ii) Consultation with Congress regarding all matters relating to implementation of the agreement or agreements.

''(iii) Approval by Congress of the agreement or agreements.

''(iv) Adequate consultations with the relevant African governments and African regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations during the negotiation of the agreement or agreements.

''(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of the Trade Act of 2015, the President shall prepare and transmit to Congress a report containing the plan developed pursuant to subsection (b).''.

(b) ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—Section 104(a)(1) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3703(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (F), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

''(G) a free trade agreement with the United States, in accordance with section 116(b);''.

(c) MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE COMPACTS.—After the date of the enactment of this Act, the United States Trade Representative and Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall consult and coordinate with the Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation regarding countries that have entered into a Millennium Challenge Compact pursuant to section 609 of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7708) that have been declared eligible to enter into such a Compact for the purpose of developing and carrying out the plan required by subsection (b) of section 116 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3723), as amended by subsection (a).

(d) COORDINATION OF USAID WITH FREE TRADE AGREEMENT POLICY.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS.—Funds made available to the United States Agency for International Development under section 496 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2293) may be used in consultation with the United States Trade Representative—

(A) to carry out subsection (b) of section 116 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3723), as amended by subsection (a), including for the deployment of resources in individual eligible countries to assist such country in the development of institutional capacities to carry out such subsection (b); and

(B) to coordinate the efforts of the United States to establish free trade agreements in accordance with the policy set out in subsection (a) of such section 116.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term ''eligible country'' means a sub-Saharan African country that receives—

(i) benefits under for the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.); and

(ii) funding from the United States Agency for International Development.

(B) SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY.—The term ''sub-Saharan African country'' has the meaning given that term in section 107 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3706).

SA 1313. Mr. COATS (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, insert the following:

SEC. 112. OFFICIAL DEDICATED TO HEALTH CARE ISSUES IN THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Health care accounts for almost $6,000,000,000,000 of the global economy and is expected to grow even more in the years ahead.

(2) The United States is the global leader in the health sector, including pharmaceuticals, medical devices, health information technology systems, insurance, and health care delivery.

(3) By some estimates, the health sector is the largest private sector employer in the United States.

(4) Because of the size and complexity of the health sector, a dedicated health official is needed in the Office of the United States Trade Representative to coordinate policy on health care-related trade issues with industry, health care workers, other offices within the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and other Federal agencies, as well as to promote United States health exports.

(b) OFFICIAL DEDICATED TO HEALTH CARE ISSUES IN THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE.—Section 141 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2171) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) OFFICIAL DEDICATED TO HEALTH CARE ISSUES.—The United States Trade Representative shall ensure that there is within the Office of the United States Trade Representative an official dedicated to health care issues. That official shall be responsible for coordinating policy on health care-related trade issues with industry, health care workers, other offices within the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and other Federal agencies, and for promoting United States health exports.''.

SA 1314. Mr. COATS (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. ELIMINATION OF TARIFFS ON CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL DEVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 85 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new subheading, with the article description for subheading 8543.70.94 having the same degree of indentation as the article description for subheading 8543.70.92:

''	8543.70.94	Electronic educational devices designed or intended primarily for children	Free	35%	''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 1315. Mr. BLUNT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—EVASION OF ANTIDUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY ORDERS

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Enforcing Orders and Reducing Customs Evasion Act of 2015''.

SEC. 302. PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATING CLAIMS OF EVASION OF ANTIDUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY ORDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Tariff Act of 1930 is amended by inserting after section 516A (19 U.S.C. 1516a) the following:

''SEC. 517. PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATING CLAIMS OF EVASION OF ANTIDUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY ORDERS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY.—The term 'administering authority' has the meaning given that term in section 771(1).

''(2) COMMISSIONER.—The term 'Commissioner' means the Commissioner responsible for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, acting pursuant to the delegation by the Secretary of the Treasury of the authority of the Secretary with respect to customs revenue functions (as defined in section 415 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 215)).

''(3) COVERED MERCHANDISE.—The term 'covered merchandise' means merchandise that is subject to—

''(A) an antidumping duty order issued under section 736;

''(B) a finding issued under the Antidumping Act, 1921; or

''(C) a countervailing duty order issued under section 706.

''(4) ENTER; ENTRY.—The terms 'enter' and 'entry' refer to the entry, or withdrawal from warehouse for consumption, of merchandise in the customs territory of the United States.

''(5) EVASION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'evasion' refers to entering covered merchandise into the customs territory of the United States by means of any document or electronically transmitted data or information, written or oral statement, or act that is material and false, or any omission that is material, and that results in any cash deposit or other security or any amount of applicable antidumping or countervailing duties being reduced or not being applied with respect to the merchandise.

''(B) EXCEPTION FOR CLERICAL ERROR.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the term 'evasion' does not include entering covered merchandise into the customs territory of the United States by means of—

''(I) a document or electronically transmitted data or information, written or oral statement, or act that is false as a result of a clerical error; or

''(II) an omission that results from a clerical error.

''(ii) PATTERNS OF NEGLIGENT CONDUCT.—If the Commissioner determines that a person has entered covered merchandise into the customs territory of the United States by means of a clerical error referred to in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i) and that the clerical error is part of a pattern of negligent conduct on the part of that person, the Commissioner may determine, notwithstanding clause (i), that the person has entered such covered merchandise into the customs territory of the United States through evasion.

''(iii) ELECTRONIC REPETITION OF ERRORS.—For purposes of clause (ii), the mere nonintentional repetition by an electronic system of an initial clerical error does not constitute a pattern of negligent conduct.

''(iv) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—A determination by the Commissioner that a person has entered covered merchandise into the customs territory of the United States by means of a clerical error referred to in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i) rather than through evasion shall not be construed to excuse that person from the payment of any duties applicable to the merchandise.

''(6) INTERESTED PARTY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'interested party' means—

''(i) a manufacturer, producer, or wholesaler in the United States of a domestic like product;

''(ii) a certified union or recognized union or group of workers that is representative of an industry engaged in the manufacture, production, or wholesale in the United States of a domestic like product;

''(iii) a trade or business association a majority of whose members manufacture, produce, or wholesale a domestic like product in the United States;

''(iv) an association, a majority of whose members is composed of interested parties described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) with respect to a domestic like product; and

''(v) if the covered merchandise is a processed agricultural product, as defined in section 771(4)(E), a coalition or trade association that is representative of either—

''(I) processors;

''(II) processors and producers; or

''(III) processors and growers,

but this clause shall cease to have effect if the United States Trade Representative notifies the administering authority and the Commission that the application of this clause is inconsistent with the international obligations of the United States.

''(B) DOMESTIC LIKE PRODUCT.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'domestic like product' means a product that is like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, covered merchandise.

''(b) INVESTIGATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 business days after receiving an allegation described in paragraph (2) or a referral described in paragraph (3), the Commissioner shall initiate an investigation if the Commissioner determines that the information provided in the allegation or the referral, as the case may be, reasonably suggests that covered merchandise has been entered into the customs territory of the United States through evasion.

''(2) ALLEGATION DESCRIBED.—An allegation described in this paragraph is an allegation that a person has entered covered merchandise into the customs territory of the United States through evasion that is—

''(A) filed with the Commissioner by an interested party; and

''(B) accompanied by information reasonably available to the party that filed the allegation.

''(3) REFERRAL DESCRIBED.—A referral described in this paragraph is information submitted to the Commissioner by any other Federal agency, including the Department of Commerce or the United States International Trade Commission, that reasonably suggests that a person has entered covered merchandise into the customs territory of the United States through evasion.

''(4) CONSOLIDATION OF ALLEGATIONS AND REFERRALS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner may consolidate multiple allegations described in paragraph (2) and referrals described in paragraph (3) into a single investigation if the Commissioner determines it is appropriate to do so.

''(B) EFFECT ON TIMING REQUIREMENTS.—If the Commissioner consolidates multiple allegations or referrals into a single investigation under subparagraph (A), the date on which the Commissioner receives the first such allegation or referral shall be used for purposes of the requirement under paragraph (1) with respect to the timing of the initiation of the investigation.

''(5) INFORMATION-SHARING TO PROTECT HEALTH AND SAFETY.—If, during the course of conducting an investigation under paragraph (1) with respect to covered merchandise, the Commissioner has reason to suspect that such covered merchandise may pose a health or safety risk to consumers, the Commissioner shall provide, as appropriate, information to the appropriate Federal agencies for purposes of mitigating the risk.

''(6) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon request, the Commissioner shall provide technical assistance and advice to eligible small businesses to enable such businesses to prepare and submit allegations described in paragraph (2), except that the Commissioner may deny assistance if the Commissioner concludes that the allegation, if submitted, would not lead to the initiation of an investigation under this subsection or any other action to address the allegation.

''(B) ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESS DEFINED.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term 'eligible small business' means any business concern that the Commissioner determines, due to its small size, has neither adequate internal resources nor the financial ability to obtain qualified outside assistance in preparing and filing allegations described in paragraph (2).

''(ii) NON-REVIEWABILITY.—The determination of the Commissioner regarding whether a business concern is an eligible small business for purposes of this paragraph is not reviewable by any other agency or by any court.

''(c) DETERMINATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 calendar days after the date on which the Commissioner initiates an investigation under subsection (b) with respect to covered merchandise, the Commissioner shall make a determination, based on substantial evidence, with respect to whether such covered merchandise was entered into the customs territory of the United States through evasion.

''(2) AUTHORITY TO COLLECT AND VERIFY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—In making a determination under paragraph (1) with respect to covered merchandise, the Commissioner may collect such additional information as is necessary to make the determination through such methods as the Commissioner considers appropriate, including by—

''(A) issuing a questionnaire with respect to such covered merchandise to—

''(i) an interested party that filed an allegation under paragraph (2) of subsection (b) that resulted in the initiation of an investigation under paragraph (1) of that subsection with respect to such covered merchandise;

''(ii) a person alleged to have entered such covered merchandise into the customs territory of the United States through evasion;

''(iii) a person that is a foreign producer or exporter of such covered merchandise; or

''(iv) the government of a country from which such covered merchandise was exported; and

''(B) conducting verifications, including on-site verifications, of any relevant information.

''(3) ADVERSE INFERENCE.—If the Commissioner finds that a party or person described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of paragraph (2)(A) has failed to cooperate by not acting to the best of the party or person's ability to comply with a request for information, the Commissioner may, in making a determination under paragraph (1), use an inference that is adverse to the interests of that party or person in selecting from among the facts otherwise available to make the determination.

''(4) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 5 business days after making a determination under paragraph (1) with respect to covered merchandise, the Commissioner—

''(A) shall provide to each interested party that filed an allegation under paragraph (2) of subsection (b) that resulted in the initiation of an investigation under paragraph (1) of that subsection with respect to such covered merchandise a notification of the determination and may, in addition, include an explanation of the basis for the determination; and

''(B) may provide to importers, in such manner as the Commissioner determines appropriate, information discovered in the investigation that the Commissioner determines will help educate importers with respect to importing merchandise into the customs territory of the United States in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

''(d) EFFECT OF DETERMINATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Commissioner makes a determination under subsection (c) that covered merchandise was entered into the customs territory of the United States through evasion, the Commissioner shall—

''(A)(i) suspend the liquidation of unliquidated entries of such covered merchandise that are subject to the determination and that enter on or after the date of the initiation of the investigation under subsection (b) with respect to such covered merchandise and on or before the date of the determination; or

''(ii) if the Commissioner has already suspended the liquidation of such entries pursuant to subsection (e)(1), continue to suspend the liquidation of such entries;

''(B) pursuant to the Commissioner's authority under section 504(b)—

''(i) extend the period for liquidating unliquidated entries of such covered merchandise that are subject to the determination and that entered before the date of the initiation of the investigation; or

''(ii) if the Commissioner has already extended the period for liquidating such entries pursuant to subsection (e)(1), continue to extend the period for liquidating such entries;

''(C) notify the administering authority of the determination and request that the administering authority—

''(i) identify the applicable antidumping or countervailing duty assessment rates for entries described in subparagraphs (A) and (B); or

''(ii) if no such assessment rate for such an entry is available at the time, identify the applicable cash deposit rate to be applied to the entry, with the applicable antidumping or countervailing duty assessment rate to be provided as soon as that rate becomes available;

''(D) require the posting of cash deposits and assess duties on entries described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) in accordance with the instructions received from the administering authority under paragraph (2); and

''(E) take such additional enforcement measures as the Commissioner determines appropriate, such as—

''(i) initiating proceedings under section 592 or 596;

''(ii) implementing, in consultation with the relevant Federal agencies, rule sets or modifications to rules sets for identifying, particularly through the Automated Targeting System and the Automated Commercial Environment authorized under section 13031(f) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(f)), importers, other parties, and merchandise that may be associated with evasion;

''(iii) requiring, with respect to merchandise for which the importer has repeatedly provided incomplete or erroneous entry summary information in connection with determinations of evasion, the importer to deposit estimated duties at the time of entry; and

''(iv) referring the record in whole or in part to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for civil or criminal investigation.

''(2) COOPERATION OF ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon receiving a notification from the Commissioner under paragraph (1)(C), the administering authority shall promptly provide to the Commissioner the applicable cash deposit rates and antidumping or countervailing duty assessment rates and any necessary liquidation instructions.

''(B) SPECIAL RULE FOR CASES IN WHICH THE PRODUCER OR EXPORTER IS UNKNOWN.—If the Commissioner and the administering authority are unable to determine the producer or exporter of the merchandise with respect to which a notification is made under paragraph (1)(C), the administering authority shall identify, as the applicable cash deposit rate or antidumping or countervailing duty assessment rate, the cash deposit or duty (as the case may be) in the highest amount applicable to any producer or exporter, including the 'all-others' rate of the merchandise subject to an antidumping order or countervailing duty order under section 736 or 706, respectively, or a finding issued under the Antidumping Act, 1921, or any administrative review conducted under section 751.

''(e) INTERIM MEASURES.—Not later than 90 calendar days after initiating an investigation under subsection (b) with respect to covered merchandise, the Commissioner shall decide based on the investigation if there is a reasonable suspicion that such covered merchandise was entered into the customs territory of the United States through evasion and, if the Commissioner decides there is such a reasonable suspicion, the Commissioner shall—

''(1) suspend the liquidation of each unliquidated entry of such covered merchandise that entered on or after the date of the initiation of the investigation;

''(2) pursuant to the Commissioner's authority under section 504(b), extend the period for liquidating each unliquidated entry of such covered merchandise that entered before the date of the initiation of the investigation; and

''(3) pursuant to the Commissioner's authority under section 623, take such additional measures as the Commissioner determines necessary to protect the revenue of the United States, including requiring a single transaction bond or additional security or the posting of a cash deposit with respect to such covered merchandise.

''(f) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 business days after the Commissioner makes a determination under subsection (c) with respect to whether covered merchandise was entered into the customs territory of the United States through evasion, a person determined to have entered such covered merchandise through evasion or an interested party that filed an allegation under paragraph (2) of subsection (b) that resulted in the initiation of an investigation under paragraph (1) of that subsection with respect to such covered merchandise may file an appeal with the Commissioner for de novo review of the determination.

''(2) TIMELINE FOR REVIEW.—Not later than 60 business days after an appeal of a determination is filed under paragraph (1), the Commissioner shall complete the review of the determination.

''(g) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 business days after the Commissioner completes a review under subsection (f) of a determination under subsection (c) with respect to whether covered merchandise was entered into the customs territory of the United States through evasion, a person determined to have entered such covered merchandise through evasion or an interested party that filed an allegation under paragraph (2) of subsection (b) that resulted in the initiation of an investigation under paragraph (1) of that subsection with respect to such covered merchandise may commence a civil action in the United States Court of International Trade by filing concurrently a summons and complaint contesting any factual findings or legal conclusions upon which the determination is based.

''(2) STANDARD OF REVIEW.—In a civil action under this subsection, the court shall hold unlawful any determination, finding, or conclusion found to be arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law.

''(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO OTHER CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—No determination under subsection (c) or action taken by the Commissioner pursuant to this section shall be construed to limit the authority to carry out, or the scope of, any other proceeding or investigation pursuant to any other provision of Federal or State law, including sections 592 and 596.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1581(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''or 517'' after ''516A''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to implement the amendments made by this section.

(e) APPLICATION TO CANADA AND MEXICO.—Pursuant to article 1902 of the North American Free Trade Agreement and section 408 of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3438), the amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to goods from Canada and Mexico.

SEC. 303. ANNUAL REPORT ON PREVENTION AND INVESTIGATION OF EVASION OF ANTIDUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY ORDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 15 of each calendar year that begins on or after the date that is 270 days after the date of the

enactment of this Act, the Commissioner, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a report on the efforts being taken to prevent and investigate the entry of covered merchandise into the customs territory of the United States through evasion.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) for the calendar year preceding the submission of the report—

(A) a summary of the efforts of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to prevent and investigate the entry of covered merchandise into the customs territory of the United States through evasion;

(B) the number of allegations of evasion received under subsection (b) of section 517 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as added by section 302 of this Act, and the number of such allegations resulting in investigations by U.S. Customs and Border Protection or any other agency;

(C) a summary of investigations initiated under subsection (b) of such section 517, including—

(i) the number and nature of the investigations initiated, conducted, and completed; and

(ii) the resolution of each completed investigation;

(D) the number of investigations initiated under that subsection not completed during the time provided for making determinations under subsection (c) of such section 517 and an explanation for why the investigations could not be completed on time;

(E) the amount of additional duties that were determined to be owed as a result of such investigations, the amount of such duties that were collected, and, for any such duties not collected, a description of the reasons those duties were not collected;

(F) with respect to each such investigation that led to the imposition of a penalty, the amount of the penalty;

(G) an identification of the countries of origin of covered merchandise determined under subsection (c) of such section 517 to be entered into the customs territory of the United States through evasion;

(H) the amount of antidumping and countervailing duties collected as a result of any investigations or other actions by U.S. Customs and Border Protection or any other agency;

(I) a description of the allocation of personnel and other resources of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to prevent and investigate evasion, including any assessments conducted regarding the allocation of such personnel and resources; and

(J) a description of training conducted to increase expertise and effectiveness in the prevention and investigation of evasion; and

(2) a description of processes and procedures of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to prevent and investigate evasion, including—

(A) the specific guidelines, policies, and practices used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to ensure that allegations of evasion are promptly evaluated and acted upon in a timely manner;

(B) an evaluation of the efficacy of those guidelines, policies, and practices;

(C) an identification of any changes since the last report required by this section, if any, that have materially improved or reduced the effectiveness of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in preventing and investigating evasion;

(D) a description of the development and implementation of policies for the application of single entry and continuous bonds for entries of covered merchandise to sufficiently protect the collection of antidumping and countervailing duties commensurate with the level of risk of not collecting those duties;

(E) a description of the processes and procedures for increased cooperation and information sharing with the Department of Commerce, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and any other relevant Federal agencies to prevent and investigate evasion; and

(F) an identification of any recommended policy changes for other Federal agencies or legislative changes to improve the effectiveness of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in preventing and investigating evasion.

(c) PUBLIC SUMMARY.—The Commissioner shall make available to the public a summary of the report required by subsection (a) that includes, at a minimum—

(1) a description of the type of merchandise with respect to which investigations were initiated under subsection (b) of section 517 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as added by section 302 of this Act;

(2) the amount of additional duties determined to be owed as a result of such investigations and the amount of such duties that were collected;

(3) an identification of the countries of origin of covered merchandise determined under subsection (c) of such section 517 to be entered into the customs territory of the United States through evasion; and

(4) a description of the types of measures used by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to prevent and investigate evasion.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''covered merchandise'' and ''evasion'' have the meanings given those terms in section 517(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as added by section 302 of this Act.

SA 1316. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. KAINE, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. TAX CREDIT FOR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 45S. CREDIT FOR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM EXPENSES.

''(a) TAX CREDIT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 38, in the case of an employer, the apprenticeship program credit determined under this section for any taxable year is an amount equal to—

''(A) with respect to each qualified individual in a qualified apprenticeship program, the lesser of—

''(i) the amount of any wages (as defined in section 51(c)(1)) paid or incurred by the employer with respect to such qualified individual during the taxable year, or

''(ii) $5,000, and

''(B) with respect to each qualified individual in a qualified multi-employer apprenticeship program, the lesser of—

''(i) an amount equal to the product of—

''(I) the total number of hours of work performed by such qualified individual for such employer during such taxable year, multiplied by

''(II) $3, or

''(ii) $5,000.

''(2) ESTABLISHED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The apprenticeship program credit determined under this section for the taxable year shall only be applicable to the number of qualified individuals employed by the employer through a qualified apprenticeship program or a qualified multi-employer apprenticeship program which are in excess of the apprenticeship participation average for such employer (as determined under subparagraph (B)).

''(B) APPRENTICESHIP PARTICIPATION AVERAGE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the apprenticeship participation average shall be equal to the average of the total number of qualified individuals employed by the employer through a qualified apprenticeship program or qualified multi-employer apprenticeship program for—

''(i) the 3 preceding taxable years, or

''(ii) the number of taxable years in which the qualified apprenticeship program or the qualified multi-employer apprenticeship program was in existence, whichever is less.

''(3) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—No deduction or any other credit shall be allowed under this chapter for any amount taken into account in determining the credit under this section.

''(4) ELECTION NOT TO CLAIM CREDIT.—This section shall not apply to a taxpayer for any taxable year if such taxpayer elects to have this section not apply for such taxable year.

''(5) LIMITATION.—The apprenticeship program credit under this section shall not be allowed for more than 3 taxable years with respect to any qualified individual.

''(b) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term 'qualified individual' means, with respect to any taxable year, an individual who is an apprentice and—

''(A) is participating in a qualified apprenticeship program or a qualified multi-employer apprenticeship program with an employer that is subject to the terms of a valid apprenticeship agreement (as defined in the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the 'National Apprenticeship Act'; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.)),

''(B) has been employed under a qualified apprenticeship program or a qualified multi-employer apprenticeship program for a period of not less than 7 months that ends within the taxable year,

''(C) is not a highly compensated employee (as defined in section 414(q)), and

''(D) is not a seasonal worker (as defined in section 45R(d)(5)(B)).

''(2) TRAINING RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—An employer shall consider and may accept, in the case of a qualified individual participating in a qualified apprenticeship program or a qualified multi-employer apprenticeship program, any relevant training or instruction received by such individual while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, for the purpose of satisfying the applicable training and instruction requirements under such qualified apprenticeship program.

''(c) QUALIFIED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM AND QUALIFIED MULTI-EMPLOYER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—

''(1) QUALIFIED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term 'qualified apprenticeship program' means a program registered under the National Apprenticeship Act, whether or not

such program is sponsored by an employer, which—

''(i) provides qualified individuals with on-the-job training and instruction for a qualified occupation with the employer,

''(ii) is registered with the Office of Apprenticeship of the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor or a State apprenticeship agency recognized by such Office of Apprenticeship,

''(iii) maintains records relating to the qualified individual, in such manner as the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Labor, may prescribe, and

''(iv) satisfies such other requirements as the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Labor, may prescribe.

''(B) QUALIFIED OCCUPATION.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(i), the term 'qualified occupation' means a skilled trade occupation in a high-demand mechanical, technical, healthcare, or technology field (or such other occupational field as the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Labor, may prescribe) that satisfies the criteria for an apprenticeable occupation under the National Apprenticeship Act.

''(2) QUALIFIED MULTI-EMPLOYER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.—The term 'qualified multi-employer apprenticeship program' means an apprenticeship program described in paragraph (1) in which multiple employers are required to contribute and that is maintained pursuant to 1 or more collective bargaining agreements between 1 or more employee organizations and such employers.

''(d) APPRENTICESHIP AGREEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term 'apprenticeship agreement' means an agreement between a qualified individual and an employer that satisfies the criteria under the National Apprenticeship Act.

''(2) CREDIT FOR TRAINING RECEIVED UNDER APPRENTICESHIP AGREEMENT.—If a qualified individual has received training or instruction through a qualified apprenticeship program or a qualified multi-employer apprenticeship program with an employer which is subsequently unable to satisfy its obligations under the apprenticeship agreement, such individual may transfer any completed training or instruction for purposes of satisfying any applicable training and instruction requirements under a separate apprenticeship agreement with a different employer.

''(e) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN RULES.—For purposes of this section, all persons treated as a single employer under subsection (a) or (b) of section 52, or subsections (m) or (o) of section 414, shall be treated as a single person.

''(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

''(g) TERMINATION.—This section shall not apply with respect to any wages paid to or any hours of work performed by a qualified individual after December 31, 2020.''.

(b) CREDIT TO BE PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.—Section 38(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''plus'' at the end of paragraph (35), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (36) and inserting '', plus'', and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(37) the apprenticeship program expenses credit determined under section 45S(a).''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 45S. Credit for apprenticeship program expenses.''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) RULE FOR EMPLOYMENT CREDITS.—Section 280C(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting ''45S(a),'' after ''45P(a),''.

(2) EXCLUSION FOR DETERMINATION OF CREDIT FOR INCREASING RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—Clause (iii) of section 41(b)(2)(D) of such Code is amended by inserting ''the apprenticeship program credit under section 45S(a) or'' after ''in determining''.

(e) EVALUATION.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the Committees on Finance and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committees on Ways and Means and Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives that contains an evaluation of the activities authorized under this Act, including—

(1) the extent to which qualified individuals completed qualified apprenticeship programs and qualified multi-employer apprenticeship programs;

(2) whether qualified individuals remained employed by an employer that received an apprenticeship program credit under section 45S of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the length of such employment following expiration of the apprenticeship period;

(3) whether qualified individuals who completed a qualified apprenticeship program or a qualified multi-employer apprenticeship program remained employed in the same occupation or field; and

(4) recommendations for legislative and administrative actions to improve the effectiveness of the apprenticeship program credit under section 45S of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015.

SEC. _____. ENCOURAGING MENTORS TO TRAIN THE FUTURE.

(a) EARLY DISTRIBUTIONS FROM QUALIFIED RETIREMENT PLANS.—Section 72(t)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''or'' at the end of clause (vii);

(B) by striking the period at the end of clause (viii) and inserting '', or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(ix) made to an employee who is serving as a mentor.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(H) DISTRIBUTIONS TO MENTORS.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'mentor' means an individual who—

''(i) has attained 55 years of age,

''(ii) is not separated from their employment with a company, corporation, or institution of higher education,

''(iii) in accordance with such requirements and standards as the Secretary determines to be necessary, has substantially reduced their hours of employment with their employer, with the individual to be engaged in mentoring activities described in clause (iv) for not less than 20 percent of the hours of employment after such reduction, and

''(iv) is responsible for the training and education of employees or students in an area of expertise for which the individual has a professional credential, certificate, or degree.''.

(b) DISTRIBUTIONS DURING WORKING RETIREMENT.—Paragraph (36) of section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

''(36) DISTRIBUTIONS DURING WORKING RETIREMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A trust forming part of a pension plan shall not be treated as failing to constitute a qualified trust under this section solely because the plan provides that a distribution may be made from such trust to an employee who—

''(i) has attained age 62 and who is not separated from employment at the time of such distribution, or

''(ii) subject to subparagraph (B), is serving as a mentor (as such term is defined in section 72(t)(2)(H)).

''(B) LIMITATION ON DISTRIBUTIONS TO MENTORS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), the amount of the distribution made to an employee who is serving as a mentor shall not be greater than the amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying—

''(i) the amount of the distribution that would have been payable to the employee if such employee had separated from employment instead of reducing their hours of employment with their employer and engaging in mentoring activities, in accordance with clauses (iii) and (iv) of section 72(t)(2)(H), by

''(ii) the percentage equal to the quotient obtained by dividing—

''(I) the sum of—

''(aa) the number of hours per pay period by which the employee's hours of employment are reduced, and

''(bb) the number of hours of employment that such employee is engaging in mentoring activities, by

''(II) the total number of hours per pay period worked by the employee before such reduction in hours of employment.''.

(c) ERISA.—Subparagraph (A) of section 3(2) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(2)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: '', or solely because such distribution is made to an employee who is serving as a mentor (as such term is defined in section 72(t)(2)(H) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).''.

(d) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to distributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015 and before January 1, 2021.

SA 1317. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 33, strike line 10 and all that follows through page 34, line 4, and insert the following:

(16) TRADE REMEDY LAWS.—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to trade remedy laws are the following:

(A) To preserve the ability of the United States to enforce vigorously its trade laws, including antidumping and countervailing duty and safeguard laws, and not to enter into agreements that lessen in any respect the effectiveness of domestic and international disciplines—

(i) on unfair trade, especially dumping and subsidies, or

(ii) that address import increases or surges, such as under the safeguard remedy, in order to ensure that United States workers, farmers and agricultural producers, and firms can compete fully on fair terms and enjoy the benefits of reciprocal trade concessions.

(B) To eliminate the underlying causes of unfair trade practices and import surges, including closed markets, subsidization, government practices promoting, enabling, or tolerating anticompetitive practices, and other forms of government intervention that generate or sustain excess, uneconomic capacity.

SA 1318. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 106(b), add the following:

(7) FOR AGREEMENTS WITH COUNTRIES THAT CRIMINALIZE HOMOSEXUALITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the trade authorities procedures shall not apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements entered into under section 3(b) with a country the government of which criminalizes homosexuality or persecutes or otherwise punishes individuals on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, as identified by the Secretary of State in the most recent annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices under section 116 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n).

SA 1319. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 112. NOTIFICATION OF WAIVERS OF DOMESTIC CONTENT RESTRICTIONS.

The Office of Federal Procurement Policy shall notify the public each time the application of a law, regulation, procedure, or practice regarding Government procurement is waived under section 301 of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2511) to permit a entity organized under the laws of a country with which the United States enters into a free trade agreement under section 103(b) to compete for a Federal procurement contract.

SA 1320. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 36, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

(21) MANUFACTURING JOBS AND WAGES.—The principal negotiating objective of the United States with respect to manufacturing jobs and wages is to ensure that a trade agreement benefits the parties to the agreement, particularly with respect to resulting in net increases in manufacturing jobs and wages in the United States.

SA 1321. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 50, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

(e) PROHIBITION ON WAIVING DOMESTIC CONTENT RESTRICTIONS.—The President may not designate, under subsection (b) of section 301 of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2511), a country with which the United States enters into a trade agreement under this section for purposes of exercising the waiver authority provided under such section 301.

SA 1322. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 90, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

(5) LIMITATION ON EFFECT OF AGREEMENTS WITH PRIORITY FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Any agreement entered into under section 103(b) with a country that has been identified as a priority foreign country under section 182(a)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2242(a)(2)) during each of the 3 years preceding the date on which the agreement was entered into shall not enter into force with respect to the United States until the date that is 3 years after the most recent date on which that country was so identified.

SA 1323. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 4, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

(13) to oppose any attempts to weaken in any respect the trade remedy laws of the United States.

SA 1324. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the ''Environmental Improvement Trust Fund'' (in this section referred to as the ''Trust Fund''), consisting of such amounts as may be transferred to the Trust Fund under subsection (b) and any amounts that may be credited to the Trust Fund under subsection (d)(3).

(b) TRANSFER OF AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Trust Fund, from the general fund of the Treasury, amounts determined by the Secretary to be equivalent to amounts received in the general fund that are attributable to the duties collected, during the period specified in paragraph (3), pursuant to a countervailing duty order or an antidumping duty order under title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.) or a finding under the Antidumping Act, 1921 (title II of the Act of May 27, 1921; 42 Stat. 11, chapter 14) on articles produced by manufacturers in the following industries, as determined by the Secretary:

(A) Food and beverages.
(B) Textiles.
(C) Lumber.
(D) Paper and printing.
(E) Chemicals.
(F) Plastics and rubber.
(G) Nonmetallic minerals.
(H) Primary metals.
(I) Fabricated metals.
(J) Machinery and equipment.
(K) Electronic equipment.
(L) Transportation equipment.
(M) Any other manufacturing industry if domestic manufacturers in that industry are required to purchase new equipment or hire new employees in order to comply with regulations promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to improving overall environmental quality.

(2) DETERMINATION.—In determining if domestic manufacturers are required to purchase new equipment or hire new employees in order to comply with regulations under paragraph (1)(M), the Secretary shall consult with the Administrator.

(3) PERIOD SPECIFIED.—The period specified in this paragraph begins on January 1, 2016, and ends on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS IN TRUST FUND.—

(1) AVAILABILITY FOR ASSISTING DOMESTIC MANUFACTURERS.—Amounts in the Trust Fund shall be available to the Administrator, as provided by appropriation Acts—

(A) to assist any domestic manufacturer in an industry specified in subsection (b)(1) if that domestic manufacturer is required to purchase new equipment or hire new employees in order to comply with any regulations promulgated by the Administrator relating to improving overall environmental quality, as determined by the Administrator; and

(B) to cover administrative costs incurred by the Administrator in carrying out subparagraph (A).

(2) DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Administrator shall distribute amounts available for assistance under paragraph (1)(A) among domestic manufacturers in the industries specified in subsection (b)(1) in proportion to the estimated impact of regulations described in such paragraph on the prices in the United States of articles produced by domestic manufacturers in such industries, as determined by the Administrator.

(B) EXCLUSION.—Of the amounts distributed under subparagraph (A), 75 percent of those amounts shall be distributed to domestic manufacturers that are small or medium sized enterprises, as determined by the Administrator.

(d) INVESTMENT OF TRUST FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the Trust Fund as is not required to meet current withdrawals in interest-bearing obligations of the United States or in obligations guaranteed as to both principal and interest by the United States.

(2) OBLIGATIONS.—

(A) ACQUISITION.—The obligations specified in paragraph (1) may be acquired on original issue at the issue price or by purchase of outstanding obligations at the market price.

(B) SALE.—Any obligation acquired by the Trust Fund may be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at the market price.

(3) INTEREST AND PROCEEDS FROM SALE OR REDEMPTION OF OBLIGATIONS.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Trust Fund shall be credited to and form a part of the Trust Fund.

(e) DOMESTIC MANUFACTURER DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''domestic manufacturer'' means a person that produces articles in the United States.

SA 1325. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—EXPANSION OF ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS

SEC. 301. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 481(b), by adding at the end the following:

''(5)(A) For purposes of parts D and E, the term 'eligible program' includes a program of not less than 250 clock hours of instruction, offered during a minimum of 5 weeks of instruction that leads an industry–recognized credential.

''(B) In this paragraph, the term 'industry-recognized credential' means an industry-recognized credential that—

''(i) is demonstrated to be of high quality by the institution offering the program in the program participation agreement under section 487;

''(ii) meets the current, as of the date of the determination, or projected needs of a local or regional workforce for recruitment, screening, hiring, retention, or advancement purposes—

''(I) as determined by the State in which the program is located, in consultation with business entities; or

''(II) as demonstrated by the institution offering the program leading to the credential; and

''(iii) is, where applicable, endorsed by a nationally recognized trade association or organization representing a significant part of the industry or sector.''; and

(2) in section 487(a), by adding at the end the following:

''(30) In the case of an institution that offers a program of not less than 250 clock hours of instruction, offered during a minimum of 5 weeks of instruction that leads an industry–recognized credential, as provided under section 481(b)(5), the institution will demonstrate to the Secretary that the industry-recognized credential is of high quality.''.

SA 1326. Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 106(b), add the following:

(7) FOR AGREEMENTS THAT THREATEN UNITED STATES SOVEREIGNTY.—The trade authorities procedures shall not apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement entered into under section 103(b) if—

(A) the agreement, the implementing bill, or any statement of administrative action described in subsection (a)(1)(E)(ii) proposed to implement the agreement, includes an investor-state dispute settlement arbitration mechanism; and

(B) any other party to the agreement has opted out of all or part of the arbitration mechanism.

SA 1327. Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; as follows:

At the end of section 106(b), add the following:

(7) FOR AGREEMENTS THAT THREATEN UNITED STATES SOVEREIGNTY.—The trade authorities procedures shall not apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements entered into under section 103(b) if such agreement or agreements, the implementing bill, or any statement of administrative action described in subsection (a)(1)(E)(ii) proposed to implement such agreement or agreements, includes investor-state dispute settlement.

SA 1328. Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 106(b), add the following:

(7) FOR AGREEMENTS THAT UNDERMINE THE FINANCIAL STABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES.—The trade authorities procedures shall not apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements entered into under section 103(b) if such agreement or agreements include provisions relating to financial services regulation.

SA 1329. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 3, add the following:

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE TO PUBLIC AGENCY WORKERS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 247 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2319) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''The'' and inserting ''Subject to section 222(d)(5), the''; and

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or service sector firm'' and inserting '', service sector firm, or public agency''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(19) The term 'public agency' means a department or agency of a State or local government or of the Federal Government, or a subdivision thereof.''.

(b) GROUP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—Section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2272) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (f), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) ADVERSELY AFFECTED WORKERS IN PUBLIC AGENCIES.—A group of workers in a public agency shall be certified by the Secretary as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under this chapter pursuant to a petition filed under section 221 if the Secretary determines that—

''(1) a significant number or proportion of the workers in the public agency have become totally or partially separated, or are threatened to become totally or partially separated;

''(2) the public agency has acquired from a foreign country services like or directly competitive with services which are supplied by such agency; and

''(3) the acquisition of services described in paragraph (2) contributed importantly to such workers' separation or threat of separation.'';

(3) in subsection (d) (as redesignated), by adding at the end the following:

''(5) REFERENCE TO FIRM.—For purposes of subsections (a) and (b), the term 'firm' does not include a public agency.''; and

(4) in paragraph (2) of subsection (e) (as redesignated), by striking ''subsection (a) or (b)'' and inserting ''subsection (a), (b), or (c)''.

SA 1330. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 14, strike lines 3 through 6 and insert the following:

(E) ensuring foreign investors have access to justice to seek relief from harms inflicted in the territory of or by the United States ' trading partners;

SA 1331. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal

Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 36, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

(21) PUBLIC HEALTH.—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to public health are—

(A) to strengthen the commitments made in the bipartisan congressional agreement on trade policy relating to trade agreements with Peru, Colombia, and Panama, dated May 10, 2007 (commonly referred to as the ''May 10 agreement'');

(B) to ensure that a party to a trade agreement with the United States adopts and maintains current rights and obligations under—

(i) the Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, adopted by the World Trade Organization at the Fourth Ministerial Conference at Doha, Qatar, on November 14, 2001;

(ii) the World Intellectual Property Organization Development Agenda, adopted in 2007; and

(iii) World Health Organization Resolution 61.21 (2008);

(C) to ensure that no provision of a trade agreement imposes upon the United States or any other party to the agreement any rule that may be interpreted as undermining or limiting access to medical tools and technologies, including pharmaceutical products, diagnostics, vaccines, or other medical devices, or the practice of medicine; and

(D) to recognize the right of all governments to regulate and enact laws in the interest of public health and the right of all governments to exercise any legal rights or safeguards to protect public health without the threat of trade-related penalties.

SA 1332. Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 102(b), add the following:

(21) DEMOCRACY.—The principal negotiating objective of the United States with respect to democracy is to require the trading partners of the United States to maintain open and free democratic elections at all levels of government.

SA 1333. Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 102(a), add the following:

(13) to preserve and grow manufacturing in the United States by recognizing the implications to the national security of the United States of the erosion of the defense industrial base and to ensure that any waiver under section 301 of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. 2511) regarding Government procurement is exercised only if—

(A) the waiver does not cause the closure of a domestic manufacturer; and

(B) domestic manufacturers are unable to produce the item to be procured.

SA 1334. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 44, line 9, insert before the end period the following: ''and does not violate, weaken, or undermine the requirements of chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Buy American Act') or section 313 of title 23, United States Code''.

SA 1335. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 79, lines 3 and 4, strike ''and the interests of United States consumers'' and insert ''the interests of United States consumers, and the wages, living standards, and employment prospects of United States workers''.

SA 1336. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 105(a), add at the end the following:

(6) NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING AUTOMOBILES AND AUTO PARTS.—Before initiating or continuing negotiations with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements relating to automobiles and auto parts, the President shall—

(A) assess the likelihood of such agreement or agreements substantially reducing the overall global trade deficit of the United States in automobiles and auto parts;

(B) determine whether the countries participating in the negotiations maintain nontariff barriers or other policies or practices that distort trade in automobiles and auto parts and identify the impact of those barriers, policies, or practices on producers of automobiles and auto parts in the United States and the employees of those producers; and

(C) consult with the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives with respect to—

(i) the results of the assessment conducted under subparagraph (A);

(ii) whether it is appropriate for the President to agree to reduce tariffs on automobiles or auto parts based on any conclusions reached in that assessment; and

(iii) how the President intends to comply with all negotiating objectives applicable to such agreement or agreements.

SA 1337. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 90, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

(1) CERTIFICATION THAT NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED.—

(A) CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the President submits to Congress a copy of the final legal text of a trade agreement under subsection (a)(1)(E), the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate shall each meet, consider whether or not the agreement achieves the negotiating objectives set forth in section 102, and vote on whether to certify that the agreement achieves those objectives.

(B) APPLICABILITY OF TRADE AUTHORITIES PROCEDURES.—The trade authorities procedures shall not apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement unless the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate both vote to certify under subparagraph (A) that the agreement achieves the negotiating objectives set forth in section 102.

SA 1338. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 111(6)(B), add the following:

(viii) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

SA 1339. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 106(b), add the following:

(7) FOR AGREEMENTS THAT DO NOT ALLOW GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS PRICING OR SIMILAR POLICIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the trade authorities procedures shall not apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements entered into under section 103(b) unless the agreement or agreements explicitly permit parties to the agreement or agreements to price greenhouse gas

emissions or adopt other policies that have substantially the same effect in reducing greenhouse gas emissions as pricing such emissions.

SA 1340. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—TRADE PREFERENCES FOR NEPAL

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Nepal Trade Preferences Act''.

SEC. 302. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President may authorize the provision of preferential treatment under this title to articles that are imported directly from Nepal into the customs territory of the United States pursuant to section 303 if the President determines—

(1) that Nepal meets the requirements set forth in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of section 104(a) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3703(a)); and

(2) after taking into account the factors set forth in paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (c) of section 502 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2462), that Nepal meets the eligibility requirements of such section 502.

(b) WITHDRAWAL, SUSPENSION, OR LIMITATION OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT; MANDATORY GRADUATION.—The provisions of subsections (d) and (e) of section 502 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2462) shall apply with respect to Nepal to the same extent and in the same manner as such provisions apply with respect to beneficiary developing countries under title V of that Act (19 U.S.C. 2461 et seq.).

SEC. 303. ELIGIBLE ARTICLES.

(a) CERTAIN MANUFACTURED AND OTHER ARTICLES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An article described in paragraph (2) may enter the customs territory of the United States free of duty.

(2) ARTICLES DESCRIBED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An article is described in this paragraph if—

(i) the article is the growth, product, or manufacture of Nepal;

(ii) the article is imported directly from Nepal into the customs territory of the United States;

(iii) the article is described in subparagraphs (B) through (G) of subsection (b)(1) of section 503 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2463);

(iv) the President determines, after receiving the advice of the United States International Trade Commission in accordance with subsection (e) of that section, that the article is not import-sensitive in the context of imports from Nepal; and

(v) subject to subparagraph (C), the sum of the cost or value of the materials produced in, and the direct costs of processing operations performed in, Nepal or the customs territory of the United States is not less than 35 percent of the appraised value of the article at the time it is entered.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—An article shall not be treated as the growth, product, or manufacture of Nepal for purposes of subparagraph (A)(i) by virtue of having merely undergone—

(i) simple combining or packaging operations; or

(ii) mere dilution with water or mere dilution with another substance that does not materially alter the characteristics of the article.

(C) LIMITATION ON UNITED STATES COST.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(v), the cost or value of materials produced in, and the direct costs of processing operations performed in, the customs territory of the United States and attributed to the 35-percent requirement under that subparagraph may not exceed 15 percent of the appraised value of the article at the time it is entered.

(b) TEXTILE AND APPAREL ARTICLES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A textile or apparel article described in paragraph (2) or (3) may enter the customs territory of the United States free of duty.

(2) TEXTILE AND APPAREL ARTICLES WHOLLY ASSEMBLED IN NEPAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A textile or apparel article is described in this paragraph if the textile or apparel article is—

(i) wholly assembled in Nepal, without regard to the country of origin of the yarn or fabric used to make the articles; and

(ii) imported directly from Nepal into the customs territory of the United States.

(B) AGGREGATE LIMIT.—The aggregate quantity of textile and apparel articles described in subparagraph (A) imported into the customs territory of the United States from Nepal during a calendar year under this subsection may not exceed one half of one percent of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all textile and apparel articles imported into the customs territory of the United States in the most recent 12-month period for which data are available.

(3) HANDLOOMED, HANDMADE, FOLKLORE ARTICLES AND ETHNIC PRINTED FABRICS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A textile or apparel article is described in this paragraph if the textile or apparel article is—

(i) imported directly from Nepal into the customs territory of the United States;

(ii) on a list of textile and apparel articles determined by the President, after consultation with the Government of Nepal, to be handloomed, handmade, folklore articles or ethnic printed fabrics of Nepal; and

(iii) certified as a handloomed, handmade, folklore article or an ethnic printed fabric of Nepal by the competent authority of Nepal.

(B) ETHNIC PRINTED FABRIC.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), an ethnic printed fabric of Nepal is fabric—

(i) containing a selvedge on both edges and having a width of less than 50 inches;

(ii) classifiable under subheading 5208.52.30 or 5208.52.40 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States;

(iii) of a type that contains designs, symbols, and other characteristics of Nepal—

(I) normally produced for and sold in indigenous markets in Nepal; and

(II) normally sold in Nepal by the piece as opposed to being tailored into garments before being sold in indigenous markets in Nepal;

(iv) printed, including waxed, in Nepal; and

(v) formed in the United States from yarns formed in the United States or formed in Nepal from yarns originating in either the United States or Nepal.

(4) QUANTITATIVE LIMITATION.—Preferential treatment under this subsection shall be extended in the 1-year period beginning January 1, 2016, and in each of the succeeding 10 1-year periods, to imports of textile and apparel articles from Nepal under this subsection in an amount not to exceed one half of one percent of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all textile and apparel articles imported into the customs territory of the United States in the most recent 12-month period for which data are available.

(5) VERIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO TRANSSHIPMENT FOR CERTAIN APPAREL ARTICLES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, July 1, October 1, and January 1 of each year, the Commissioner responsible for U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall verify that textile and apparel articles imported from Nepal to which preferential treatment is extended under this subsection are not being unlawfully transshipped into the United States.

(B) REPORT TO PRESIDENT.—If the Commissioner determines pursuant to subparagraph (A) that textile and apparel articles imported from Nepal to which preferential treatment is extended under this subsection are being unlawfully transshipped into the United States, the Commissioner shall report that determination to the President.

(C) AUTHORITY TO REDUCE QUANTITATIVE LIMITATION.—If, in any 1-year period with respect to which the President extends preferential treatment to textile and apparel articles under this subsection, the Commissioner reports to the President pursuant to subparagraph (B) regarding unlawful transshipments, the President—

(i) may modify the quantitative limitation under paragraph (4) as the President considers appropriate to account for such transshipments; and

(ii) if the President modifies that limitation under clause (i), shall publish notice of the modification in the Federal Register.

(6) SURGE MECHANISM.—The provisions of subparagraph (B) of section 112(b)(3) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(3)) shall apply to textile and apparel articles imported from Nepal to which preferential treatment is extended under this subsection to the same extent and in the same manner that such provisions apply to textile and apparel articles described in such section 112(b)(3) and imported from a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country.

(7) SPECIAL ELIGIBILITY RULES; PROTECTIONS AGAINST TRANSSHIPMENT.—The provisions of subsection (e) of section 112 and section 113 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721 and 3722) shall apply to textile and apparel articles imported from Nepal to which preferential treatment is extended under this subsection to the same extent and in the same manner that such provisions apply to textile and apparel articles imported from beneficiary sub-Saharan countries to which preferential treatment is extended under such section 112.

SEC. 304. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

The President shall monitor, review, and report to Congress, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, on the implementation of this title and on the trade and investment policy of the United States with respect to Nepal.

SEC. 305. TERMINATION OF PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT.

No preferential treatment extended under this title shall remain in effect after December 31, 2025.

SEC. 306. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The provisions of this title shall take effect on January 1, 2016.

SA 1341. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. ELIMINATION OF CONSUMPTIVE DEMAND EXCEPTION TO PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION OF GOODS MADE WITH CONVICT LABOR, FORCED LABOR, OR INDENTURED LABOR; REPORT.

(a) ELIMINATION OF CONSUMPTIVE DEMAND EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307) is amended by striking ''The provisions of this section'' and all that follows through ''of the United States.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that is 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner responsible for U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a report on compliance with section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1307) that includes the following:

(1) The number of instances in which merchandise was denied entry pursuant to that section during the 1-year period preceding the submission of the report.

(2) A description of the merchandise denied entry pursuant to that section.

(3) Such other information as the Commissioner considers appropriate with respect to monitoring and enforcing compliance with that section.

SA 1342. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE [____]—DETERRING LABOR SLOWDOWNS

SEC. [___]. DETERRING LABOR SLOWDOWNS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.—The National Labor Relations Act is amended—

(1) in section 1 (29 U.S.C. 151), by adding at the end the following:

''International trade is one of the most important components of the economy of the United States and will likely continue to grow in the future. In order to remain competitive in an increasingly competitive global economy, it is essential that the United States possess a highly efficient and reliable public and private transportation network. The ports of the United States are an increasingly important part of such transportation network. Experience has demonstrated that frequent and periodic disruptions to commerce in the maritime industry in the form of deliberate and unprotected labor slowdowns at the ports of the United States have led to substantial and frequent economic disruption and loss, interfering with the free flow of domestic and international commerce and threatening the economic health of the United States, as well as its citizens and businesses. Such frequent and periodic disruptions to commerce in the maritime industry hurt the reputation of the United States in the global economy, cause the ports of the United States to lose business, and represent a serious and burgeoning threat to the financial health and economic stability of the United States. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States to eliminate the causes and mitigate the effects of such disruptions to commerce in the maritime industry and to provide effective and prompt remedies to individuals injured by such disruptions.'';

(2) in section 2 (29 U.S.C. 152), by adding at the end the following:

''(15) The term 'employee engaged in maritime employment' has the meaning given the term 'employee' in section 2(3) of the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (33 U.S.C. 902(3)).

''(16) The term 'labor slowdown'—

''(A) includes any intentional effort by employees to reduce productivity or efficiency in the performance of any duty of such employees; and

''(B) does not include any such effort required by the good faith belief of such employees that an abnormally dangerous condition exists at the place of employment of such employees.'';

(3) in section 8(b) (29 U.S.C. 158(b)), by adding at the end the following:

''(8) in representing, or seeking to represent, employees engaged in maritime employment, to engage in a labor slowdown at any time, including when a collective-bargaining agreement is in effect.'';

(4) in section 9 (29 U.S.C. 159), by adding at the end the following:

''(f) EFFECT OF LABOR SLOWDOWNS.—If a labor organization has been found, pursuant to a final order of the Board, to have violated section 8(b)(8), the Board shall—

''(1) revoke the exclusive recognition or certification of the labor organization, which shall immediately cease to be entitled to represent the employees in the bargaining unit of such labor organization; or

''(2) take other appropriate disciplinary action.''; and

(5) in section 10(l) (29 U.S.C. 160(l)), in the first sentence, by striking ''or section 8(b)(7)'' and inserting ''or paragraph (7) or (8) of section 8(b)''.

(b) AMENDMENT TO THE LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS ACT, 1947.—Section 303 of the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947 (29 U.S.C. 187) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''in section 8(b)(4)'' and inserting ''under paragraph (4) or (8) of section 8(b)'';

(2) in subsection (b), by inserting '', including reasonable attorney fees for a violation under section 8(b)(8) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158(b)(8))'' before the period; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) In an action for damages resulting from a violation of section 8(b)(8) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158(b)(8)), it shall not be a defense that the injured party has, in any manner, waived, or purported to waive, the right of such party to pursue monetary damages relating to the labor slowdown at issue—

''(1) in connection with a contractual grievance alleging a violation of a clause prohibiting a strike, or a similar clause, in a collective-bargaining agreement; or

''(2) in connection with an action for a breach of such a clause under section 301.''.

SA 1343. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PROTECTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.

(a) MORATORIUM ON CLOSING OR CONSOLIDATING POSTAL FACILITIES.—During the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Postal Service may not close or consolidate any processing and distribution center, processing and distribution facility, network distribution center, or other facility that is operated by the United States Postal Service, the primary function of which is to sort and process mail.

(b) REINSTATEMENT OF OVERNIGHT SERVICE STANDARDS.—During the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Postal Service shall apply the service standards for first-class mail and periodicals under part 121 of title 39, Code of Federal Regulations, that were in effect on July 1, 2012.

SA 1344. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 301. WITHDRAWAL OF NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

Notwithstanding the provisions of title I of the Act to authorize extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the People's Republic of China, and to establish a framework for relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China (Public Law 106–286; 114 Stat. 880), or any other provision of law, effective on the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) normal trade relations treatment shall not apply pursuant to section 101 of that Act to the products of the People's Republic of China;

(2) normal trade relations treatment may thereafter be extended to the products of that country only in accordance with the provisions of chapter 1 of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2431 et seq.), as in effect with respect to the products of the People's Republic of China on the day before the effective date of the accession of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization; and

(3) the extension of waiver authority that was in effect with respect to the People's Republic of China under section 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2432(d)(1)) on the day before the effective date of the accession of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization shall, upon the enactment of this Act, be deemed not to have expired, and shall continue in effect until the date that is 90 days after the date of such enactment.

SA 1345. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—UNITED STATES EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP BANK

SECTION 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''United States Employee Ownership Bank Act''.

SEC. 302. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) between January 2000 and February 2015, the manufacturing sector lost 4,963,000 jobs;

(2) as of February 2015, only 12,321,000 workers in the United States were employed in the manufacturing sector, lower than July 1941;

(3) at the end of 2014, the United States had a trade deficit of $505,047,000,000, including a record-breaking $342,632,500,000 trade deficit with China;

(4) preserving and increasing decent paying jobs must be a top priority of Congress;

(5) providing loan guarantees, direct loans, and technical assistance to employees to buy their own companies will preserve and increase employment in the United States; and

(6) the time has come to establish the United States Employee Ownership Bank to preserve and expand jobs in the United States through Employee Stock Ownership Plans and worker-owned cooperatives.

SEC. 303. DEFINITIONS.

In this title—

(1) the term ''Bank'' means the United States Employee Ownership Bank, established under section 304;

(2) the term ''eligible worker-owned cooperative'' has the meaning given that term in section 1042(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(3) the term ''employee stock ownership plan'' has the meaning given that term in section 4975(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(4) the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 304. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITED STATES EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP BANK WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF BANK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish the United States Employee Ownership Bank to foster increased employee ownership of United States companies and greater employee participation in company decision-making throughout the United States.

(2) ORGANIZATION OF THE BANK.—

(A) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall appoint a Director to serve as the head of the Bank, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.

(B) STAFF.—The Director may select, appoint, employ, and fix the compensation of the employees that are necessary to carry out the functions of the Bank.

(b) DUTIES OF BANK.—The Bank is authorized to provide loans, on a direct or guaranteed basis, which may be subordinated to the interests of all other creditors—

(1) to purchase a company through an employee stock ownership plan or an eligible worker-owned cooperative, which shall be not less than 51 percent employee-owned, or will become not less than 51 percent employee-owned as a result of financial assistance from the Bank;

(2) to allow a company that is less than 51 percent employee-owned to become not less than 51 percent employee-owned;

(3) to allow a company that is not less than 51 percent employee-owned to increase the level of employee ownership at the company; and

(4) to allow a company that is not less than 51 percent employee-owned to expand operations and increase or preserve employment.

(c) PRECONDITIONS.—Before the Bank makes any subordinated loan or guarantees a loan under subsection (b)(1), a business plan shall be submitted to the Bank that—

(1) shows that—

(A) not less than 51 percent of all interests in the company is or will be owned or controlled by an employee stock ownership plan or eligible worker-owned cooperative;

(B) the board of directors of the company is or will be elected by shareholders on a 1 share to 1 vote basis or by members of the eligible worker-owned cooperative on a 1 member to 1 vote basis, except that shares held by the employee stock ownership plan will be voted according to section 409(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, with participants providing voting instructions to the trustee of the employee stock ownership plan in accordance with the terms of the employee stock ownership plan and the requirements of that section 409(e); and

(C) all employees will receive basic information about company progress and have the opportunity to participate in day-to-day operations; and

(2) includes a feasibility study from an objective third party with a positive determination that the employee stock ownership plan or eligible worker-owned cooperative will generate enough of a margin to pay back any loan, subordinated loan, or loan guarantee that was made possible through the Bank.

(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR LOANS AND LOAN GUARANTEES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a loan that is provided or guaranteed under this section shall—

(1) bear interest at an annual rate, as determined by the Secretary—

(A) in the case of a direct loan provided under this section—

(i) sufficient to cover the cost of borrowing to the Department of the Treasury for obligations of comparable maturity; or

(ii) of 4 percent; and

(B) in the case of a loan guaranteed under this section, in an amount that is equal to the current applicable market rate for a loan of comparable maturity; and

(2) have a term of not more than 12 years.

SEC. 305. EMPLOYEE RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL BEFORE PLANT OR FACILITY CLOSING.

Section 3 of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (29 U.S.C. 2102) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting: ''**; EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLANS OR ELIGIBLE WORKER-OWNED COOPERATIVES**'' after ''layoffs''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLANS AND ELIGIBLE WORKER-OWNED COOPERATIVES.—

''(1) GENERAL RULE.—If an employer orders a plant or facility closing in connection with the termination of operations at the plant or facility, the employer shall offer its employees an opportunity to purchase the plant or facility through an employee stock ownership plan (as that term is defined in section 4975(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) or an eligible worker-owned cooperative (as that term is defined in section 1042(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) that is not less than 51 percent employee-owned. The value of the company that is to be the subject of the plan or cooperative shall be the fair market value of the plant or facility, as determined by an appraisal by an independent third party jointly selected by the employer and the employees. The cost of the appraisal may be shared evenly between the employer and the employees.

''(2) EXEMPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply—

''(A) if an employer orders a plant closing but will retain the assets of the plant to continue or begin a business within the United States; or

''(B) if an employer orders a plant closing and the employer intends to continue the business conducted at the plant at another plant within the United States.''.

SEC. 306. REGULATIONS ON SAFETY AND SOUNDNESS AND PREVENTING COMPETITION WITH COMMERCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as are necessary to implement this title and the amendments made by this title, including—

(1) regulations to ensure the safety and soundness of the Bank; and

(2) regulations to ensure that the Bank will not compete with commercial financial institutions.

SEC. 307. COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT CREDIT.

Section 804 of the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (12 U.S.C. 2903) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) ESTABLISHMENT OF EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLANS AND ELIGIBLE WORKER-OWNED COOPERATIVES.—In assessing and taking into account, under subsection (a), the record of a financial institution, the appropriate Federal financial supervisory agency may consider as a factor capital investments, loans, loan participation, technical assistance, financial advice, grants, and other ventures undertaken by the institution to support or enable employees to establish employee stock ownership plans or eligible worker-owned cooperatives (as those terms are defined in sections 4975(e) and 1042(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, respectively), that are not less than 51 percent employee-owned plans or cooperatives.''.

SEC. 308. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this title—

(1) $500,000,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

(2) such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year thereafter.

SA 1346. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 105(a), insert the following:

(6) REPORT ON POTENTIAL UNITED STATES TRADING PARTNERS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT.—Not later than 45 days prior to the date the President initiates negotiations for a trade agreement with a country, the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission shall prepare and submit to Congress a report on market access opportunities and challenges arising from such trade agreement.

(B) CONTENT.—Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall assess—

(i) tariff and nontariff barriers, policies, and practices of the government of the country;

(ii) expected opportunities for United States exports to the country if such tariff and nontariff barriers are eliminated; and

(iii) the potential impact of the trade agreement on aggregate employment and job displacement of workers in the United States and the country.

(C) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORT.—Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall be made available to the public.

SA 1347. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 106, insert the following:

SEC. 107. WITHDRAWAL FROM TRADE AGREEMENTS THAT LEAD TO OUTSOURCING OF MANUFACTURING JOBS.

(a) NOTIFICATIONS OF DECREASE IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT BY CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.—The Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall notify Congress if, at any time during the 3-year period beginning on the date on which a trade agreement entered into under section 103(b) enters into force, the Director determines that manufacturing employment in the United States has decreased by 100,000 jobs or more since the entry into force of the agreement.

(b) WITHDRAWAL.—The United States shall withdraw from a trade agreement entered into under section 103(b) on the date of the enactment of a joint resolution of withdrawal under subsection (c) with respect to that agreement.

(c) JOINT RESOLUTION OF WITHDRAWAL.—

(1) JOINT RESOLUTION OF WITHDRAWAL DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''joint resolution of withdrawal'', with respect to a trade agreement entered into under section 103(b), means only a joint resolution of either House of Congress the sole matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: ''That the United States withdraws from the trade agreement with _____.'', with the blank space being filled with the country or countries that are parties to the agreement.

(2) INTRODUCTION.—During the 60-day period beginning on the date on which the Director submits to Congress a notification under subsection (a), any Member of the House or Senate may introduce a joint resolution of withdrawal.

(3) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—A joint resolution of withdrawal shall not be referred to a committee in the House of Representatives or the Senate.

(4) FLOOR CONSIDERATION.—The provisions of subsections (d) and (e) of section 152 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2192) (relating to the floor consideration of certain resolutions in the House and Senate) apply to a joint resolution of withdrawal to the same extent such provisions apply to joint resolutions under subsection (a) of that section.

SA 1348. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 102(b), add the following:

(21) WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR.—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to the worst forms of child labor are—

(A) to prevent distortions in the conduct of international trade caused by the use of the worst forms of child labor, in whole or in part, in the production of goods for export in international commerce; and

(B) to redress unfair and illegitimate competition based upon the use of the worst forms of child labor, in whole or in part, in the production of goods for export in international commerce, including by—

(i) promoting universal ratification and full compliance by all trading partners of the United States with ILO Convention No. 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor;

(ii) clarifying the right under subsections (a) and (b) of Article XX of GATT 1994 to enact and enforce national measures that are necessary to protect public morals or to protect human, animal, or plant life or health, including measures that limit or ban the importation of goods or services that are produced through the use of the worst forms of child labor;

(iii) ensuring that any multilateral or bilateral trade agreement that is entered into by the United States requires all parties to such agreement to enact and enforce laws that satisfy their international legal obligations to prevent the use of the worst forms of child labor, especially in the conduct of international trade; and

(iv) providing for strong enforcement of laws that require all trading partners of the United States to prevent the use of the worst forms of child labor, especially in the conduct of international trade, through accessible, expeditious, and effective civil, administrative, and criminal enforcement mechanisms, including procedures to impound at the border or otherwise refuse entry of goods made, in whole or in part, through the use of the worst forms of child labor.

SA 1349. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 102(b)(1)(A), after ''global value chains,'' insert ''especially those global value chains established under existing trade agreements,''.

SA 1350. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 102(b)(10), add the following:

(J) to ensure that each party to a trade agreement implements all measures to bring its environmental laws and regulations into compliance with the agreement before the agreement enters into effect.

SA 1351. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 102(b)(10), add the following:

(J) to ensure that each party to a trade agreement implements all measures to bring its labor laws and regulations into compliance with the agreement before the agreement enters into effect.

SA 1352. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 106(b), add the following:

(7) LIMITATIONS ON PROCEDURES WITH RESPECT TO AGREEMENTS WITH COUNTRIES THAT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST LGBT INDIVIDUALS.—The trade authorities procedures shall not apply to any implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements entered into under section 103(b) with a country that discriminates against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) individuals.

SA 1353. Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 105(f), add the following:

(4) REPORT ON FAIR TRADE INDEX.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the United States Trade Representative shall submit to Congress a report on each foreign country with which the United States has conducted negotiations under this title that—

(i) analyzes the acts, policies, and practices of such foreign country that negatively impact the trade relationship of the United States with such foreign country;

(ii) analyzes the adherence of such foreign country to international trade norms;

(iii) assesses the compliance of such foreign country with fair trade factors (including the factors specified in subparagraph (B)); and

(iv) ranks each such foreign country in order from most to least egregious violator of those fair trade factors.

(B) FAIR TRADE FACTORS.—The fair trade factors for each foreign country included in the report under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) An assessment of the extent to which that country manipulates the exchange rate for its currency, including an assessment of the following:

(I) Whether that country had a current account surplus during the 180-day period preceding the submission of the report.

(II) Whether that country increased its foreign exchange reserves during that period.

(III) Whether the amount of foreign exchange reserves of that country is more than the total value of exports from that country during a 3-month period.

(IV) Such other factors as the United States Trade Representative considers appropriate.

(ii) An assessment of the localization barriers to trade with that country, including an assessment of the following:

(I) Whether that country has formal legal and regulatory measures designed to protect, favor, or stimulate industries, service providers, or intellectual property from that country at the expense of goods, services, or intellectual property from other countries, including local content requirements, subsidies, or other preferences available only if producers use local goods, locally-owned service providers, or locally-owned or developed intellectual property.

(II) Any requirements in that country to provide services using local facilities or infrastructure.

(III) Any measures taken by that country to promote the transfer of technology or intellectual property from foreign entities to domestic entities.

(IV) Any requirements in that country to comply with standards specific to that country or region that create unnecessary obstacles to trade.

(V) Any requirements in that country to conduct duplicative conformity assessment procedures that the United States Trade Representative considers unjustified.

(VI) Such other factors as the United States Trade Representative considers appropriate.

(iii) An assessment of any other barriers to trade with that country, including considering the ranking of that country in the National Trade Estimate submitted to Congress under section 181(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2241(b)).

(iv) An assessment of the extent to which that country protects intellectual property rights, including considering whether that country is identified by the United States Trade Representative under section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2242) as a country that denies adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights or denies fair and equitable market access to United States persons that rely upon intellectual property rights protection.

(v) An assessment of the extent to which that country exhibits discriminatory preferences for domestic production, including considering any findings of the Trade Policy Review Body of the World Trade Organization with respect to that country.

(vi) An assessment of the labor rights and labor practices in that country, including the findings with respect to that country included in the report on labor rights required by subsection (d)(3).

SA 1354. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 36, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following new principal negotiating objective:

(21) ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE.—All trade agreements to which the United States is a party shall recognize the right of all governments to regulate and enact laws in the interest of addressing climate change and the rights of all governments to exercise any legal rights or safeguards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions without the threat of trade-related penalties.

SA 1355. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 15, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

(I) ensuring that the procedures for resolving investor-state disputes involving claims for expected future profits or similar compensation related to the exercise by the United States or a State of any legal rights or safeguards to protect or provide for clean air, clean water, or safe food, including actions under any existing or future law or regulation, occur under the jurisdiction of a court of the United States or a State and not through the dispute settlement mechanism.

SA 1356. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 15, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

(I) ensuring that the procedures for resolving investor-state disputes involving claims for expected future profits or similar compensation related to the exercise by the United States or a State of any legal rights or safeguards to provide for reductions in children's exposure to carcinogens and toxic substances in toys and other consumer products, including actions under any existing or future law or regulation, occur under the jurisdiction of a court of the United States or a State and not through the dispute settlement mechanism.

SA 1357. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 15, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

(I) ensuring that the procedures for resolving investor-state disputes involving claims for expected future profits or similar compensation related to the exercise by the United States or a State of any legal rights or safeguards to provide for reductions in exposure to substances that are known to cause cancer or other serious health impacts, including actions under any existing or future law or regulation, occur under the jurisdiction of a court of the United States or a State and not through the dispute settlement mechanism.

SA 1358. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 15, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

(I) ensuring that the procedures for resolving investor-state disputes involving claims for expected future profits or similar compensation related to the exercise by the United States or a State of any legal rights or safeguards to provide for reductions in the pesticide residue levels on food, including actions under any existing or future law or regulation, occur under the jurisdiction of a court of the United States or a State and not through the dispute settlement mechanism.

SA 1359. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 15, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

(I) ensuring that the procedures for resolving investor-state disputes involving claims for expected future profits or similar compensation related to the exercise by the United States or a State of any legal rights or safeguards to provide for the reductions in the emission of, or exposure to, toxic air pollutants, including actions under any existing or future law or regulation, occur under the jurisdiction of a court of the United States or a State and not through the dispute settlement mechanism.

SA 1360. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 15, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

(I) ensuring that the procedures for resolving investor-state disputes involving claims for expected future profits or similar compensation related to the exercise by the United States or a State of any legal rights or safeguards to provide for the reductions in the exposure to asbestos, including actions under any existing or future law or regulation, occur under the jurisdiction of a court of the United States or a State and not through the dispute settlement mechanism.

SA 1361. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr.

HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 106(b), add the following:

(7) LIMITATION ON TRADE AUTHORITIES PROCEDURES FOR AGREEMENTS WITH CERTAIN COUNTRIES.—The trade authorities procedures shall not apply to any implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements entered into under section 103(b) with a country that has a minimum wage that is less than $1.00 an hour, as determined by the Secretary of Labor.

SA 1362. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 15, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

(I) ensuring that the procedures for resolving investor-state disputes involving claims for expected future profits or similar compensation related to the exercise by the United States or a State of any legal rights or safeguards to provide for reductions in contaminants harmful to public health in drinking water, including actions under any existing or future law or regulation, occur under the jurisdiction of a court of the United States or a State and not through the dispute settlement mechanism.

SA 1363. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Subtitle A—Tax Credit for Apprenticeship Programs

SEC. 301. CREDIT FOR EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATING IN QUALIFIED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 45S. EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATING IN QUALIFIED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 38, the apprenticeship credit determined under this section for the taxable year is an amount equal to the sum of the applicable credit amounts (as determined under subsection (b)) for each of apprentice of the employer that exceeds the applicable apprenticeship level (as determined under subsection (e)) during such taxable year.

''(b) APPLICABLE CREDIT AMOUNT.—For purposes of subsection (a), the applicable credit amount for each apprentice for each taxable year is equal to—

''(1) $1,500, in the case of an apprentice who—

''(A) has not attained 25 years of age at the close of the taxable year, or

''(B) is certified as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974, and

''(2) $1,000, in the case of any apprentice not described in paragraph (1).

''(c) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF YEARS WHICH CREDIT MAY BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.—The apprenticeship credit shall not be allowed for more than 2 taxable years with respect to any apprentice.

''(d) APPRENTICE.—For purposes of this section, the term 'apprentice' means any employee who is employed by the employer—

''(1) in an officially recognized apprenticeable occupation, as determined by the Office of Apprenticeship of the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor, and

''(2) pursuant to an apprentice agreement registered with—

''(A) the Office of Apprenticeship of the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor, or

''(B) a recognized State apprenticeship agency, as determined by the Office of Apprenticeship of the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor.

''(e) APPLICABLE APPRENTICESHIP LEVEL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes this section, the applicable apprenticeship level shall be equal to—

''(A) in the case of any apprentice described in subsection (b)(1), the amount equal to 80 percent of the average number of such apprentices of the employer for the 3 taxable years preceding the taxable year for which the credit is being determined, rounded to the next lower whole number; and

''(B) in the case of any apprentices described in subsection (b)(2), the amount equal to 80 percent of the average number of such apprentices of the employer for the 3 taxable years preceding the taxable year for which the credit is being determined, rounded to the next lower whole number.

''(2) FIRST YEAR OF NEW APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.—In the case of an employer which did not have any apprentices during any taxable year in the 3 taxable years preceding the taxable year for which the credit is being determined, the applicable apprenticeship level shall be equal to zero.

''(f) COORDINATION WITH OTHER CREDITS.—The amount of credit otherwise allowable under sections 45A, 51(a), and 1396(a) with respect to any employee shall be reduced by the credit allowed by this section with respect to such employee.

''(g) CERTAIN RULES TO APPLY.—Rules similar to the rules of subsections (i)(1) and (k) of section 51 shall apply for purposes of this section.''.

(b) CREDIT MADE PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.—Subsection (b) of section 38 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''plus'' at the end of paragraph (35), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (36) and inserting '', plus'', and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(37) the apprenticeship credit determined under section 45S(a).''.

(c) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Subsection (a) of section 280C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting ''45S(a),'' after ''45P(a),''.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 45S. Employees participating in qualified apprenticeship programs.''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to individuals commencing apprenticeship programs after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) LIMITATION ON GOVERNMENT PRINTING COSTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall coordinate with the heads of Federal departments and independent agencies to—

(1) determine which Government publications could be available on Government websites and no longer printed and to devise a strategy to reduce overall Government printing costs over the 10-year period beginning with fiscal year 2015, except that the Director shall ensure that essential printed documents prepared for social security recipients, medicare beneficiaries, and other populations in areas with limited Internet access or use continue to remain available;

(2) establish government wide Federal guidelines on employee printing; and

(3) issue guidelines requiring every department, agency, commission, or office to list at a prominent place near the beginning of each publication distributed to the public and issued or paid for by the Federal Government—

(A) the name of the issuing agency, department, commission, or office;

(B) the total number of copies of the document printed;

(C) the collective cost of producing and printing all of the copies of the document; and

(D) the name of the entity publishing the document.

Subtitle B—Build America Bonds

SEC. 311. BUILD AMERICA BONDS MADE PERMANENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section 54AA(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting ''or during a period beginning on or after the date of the enactment of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015,'' after ''January 1, 2011,''.

(b) REDUCTION IN CREDIT PERCENTAGE TO BONDHOLDERS.—Subsection (b) of section 54AA of such Code is amended to read as follows:

''(b) AMOUNT OF CREDIT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the credit determined under this subsection with respect to any interest payment date for a build America bond is the applicable percentage of the amount of interest payable by the issuer with respect to such date.

''(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the applicable percentage shall be determined under the following table:

''In the case of a bond issued during calendar year:	**The applicable percentage is:**
2009 or 2010	35
2014	31
2015	30
2016	29
2017 and thereafter	28.''.

(c) SPECIAL RULES.—Subsection (f) of section 54AA of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) APPLICATION OF OTHER RULES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a build America bond shall be considered a recovery zone economic development bond (as defined in section 1400U–2) for purposes of application of section 1601 of title I of division B of Public Law 111–5 (26 U.S.C. 54C note).

''(B) PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.—Recipients of any financial assistance authorized under this section that funds public transportation projects, as defined in Title 49, United States Code, must comply with the grant requirements described under section 5309 of such title.''.

(d) EXTENSION OF PAYMENTS TO ISSUERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6431 of such Code is amended—

(A) by inserting ''or during a period beginning on or after the date of the enactment of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015,'' after ''January 1, 2011,'' in subsection (a), and

(B) by striking ''before January 1, 2011'' in subsection (f)(1)(B) and inserting ''during a particular period''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (g) of section 54AA of such Code is amended—

(A) by inserting ''or during a period beginning on or after the date of the enactment of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015,'' after ''January 1, 2011,'', and

(B) by striking ''QUALIFIED BONDS ISSUED BEFORE 2011'' in the heading and inserting ''CERTAIN QUALIFIED BONDS''.

(e) REDUCTION IN PERCENTAGE OF PAYMENTS TO ISSUERS.—Subsection (b) of section 6431 of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary'',

(2) by striking ''35 percent'' and inserting ''the applicable percentage'', and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'applicable percentage' means the percentage determined in accordance with the following table:

"In the case of a qualified bond issued during calendar year:	The applicable percentage is:
2009 or 2010	35
2014	31
2015	30
2016	29
2017 and thereafter	28.''.

(f) CURRENT REFUNDINGS PERMITTED.—Subsection (g) of section 54AA of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) TREATMENT OF CURRENT REFUNDING BONDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'qualified bond' includes any bond (or series of bonds) issued to refund a qualified bond if—

''(i) the average maturity date of the issue of which the refunding bond is a part is not later than the average maturity date of the bonds to be refunded by such issue,

''(ii) the amount of the refunding bond does not exceed the outstanding amount of the refunded bond, and

''(iii) the refunded bond is redeemed not later than 90 days after the date of the issuance of the refunding bond.

''(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—In the case of a refunding bond referred to in subparagraph (A), the applicable percentage with respect to such bond under section 6431(b) shall be the lowest percentage specified in paragraph (2) of such section.

''(C) DETERMINATION OF AVERAGE MATURITY.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(i), average maturity shall be determined in accordance with section 147(b)(2)(A).

''(D) ISSUANCE RESTRICTION NOT APPLICABLE.—Subsection (d)(1)(B) shall not apply to a refunding bond referred to in subparagraph (A).''.

(g) CLARIFICATION RELATED TO LEVEES AND FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS.—Subparagraph (A) of section 54AA(g)(2) of such Code is amended by inserting ''(including capital expenditures for levees and other flood control projects)'' after ''capital expenditures''.

(h) GROSS-UP OF PAYMENT TO ISSUERS IN CASE OF SEQUESTRATION.—In the case of any payment under section 6431(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 made after the date of the enactment of this Act to which sequestration applies, the amount of such payment shall be increased to an amount equal to—

(1) such payment (determined before such sequestration), multiplied by

(2) the quotient obtained by dividing 1 by the amount by which 1 exceeds the percentage reduction in such payment pursuant to such sequestration.

For purposes of this subsection, the term ''sequestration'' means any reduction in direct spending ordered in accordance with a sequestration report prepared by the Director of the Office and Management and Budget pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to obligations issued on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle C—Export Promotion Reform

SEC. 321. IMPROVED COORDINATION OF EXPORT PROMOTION ACTIVITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCIES THROUGH TRADE PROMOTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

(a) DUTIES OF COMMITTEE.—Section 2312(b) of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4727(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

''(4) in making the assessments under paragraph (5), review the proposed annual budget of each agency described in that paragraph under procedures established by the TPCC for such review, before the agency submits that budget to the Office of Management and Budget and the President for inclusion in the budget of the President submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code; and''.

(b) STRATEGIC PLAN.—Section 2312(c) of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (6) as paragraphs (4) through (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) in conducting the review and developing the plan under paragraph (2), take into account recommendations from a representative number of United States exporters, in particular small businesses and medium-sized businesses, and representatives of United States workers;''.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 2312 of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President shall take such steps as are necessary to provide the chairperson of the TPCC with the authority to ensure that the TPCC carries out each of its duties under subsection (b) and develops and implements the strategic plan under subsection (c).''.

(d) SMALL BUSINESS DEFINED.—Section 2312 of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988, as amended by subsection (c), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) SMALL BUSINESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'small business' means a small business concern as defined under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 25 U.S.C. 632).''.

SEC. 322. EFFECTIVE DEPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL SERVICE RESOURCES IN FOREIGN OFFICES.

Section 2301(c)(4) of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4721(c)(4)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (F) as subparagraphs (C) through (G), respectively; and

(2) by striking ''(4) FOREIGN OFFICES.—(A) The Secretary may'' and inserting the following:

''(4) FOREIGN OFFICES.—(A)(i) In consultation with the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee established under section 2312(a), the Secretary shall, not less frequently than once every 5 years—

''(I) conduct a global assessment of overseas markets to identify those markets with the greatest potential for increasing United States exports; and

''(II) deploy Commercial Service personnel and other resources on the basis of the global assessment conducted under subclause (I).

''(ii) Each global assessment conducted under clause (i)(I) shall take into account recommendations from a representative number of United States exporters, in particular small businesses (as defined in section 2312(h)) and medium-sized businesses, and representatives of United States workers.

''(iii) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, and not less frequently than once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress the results of the most recent global assessment conducted under clause (i)(I) and a plan for deployment of personnel and resources under clause (i)(II) on the basis of that global assessment.

''(B) The Secretary may' ''.

SEC. 323. STRENGTHENED COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY IN SUPPORT OF UNITED STATES EXPORTS.

(a) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—Section 207(c) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3927(c)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', including through the development of a plan, drafted in consultation with the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee established under section 2312(a) of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4727(a)), for effective diplomacy to remove or reduce obstacles to exports of United States goods and services''.

(b) ASSESSMENTS AND PROMOTIONS.—Section 603 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4003) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking the second sentence; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c)(1) Precepts for selection boards responsible for recommending promotions into and within the Senior Foreign Service shall emphasize performance which demonstrates the strong policy formulation capabilities, executive leadership qualities, and highly developed functional and area expertise, which are required for the Senior Foreign Service.

''(2) Precepts described in paragraph (1) related to functional and area expertise shall include, with respect to members of the Service with responsibilities relating to economic affairs, expertise on the effectiveness of efforts to promote the export of United States goods and services in accordance with a commercial diplomacy plan developed pursuant to section 207(c).''.

(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Section 209(b) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3929(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) the effectiveness of commercial diplomacy relating to the promotion of exports of United States goods and services; and''.

Subtitle D—STEM Education

SEC. 331. GRANTS FOR STEM EDUCATION.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to improve student academic achievement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including computer science, by—

(1) improving instruction in such subjects through grade 12;

(2) improving student engagement in, and increasing student access to, such subjects;

(3) improving the quality and effectiveness of classroom instruction by recruiting, training, and supporting highly rated teachers and providing robust tools and supports for students and teachers in such subjects; and

(4) closing student achievement gaps, and preparing more students to be college and career ready in such subjects.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) TERMS IN THE ESEA.—The terms ''elementary school'', ''secondary school'', ''Secretary'', and ''State educational agency'' shall have the meanings given the terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a State educational agency; or

(B) a State educational agency in partnership with 1 or more State educational agencies.

(3) STATE.—The term ''State'' means—

(A) any of the 50 States;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Bureau of Indian Education; or

(D) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(c) RESERVATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated for this section for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve—

(A) not more than 2 percent to provide technical assistance to States under this section;

(B) not more than 5 percent for State capacity-building grants under this section, if the Secretary is awarding such grants in accordance with paragraph (2); and

(C) 10 percent for STEM Master Teacher Corps programs described under subsection (g)(2).

(2) CAPACITY-BUILDING GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In any year for which funding is distributed competitively, as described in subsection (e)(1), the Secretary may award 1 capacity-building grant to each State that does not receive a grant under subsection (e), on a competitive basis, to enable such State to become more competitive in future years.

(B) DURATION.—Grants awarded under subparagraph (A) shall be for a period of 1 year.

(d) FORMULA GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year for which the amount appropriated to carry out this section, and not reserved under subsection (c)(1), is equal to or more than $300,000,000, the Secretary shall award grants to States, based on the formula described in paragraph (2) to carry out activities described in subsection (g)(1).

(2) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall allot to each State—

(A) an amount that bears the same relationship to 35 percent of the excess amount described in paragraph (1) as the number of individuals ages 5 through 17 in the State, as determined by the Secretary on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data, bears to the number of those individuals in all such States, as so determined; and

(B) an amount that bears the same relationship to 65 percent of the excess amount as the number of individuals ages 5 through 17 from families with incomes below the poverty line in the State, as determined by the Secretary on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data, bears to the number of those individuals in all such States, as so determined.

(3) FUNDING MINIMUM.—No State receiving an allotment under this subsection may receive less than ½ of 1 percent of the total amount allotted under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year.

(4) PUERTO RICO.—The amount allotted under paragraph (2) to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for a fiscal year may not exceed ½ of 1 percent of the total amount allotted under paragraph (1) for such fiscal year.

(5) REALLOTMENT OF UNUSED FUNDS.—If a State does not successfully apply, the Secretary shall reallot the amount of the State's allotment to the remaining States in accordance with this subsection.

(e) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year for which the amount appropriated to carry out this section, and not reserved under subsection (c)(1), is less than $300,000,000, the Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to enable such eligible entities to carry out the activities described in subsection (g)(1).

(2) DURATION.—Grants awarded under this subsection shall be for a period of not more than 3 years.

(3) RENEWAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If an eligible entity demonstrates progress on the performance metrics established under subsection (h)(1), the Secretary may renew a grant for an additional 2-year period.

(B) REDUCED FUNDING.—Grant funds awarded under subparagraph (A) shall be awarded at a reduced amount.

(f) APPLICATIONS.—Each eligible entity or State desiring a grant under this section, whether through a competitive grant under subsection (e) or through an allotment under subsection (d), shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require.

(g) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State or eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use such grant funds to carry out activities to promote the subject fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in elementary schools and secondary schools.

(2) STEM MASTER TEACHER CORPS.—The Secretary shall use funds reserved in accordance with subsection (c)(1)(C) to establish STEM Master Teacher Corps programs, which shall be programs that—

(A) elevate the status of the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teaching profession by recognizing and rewarding outstanding teachers in those subjects; and

(B) attract and retain effective science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teachers, particularly in high-need schools, by offering them additional compensation, instructional resources, and instructional leadership roles.

(h) PERFORMANCE METRICS AND REPORT.—

(1) PERFORMANCE METRICS.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, shall establish performance metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of the activities carried out under this section.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each State or eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall prepare and submit an annual report to the Secretary, which shall include information relevant to the performance metrics described in paragraph (1).

(i) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall—

(1) acting through the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, and in consultation with the Director of the National Science Foundation—

(A) evaluate the implementation and impact of the activities supported under this section, including progress measured by the metrics established under subsection (h)(1); and

(B) identify best practices to improve instruction in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects; and

(2) disseminate, in consultation with the National Science Foundation, research on best practices to improve instruction in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects.

SEC. 332. INNOVATIVE INSPIRATION SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ''local educational agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(2) LOW-INCOME STUDENT.—The term ''low-income student'' means a student who is eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.).

(3) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term ''secondary school'' has the meaning given the term in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Education.

(5) STEM.—The term ''STEM'' means science, technology, engineering (including robotics), or mathematics, and includes the field of computer science.

(6) NON-TRADITIONAL STEM TEACHING METHOD.—The term ''non-traditional STEM teaching method'' means a STEM education method or strategy such as incorporating self-directed student learning, inquiry-based learning, cooperative learning in small groups, collaboration with mentors in the field of study, and participation in STEM-related competitions.

(b) GOALS OF PROGRAM.—The goals of the Innovation Inspiration grant program are—

(1) to provide opportunities for local educational agencies to support non-traditional STEM teaching methods;

(2) to support the participation of students in nonprofit STEM competitions;

(3) to foster innovation and broaden interest in, and access to, careers in the STEM fields by investing in programs supported by educators and professional mentors who receive hands-on training and ongoing communications that strengthen the interactions of the educators and mentors with—

(A) students who are involved in STEM activities; and

(B) other students in the STEM classrooms and communities of such educators and mentors; and

(4) to encourage collaboration among students, engineers, and professional mentors.

(c) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to award grants, on a competitive basis, to local educational agencies to enable the local educational agencies—

(A) to promote STEM in secondary schools and after school programs;

(B) to support the participation of secondary school students in non-traditional STEM teaching methods; and

(C) to broaden secondary school students' access to careers in STEM.

(2) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award each grant under this section for a period of not more than 5 years.

(3) AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall award a grant under this section in an amount that is sufficient to carry out the goals of this section.

(d) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to applications from local educational agencies that propose to carry out activities that target—

(A) a rural or urban school;

(B) a low-performing school or local educational agency; or

(C) a local educational agency or school that serves low-income students.

(e) USES OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each local educational agency that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds for any of the following:

(A) STEM EDUCATION AND CAREER ACTIVITIES.—Promotion of STEM education and career activities.

(B) PURCHASE OF PARTS.—The purchase of parts and supplies needed to support participation in non-traditional STEM teaching methods.

(C) TEACHER INCENTIVES AND STIPENDS.—Incentives and stipends for teachers involved in non-traditional STEM teaching methods outside of their regular teaching duties.

(D) SUPPORT AND EXPENSES.—Support and expenses for student participation in regional and national nonprofit STEM competitions.

(E) ADDITIONAL MATERIALS AND SUPPORT.—Additional materials and support, such as equipment, facility use, technology, broadband access, and other expenses, directly associated with non-traditional STEM teaching and mentoring.

(F) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—Carrying out other activities that are related to the goals of the grant program, as described in subsection (b).

(2) PROHIBITION.—A local educational agency shall not use grant funds awarded under this section to participate in any STEM competition that is not a nonprofit competition.

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Each local educational agency that receives a grant under this section may use not more than 2 percent of the grant funds for costs related to the administration of the grant project.

(f) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), each local educational agency that receives a grant under this section shall secure, toward the cost of the activities assisted under the grant, from non-Federal sources, an amount equal to 50 percent of the grant. The non-Federal contribution may be provided in cash or in-kind.

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or part of the matching requirement described in paragraph (1) for a local educational agency if the Secretary determines that applying the matching requirement would result in a serious financial hardship or a financial inability to carry out the goals of the grant project.

(g) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds provided to a local educational agency under this section shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, funds that would otherwise be used for activities authorized under this section.

(h) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall establish an evaluation program to determine the efficacy of the grant program established by this section, which shall include comparing students participating in a grant project funded under this section to similar students who do not so participate, in order to assess the impact of student participation on—

(1) what courses a student takes in the future; and

(2) a student's postsecondary study.

Subtitle E—Extension of Tax Credit for Research Expenses

SEC. 341. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF RESEARCH CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 41(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''December 31, 2014'' and inserting ''December 31, 2019''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to amounts paid or incurred after December 31, 2014.

Subtitle F—Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership

SEC. 351. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce to carry out the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership under sections 25 and 26 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k and 278l)—

(1) for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021, $192,450,000; and

(2) for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter, such sums as may be necessary.

SA 1364. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title I, add the following:

SEC. 1_____. DRUG IMPORTATION.

(a) PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.—The trade authorities procedures shall not apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements entered into under section 103(b) until the Secretary of Health and Human Services promulgates regulations under section 804(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 384(b)), as amended by subsection (b)(2).

(b) AMENDMENTS TO FFDCA.—Section 804 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 384) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''pharmacist or wholesaler'' and inserting ''pharmacist, wholesaler, or the head of a relevant agency of the Federal Government'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''from Canada'';

(3) in subsection (f), by striking ''Canada'' and inserting '' any country that is a party to the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement''; and

(4) in subsection (j)—

(A) in the heading of paragraph (3), by striking ''CANADA'' and inserting ''**A FOREIGN COUNTRY**''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking ''from Canada'' and inserting ''from a country that is a party to the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement''.

(c) PRESCRIPTION DRUG IMPORTATION.—The principal negotiating objective of the United States regarding the importation of prescription drugs is to permit the importation of such drugs from any country that is a party to a trade agreement with the United States, pursuant to section 804 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 384).

SA 1365. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1221 proposed by Mr. HATCH to the bill H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 106(b), add the following:

(7) FOR AGREEMENTS WITH COUNTRIES THAT CRIMINALIZE HOMOSEXUALITY.—The trade authorities procedures shall not apply to an implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement entered into under section 103(b) with a country the government of which criminalizes homosexuality or persecutes or otherwise punishes individuals on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, as identified by the Secretary of State in the most recent annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices under section 116 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n).

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following staff of the Finance Committee be allowed on the Senate floor for the remainder of this week: Nikesh Patel and Jennifer Kay.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1350, S. 1357, and H.R. 2048

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I understand there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1350) to provide a short-term extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 1357) to extend authority relating to roving surveillance, access to business records, and individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 until July 31, 2015, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 2048) to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

Mr. LANKFORD. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be placed on the calendar.

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS, THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL, AND EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 43, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 43) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds, the rotunda of the Capitol, and Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for official Congressional events surrounding the visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to the United States Capitol.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LANKFORD. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 43) was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 19; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided, with the Democrats controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; further, that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1314; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator PORTMAN for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

CURRENCY MANIPULATION

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I thank the Presiding Officer for allowing me to speak briefly about an amendment I am offering to the trade promotion authority legislation.

Also, I was not here earlier because I was unavoidably detained. I was on a flight to arrive at National Airport, and because of thunderstorms, they diverted us to Richmond, VA, where I spent about an hour this evening.

If I had been here, I would have voted yes on both the trade adjustment assistance legislation and also the religious freedom legislation that came before this Chamber earlier this evening.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to speak now about an amendment I am offering to the underlying legislation, the trade promotion authority.

This amendment is regarding currency manipulation, something we have talked a lot about in this Chamber over the last week. Now is the opportunity for us to speak with our votes on behalf of the people we represent, who believe that, yes, we should be trading with other countries. In fact, I strongly believe that we should be expanding our exports and, therefore, I support trade-opening agreements that could be negotiated under a trade promotion authority.

But I also believe that we need to level the playing field, so that while we are expanding trade and increasing our exports and therefore creating more jobs in my home State of Ohio and around the country, at the same time, we are able to tell those workers and farmers that other countries are going to be required to play by the rules.

There are lots of issues that get addressed here in this Chamber regarding leveling that playing field. One is to ensure that countries don't dump their products here in the United States, and we have language in the Customs bill that deals with that, to ensure that companies can indeed seek a remedy and seek help for that.

We also talk about subsidized products that come to the United States, to our shores, to compete unfairly. We have legislation to address that as well.

But there are other issues that need to be addressed to ensure that, again, countries are playing by the rules. One is currency manipulation.

We are in the process now of giving our government the ability to negotiate an agreement that could lower tariffs and nontariff barriers to our products, and that is a good thing, whether it is the agreement with Asia, the so-called TPP Agreement, or the agreement in Europe, the so-called TTIP Agreement and others.

But the reality is that we are also in a situation where, regardless of what agreements we negotiated, many of the benefits of those reductions in tariffs or nontariff barriers could immediately be countered by another country saying: Do you know what? I am going to intervene aggressively in international currency markets to lower the price, to lower the cost of my currency, so that my exports, specifically to United States, will be less expensive. And, by the way, it also affects other countries in the meantime. So relative to the dollar, their currency is lower, so, therefore, their exports are less expensive to us, and our exports to them are more expensive.

When I walk the shop floors in Ohio and I talk to workers and I talk to management about how this affects us in Ohio, what I hear very directly is: Rob, we are all for trade. We believe we can compete. But we need to be able to compete on a playing field where everybody is agreeing that there will be certain rules of the road.

There are rules of the road. The amendment that we are offering, despite what some people have been saying about it and what I have seen written even today, which is inaccurate—the rules of the road are actually set up by the International Monetary Fund and by the World Trade Organization, by reference to the IMF.

As an example, every single country we are negotiating with right now with regard to Trans-Pacific Partnership—the so-called TPP—is a signatory to this International Monetary Fund and to the WTO. Therefore, they are obliged to live with these rules.

Our amendment is very simple. All it says is that these rules apply just as they are currently provided for by the International Monetary Fund, and that countries, when they are negotiating with us in a trade agreement, need to be consistent with those obligations that they have undertaken and that there is an enforceability measure. In other words, if they don't do it, there will be some consequences. Right now, there is no enforcement penalty. This is one reason we continue to see in some cases currency manipulation, which in turn, again, hurts our workers and our farmers, who just want the chance to be able to compete—and compete fairly.

I would also say there has been some misinformation about this amendment out there regarding whether it would affect monetary policy. We will see under this amendment that we have clarified that—not that it was ever a question in my mind or of others who drafted it. We clarified that to the extent that we have actually said: This does not apply to monetary policy. It doesn't apply to macroeconomic policy, decisions that countries make.

Instead, again, it takes the very specific undertakings that the IMF has established for all these countries, which says: You cannot intervene in purchasing other currencies and doing so in a way to expand your exports unfairly.

So I think this is a very important debate we are having with regard to trade promotion authority. We need to get back in the business of expanding trade for our workers and our farmers.

The Presiding Officer's wheat farmers in Montana are looking forward to a chance to get into some of these markets where they have been essentially

closed out because other countries have completed trade agreements lowering tariffs and we have not. So this will be good for the Presiding Officer's farmers and for the farmers in Ohio. One in every three acres they plant is now planted for export. It will be good for our soybean farmers in Ohio, as 50 percent of their crop is exported. It will be good for the workers of Ohio, as 25 percent of our manufacturing jobs are now export jobs.

But we are losing ground because over the last 7 years, we haven't been able to knock down these barriers because we haven't had this trade promotion authority, which is necessary in order to create the opportunity for us to export more.

Again, while we are doing that and using the leverage of our market here in the United States of America, the largest economy, we must also be sure that we are dealing with dumping, with subsidization, and, yes, with currency manipulation and other aspects of trade that simply aren't fair.

Recently, I received a letter signed by thousands of Ohio auto workers, and they called currency manipulation ''the most critical barrier in the 21st century.'' They get it. These are workers who work at the transmission plant in Sharonville, OH, but I see this all over Ohio. More than 1,500 UAW workers will soon manufacture Ford's medium-duty truck in Avon Lake, OH. We are really excited about that. This is actually production that was moved from Mexico to the United States.

This is what they told me: We want to be able to compete. We want to be able to keep our jobs here at Avon Lake, OH.

They said: Currency manipulation hurts American competitiveness here at home and export markets where we compete around the world.

This assembly plant's mission is to provide our customers with the highest quality, and the safest, most reliable automotive products and services, while also fostering continuous growth and prosperity for our families and the surrounding communities. That is why they say that we must ensure that trade policies do not undermine this progress in the U.S. auto industry and in U.S. manufacturing.

By the way, this letter was jointly signed not just by UAW members but also by the plant manager and other members of management at this company. Why? Because they get it. If they are working hard, making concessions, becoming more efficient to be more competitive, they are willing to do it. They know they have to. They get it. We are an international marketplace now. There is global competition. But they want to be darn sure that they aren't having an unfair advantage weighed against them because another government, as they say, cheated on their currency.

Given what we are hearing from these American workers, I have introduced this bipartisan amendment with Senator STABENOW, cracking down on currency manipulation. I have been on the floor a number of times to talk about this. I want to be sure that we have the opportunity to be able to move forward with this amendment. We also have a number of other cosponsors, including Senators BURR, BROWN, GRAHAM, CASEY, COLLINS, SCHUMER, SHAHEEN, HEITKAMP, BALDWIN, KLOBUCHAR, MANCHIN, WARREN, and DONNELLY.

We are pleased that our work here is backed up—yes—by the auto companies, including GM, Chrysler, Ford, but also by U.S. Steel, Nucor Steel, AK Steel, and others. This very idea of enforceable currency disciplines in trade has been backed up again and again. It has been endorsed by 60 Senators on the floor of the Senate through either votes or letters that they have signed and by 230 Members of the House.

Again, what it does is it gives teeth to the existing IMF and WTO rules against currency manipulation.

Some have said: Well, this is kind of a stretch. Why are we dealing with currency manipulation in this legislation? Let me remind them that the TPA bill being considered today—the one without this amendment in it, the one that was offered by Chairman HATCH, my friend ORRIN HATCH, and supported by Treasury Secretary Jack Lew—so the administration—includes a negotiating objective to address currency concerns.

So this notion that we shouldn't have this involved in the trade agreement—it is in the underlying TPA. The problem is it is not enforceable. So we say that we agree that currency manipulation is a bad thing because it distorts trade and it distorts free markets.

I am a conservative. I believe we shouldn't be encouraging distortion.

The difference between the negotiating objective in the bill and the one I am proposing is that ours is actually enforceable. It gives us the opportunity to actually make a difference in this debate, to be able to ensure that countries do indeed abide by the rules they have promised to follow as members of the International Monetary Fund.

Some have said this is a poison pill for trade. I don't quite get that. Again, trade promotion authority already includes currency manipulation. The question is whether it should be enforceable. If we believe, as we say we do, that this is wrong, why wouldn't we want to have some ability to enforce it?

As I said earlier, this legislation specifically excludes domestic monetary policy. It is now in the text of the amendment itself, which is different than it was in committee.

So I very much appreciate being allowed to speak on this tonight. I appreciate the opportunity for me to offer this amendment that I have drafted with Senators STABENOW and others. I look forward to talking more about this issue later this week. I do believe it is important that we move forward on providing the opportunity for the workers I represent, the farmers I represent, and the service providers in Ohio to expand their exports. It creates not just more jobs but good-paying jobs. On average, those jobs pay 15 to 18 percent more—and better benefits. That is important. America needs to get back in the business of expanding exports. For 7 years we haven't had that and other countries have, through hundreds of trade agreements that left us out and lowered the barriers between their countries. That hurts us. We want that market share. We don't want to lose it.

But, again, as we do that, let's be darned sure that we are giving our workers and our farmers a fair shake so they have the opportunity. If they play by the rules and they work hard, they become more efficient, they make the concessions, and they know this is going to be something where they have the opportunity to excel, to compete, and ultimately to help create jobs and opportunity here in this country.

Just as we are encouraging other countries to take on our free enterprise system and our values we hold so dear, we should also encourage them to take on these rules of fairness, including prohibiting the manipulation of currency that is explicitly directed at increasing our costs and decreasing their costs as they send exports to us.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight.

VOTE EXPLANATION

I would reiterate that I support the Brown amendment No. 1242. I was not able to be here for the vote because I was unavoidably detained and was diverted from National Airport.

I also want to say that I support the Lankford amendment No. 1237, again, regarding the religious freedoms and making that a part of trade negotiation objectives as well.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:57 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO VITILIGO MONTH

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, Vitiligo is an autoimmune disorder that affects over three million Americans with no known cure to combat this disorder which causes a loss of pigment cells in humans; and

Whereas, Vitiligo Bond, Inc., is an organization that continues to serve those who live with or are affected by the autoimmune disorder Vitiligo, by empowering patients, bringing attention to the disease, and leading the way to find a cure through research; and

Whereas, today millions of Americans gather to raise awareness and funds to assist individuals living with Vitiligo; and

Whereas, this unique organization has given of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to advocate for our citizens and their families who battle Vitiligo; and

Whereas, Vitiligo Bond and other organizations have vowed to serve our district, state and nation by being the sword and shield for those who live with Vitiligo, encouraging better treatments, funding research and educating people about the disease to help heal families and strengthen our resolve to find a cure; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the millions of people who are living with Vitiligo and those who are leading the fight for the cure to end Vitiligo; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim the month of June as Vitiligo Awareness Month in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 1st day of June, 2015.

HONORING THE RANCOCAS VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL NAVY JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable and distinguished group of young men and women from my district, The Rancocas Valley Regional High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC). The Rancocas Valley Regional High School NJROTC has been recognized for four consecutive years as a Distinguished Unit, and has received academic honors twice.

The Rancocas Valley Regional High School NJROTC battalion has completed almost 2,600 hours of community service and over 2,000 hours of school support. Led by 18 senior members this group has embraced and lived the Navy core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Thank you to the Rancocas Valley NJROTC for your hard work and for your dedication to your community.

A TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT TREVOR IMM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Trevor Imm of Boy Scout Troop 208 in Clive, Iowa, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

Trevor Imm, now a 14-year old freshman at Prairieview School in Waukee, has been a member of the Scouts since he was a Tiger Cub with Pack 181 at Walnut Hills Elementary School in Urbandale. His parents, Mark and Rachael Imm, were his Den Leaders for four years during Cub Scouts. After earning the Arrow of Light Award, the highest award as a Webelos Scout, Trevor crossed over to Boy Scouts with Troop 208 in Clive, Iowa, where his Dad joined him as an Assistant Scoutmaster. Trevor has served in several leadership roles for the Troop and was elected by his fellow Scouts in Troop 208 to the Order of the Arrow, where he became a Brotherhood Member with the Mitigwa Lodge.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, Trevor was required to pass specific tests that are organized by objectives and merit badges, and complete an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Trevor's Eagle Project was centered around Ashworth Road Baptist Church in West Des Moines. His plans included remodeling their "For Kid's Sake Foster Family Clothing Closet." Trevor organized the remodel so that it included a fresh coat of colorful paint, new clear bins for a more organized system of storing and displaying items, the installation of new wall shelving for donated shoes, and the construction of freestanding shelves for jeans. He even led the creation of a safe play area for young children to play while parents shop.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his family in serving their community demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Trevor and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, on May 14, 2015, I inadvertently voted "nay" on Roll Call 232. I intended to vote "aye". This amendment, offered by Chairman MCCAUL of Texas, would include counterterrorism and border security activities in the list of preferred applications which the Department of Defense considers when transferring excess property to other federal agencies. This is a strong amendment, and I want the RECORD to reflect my support of it.

TRIBUTE TO MS. WINIFRED PIERCE

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, thirty-four years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve as a teacher and professional educator; and

Whereas, Ms. Winifred L. Pierce has enhanced the academic curriculum of Public Schools in North Carolina, Texas and Georgia, and has increased the goodwill of the schools in my district in Gwinnett and DeKalb Counties. Her work resonates throughout the community and she has created a legacy for students through scholarships and servitude; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as a friend, a fearless leader and a servant to ensure that all students receive the best education and skills to become outstanding leaders of our communities and nation; and

Whereas, Ms. Winifred L. Pierce is a cornerstone in our community who has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of my District and our Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Winifred L. Pierce on her retirement and to wish her well in her new endeavors; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim May 23, 2015 as Ms. Winifred L. Pierce Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 23rd day of May, 2015.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF TONY FRANSETTA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tony Fransetta for a lifetime of

service and leadership. Tony was born in Kimball, West Virginia. He served in the U.S. Navy for four years earning the United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Ribbon.

Tony began working for Ford Motor Company in 1956, and stayed with the company until his retirement in 1990. During his employment with Ford Motor Company, Tony represented 15,000 employees in contract negotiations and chaired programs involving quality control, employee involvement, insurance benefits, drug treatment, and employee education. Tony also co-chaired a national joint mortality study on cancer and heart disease in the industrial workplace that was published in professional journals.

Since his retirement, Tony has served on several advisory councils for hospitals and health networks such as Kaiser Health Foundation, Southwest General Hospital, Wellington Regional Medical Center, and the Regional Medicare Advisory Council for Southeast Florida.

Currently, Tony serves as the President of the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans, an advocacy group for working and retired Americans with over 200,000 members. Tony is also the Chairman for the area Auto Retiree Council, U.A.W. Florida Retiree C.A.P., representing 26,000 retirees in Florida, Vice President of the Executive Board for Florida AFL–CIO, and General Policy Board Member for the National Alliance for Retired Americans.

In 2005, Tony was appointed as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA). In 2011, Tony received the Alliance for Retired Americans President's Award. The Award read, ''presented to Tony Fransetta, President, Florida Alliance for Retired Americans, for his lifetime of public service on behalf of older Americans and for guiding and growing the Alliance for Retired Americans''.

Tony was happily married to his wife, Lena, for 49 years until she passed away in 2008. Together, they raised two beautiful daughters and have five grandchildren.

I am honored to recognize Tony Fransetta for his leadership and service to his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call #233 for passage of Rohrabacher Amendment #51, Roll Call #234 for passage of Lamborn Amendment #312, Roll Call #235 for passage of Blumenauer Amendment #246, Roll Call #236 for passage of Lucas Amendment #119, Roll Call #237 for passage of Nadler Amendment #272, Roll Call #238 for passage of the Democrat Motion to Recommit, and Roll Call #239 for final passage of H.R. 1735 which took place Friday, May 15, 2015, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on Roll Call #233, the Rohrabacher Amendment #51, on Roll Call #234, the Lamborn Amendment #312, on Roll Call #236, the Lucas Amendment #119, and on Roll Call #239 for final passage of H.R. 1735. I would have voted Nay on Roll Call #235, the Blumenauer Amendment #246, on Roll Call #237, the Nadler Amendment #272, and on Roll Call #238 against the Motion to Recommit.

HONORING JARED DILELLO OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable and distinguished gentleman, Mr. Jared Dilello. Mr. Dilello has been employed by the United States Postal Service for the past two years.

On November 21, 2014 Mr. Dilello was working on his normal route in Willingboro, NJ. Mr. Dilello found that one of his customers was unconscious on the ground next to a vehicle along the route. With the assistance of the 911 operator, Mr. Dilello was able to revive the gentleman and extend his life. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Dilello for his hard work and congratulate him for his dedication to the community.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. KATRICE WALKER

HON. HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called upon to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Mrs. Katrice Stephenson Walker has answered that call by giving of herself as a secretary at Dunaire Elementary School, and as a beloved wife, daughter and friend; and

Whereas, Mrs. Walker has been chosen as the 2015 Educational Support Professional of the Year, representing Dunaire Elementary School; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through her tireless works, unyielding support and words of encouragement; and

Whereas, Mrs. Walker is a virtuous woman, a courageous woman and a fearless leader who has shared her vision, talents and passion to help ensure that our children receive the support and education that is relevant not only for today, but well into the future, because she truly understands that our children are the future; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Katrice Stephenson Walker for her leadership and service for our District and in recognition of this singular honor as the 2015 Educational Support Professional of the Year at Dunaire Elementary School; now therefore, I, HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim May 6, 2015 as Mrs. Katrice Stephenson Walker Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 6th day of May, 2015.

JOE KECK TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Joe Keck. As the director of the Small Business Development Center in Southwest Colorado, Mr. Keck has played a vital role in enhancing the lives of the citizens in the Four Corners region.

A graduate of Fort Lewis College, Mr. Keck has been an inspiring and impactful force to the small business community of Southwest Colorado since 1975. Joe assisted the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes in a planning and economic advisory capacity before becoming a small business owner himself in 1993. Today, he and his wife carry on that tradition as joint-owners of Susie's Hallmark in Cortez. By providing counseling, training and other program services tailored to the individual needs of small businesses, Joe has helped many businesses manage the uneasiness of the startup phase so that they may then grow and prosper.

A tireless and dedicated pillar of the community, Mr. Keck's role as a public servant spans across multiple organizations. Including a lengthy stint of eight years of service on the Cortez City Council, Joe has sat on the Colorado Aeronautical Board and Region 9 Economic Development District Board. To ensure fair representation of Western Colorado in the legislature, he has been an active member of Club 20 and worked vigorously as a member of its board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Keck's selfless work and dedication to serving his community is truly to be admired. I stand with the residents of Southwest Colorado in thanking Joe and congratulating him on a remarkable career of public service. I'm honored to know Joe and even though he is retiring from his post as the director of SBDC, he leaves with us an enriched Southwestern community situated for a successful future.

A TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT MASON JEFFRIES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mason Jeffries of Boy Scout Troop 208 in Clive, Iowa, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

Mason joined Cub Scout Pack 181 in 2007 as a first grader at Walnut Hills Elementary School in Urbandale. He became the Pack's Top Popcorn Salesman for four consecutive

years—reaching sales records above $3,000 a year—and even earning a college scholarship. He earned Cub Scout's highest award, the Arrow of Light, as a Webelos Scout before crossing over to Boy Scout Troop 208 in Clive, where his parents, Pete and Kristin Jeffries, are active in Troop Leadership.

As a Boy Scout, Mason has volunteered in the community with the Variety Telethon, Waukee Food Pantry, Clive Greenbelt Park, Meals for the Heartland, Vacation Bible School, and various other Eagle Scout projects. Due to his dedication to the community, he was honored by his fellow Scouts in Troop 208 who elected him to serve in the Order of the Arrow, where he became a Brotherhood Member with the Mitigwa Lodge. Mason has held a number of leadership roles in Troop 208, including Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Librarian, Scribe, and twice as Patrol Leader.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout must pass specific tests organized by requirements and merit badges, and complete an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Mason refurbished the front of the Waukee Public Library after the construction of the facility's new addition in 2014. He led a group of Scouts and adults in pulling up all the existing shrubs, bushes and plants, adding metal edging, planting over 30 grasses, shrubs and plants, and finishing the landscaping with new mulch and decorative rocks.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his family's service to their community demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Mason and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE SHELBYVILLE-BEDFORD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to recognize the grand opening of the Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library, formerly the Argie Cooper Public Library.

In any community, libraries serve an extremely important role by operating as a point of access for literary classics, promoting educational opportunities for local citizens, and fostering a love for reading in both children and adults. The Shelbyville-Bedford County Public Library has done all of these things, both meeting and exceeding our community's demands for educational resources and programs.

The new library is a tremendous asset to Bedford County and is the result of decades of a lot of good people doing great things for their community. We are all very excited to see a long-awaited dream become a beautiful reality, possessing a sense of the past while embracing the future.

I wish the best and look forward to the library's many years of service to Bedford County and its residents.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BENITA OSBEY

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of Mrs. Benita Ann Robinson Osbey, she gave of herself to better our community and the causes that were near and dear to her heart; and

Whereas, Mrs. Osbey's work is present in DeKalb County, Georgia for all to see, being an advocate for the youth, education, ovarian cancer support and research; and

Whereas, this remarkable woman gave of herself, her time, her talent and her life; never asking for fame or fortune but only to uplift those in need; and

Whereas, Mrs. Benita Ann Robinson Osbey led by doing, behind the scenes, as well as front and center for the city of Los Angeles, California, DeKalb County, Georgia, the Georgia Ovarian Cancer Alliance, her beloved church Saint Phillip African Methodist Episcopal Church, and for her beloved Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and

Whereas, this virtuous Proverbs 31 woman was a wife, daughter, niece, sister, aunt and a friend; she was a warrior, a matriarch, and a woman of great integrity; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional recognition on Mrs. Benita Ann Robinson Osbey for her leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens of Georgia and throughout the Nation; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., do hereby attest to the 114th Congress that Mrs. Benita Ann Robinson Osbey of DeKalb County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this "Congressional Honor."

Mrs. Benita Ann Robinson Osbey, U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 3rd day of May, 2015.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SSGT FALEAGAFULU ILAOA

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Staff Sergeant (SSGT) Faleagafulu Ilaoa, who lost his life while serving our great nation.

Ilaoa, whose parents hailed from the village of Leone, American Samoa was born on April 6, 1948, in San Francisco, CA, SSGT Ilaoa spent his youth like many of us do . . . dreaming of one day serving his country in our armed forces. Never to be deterred from his goals; following graduation from high school, Ilaoa joined the Air Force as a Military Policeman. These men not only serve as police officers to their fellow service members, but also participated in rescue operations, often in hostile territory.

On Monday, May 13, 1975, the U.S. merchant ship *Mayaguez* was seized by Khmer Rouge forces off the coast of Cambodia. The following evening a rescue operation to save those on board the merchant vessel was launched by the Air Force's 56th Security Police Squadron (SPS).

At around 8:30 in the evening, on route to the *Mayaguez*, the Chinook helicopter carrying the 23 security police operators, including SSGT Ilaoa disappeared from radar approximately 40 miles from their base in a remote area of Northwest Thailand. To this day, the cause of the crash, whether it was mechanical malfunction, pilot error or enemy fire, is not known.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me recognizing the sacrifice of all who lost their lives on this mission and I personally would like to salute SSGT Ilaoa for his service to our nation and the proud legacy he left for all American Samoans.

HONORING THE BRAUN FAMILY

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a family whose commitment to service and Jewish prayer, study and music at my own synagogue, Valley Beth Shalom, spans more than six decades. The Braun family's dedication to Valley Beth Shalom has enriched the lives of our congregation and strengthened our community.

In 1960, Dick and Barbara Braun became members of Valley Beth Shalom. During the past fifty-five years, five generations of the Braun family have been involved in Valley Beth Shalom synagogue life. This includes, in addition to Dick and Barbara, Dick's mother Elisabeth, Dick and Barbara's four children and their spouses—Jon and Lynn, David and Sherri (of blessed memory) and Ellen, Robert and Sandra, Sarah and Shai, as well as their nine grandchildren and their spouses, and finally a great grandchild.

The contributions of the Braun family to Valley Beth Shalom are legend. Dick has sung in the congregational choir and served as Hazzan Sheyni since 1968. He has served on the Valley Beth Shalom Board of Directors for more than 40 years and also served on the Executive Committee. Barbara is also a long time member of the synagogue choir, and was an involved member of the Sisterhood and a member of the first class of the Valley Beth Shalom Counseling Center where she served for over 20 years. Jon and his wife Lynn have also served on the Valley Beth Shalom Board of Directors, and Lynn has chaired the Annual Gala Event and served on the Executive Committee of the synagogue. David is a member of the Valley Beth Shalom Board, the Board of the Schulweis Institute and is a Vice-President-elect of the congregation. Nate, one of the grandchildren, is secretary of the synagogue's Board, and his wife, Effie, is a Board member. In addition to all of the family's leadership contributions to the synagogue, members of the Braun family have also been generous benefactors of Valley Beth Shalom in support of all of its enriching programs.

The Braun family's contributions to the community reach farther than just our congregation: Dick is a general surgeon, who for many

years was the chief of surgery at Kaiser Permanente in Panorama City. Barbara was an elementary school teacher. Among the four children and their spouses are four physicians, a mental health therapist, an attorney, a teacher and a rabbi. Dick is also the founder and chairman of the Jewish Music Commission of Los Angeles, which brings new Jewish music into the life of the community. Lynn visits my Washington, D.C. office every year to meet with me as an advocate for the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

I am proud to be part of a synagogue that values these contributions by honoring the Braun family in their Family of the Year Celebration. They are living the legacy of our teacher and late rabbi, Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis. I thank the Braun family for their significant contributions towards bettering our synagogue and our community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BOBBY LEE GLEATON, JR.

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals and families whose loved ones have given the ''last full measure of devotion'' by serving our country; and

Whereas, Mr. Bobby Lee Gleaton, Jr., an American hero, grew up and was educated in the Fourth District; and

Whereas, Bobby Lee Gleaton, Jr., who led an exemplary life, was born October 17, 1989 and received his education from Cedar Grove Elementary, Cedar Grove Middle School and Cedar Grove High School where he received a full band scholarship to Morris Brown College and ultimately became a member of the Purple Haze Drum Line; and

Whereas, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve as a Medical Logistics Specialist (E4) that was assigned to the 384th Medical Logistics Company in Fort Gillem, GA; and

Whereas, he faithfully served his Country until April 4th, 2015 when he departed this life as we know it; and

Whereas, this remarkable young man gave of himself, his time, his talent and his life as a soldier, a son, a brother, a servant of the Lord, a musician-drum major and friend to many; and

Whereas, this nation owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to him and his family who made a great sacrifice to serve this Country and;

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia recognizes Mr. Bobby Lee Gleaton, Jr., as a citizen of great worth and so noted distinction; now therefore, I, HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR. do hereby attest to the 114th Congress that Mr. Bobby Lee Gleaton, Jr., is deemed worthy and deserving of this ''Congressional Honor'' by declaring Mr. Bobby Lee Gleaton, Jr., U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 9th day of April, 2015.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF GLADYS AGATHA MORTON

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Gladys Agatha Morton and the many contributions she has made as she prepares to celebrate her 90th birthday. Gladys is a consummate community leader, a kind and generous person who has been dedicated to her family and the City of Saint Paul, Minnesota throughout her life. She has made a lasting and positive impact on Saint Paul families and neighborhoods.

Born in Ramsey County, Minnesota on May 31, 1925 to Eli and Christine Preble, Gladys has always considered the East Side of Saint Paul home. In 1953 she married Russell Morton and raised a son named Philip. Like many East Siders, Gladys became a valued employee at 3M, serving as a Payroll Manager.

Soon Gladys found herself very busy outside of work and family too—volunteering and serving on behalf of her community. Her work ethic, knowledge and commitment to the city earned her appointment to numerous leadership positions. She served on the Board of Zoning Appeals for 40 years, the Saint Paul Planning Commission for 23 years, the Saint Paul Charter Commission and even as an interim Ward 7 Saint Paul City Councilmember in 1997. In 2000, Gladys earned a place in U.S. history serving as a Minnesota Elector for the 2000 Presidential Election.

Gladys had a hand in shaping every neighborhood in Saint Paul, but her passion has always been rooted in the East Side. She chaired numerous local task forces and the North East Neighborhoods Development Corporation. Her guidance helped develop Saint Paul into the beautiful and economically vibrant community that we enjoy today. Few can match her expertise and knowledge on municipal zoning, planning regulations and economic development.

Now Gladys spends much of her time with the people who give her the greatest joy in life: her granddaughter Lisette, and her husband Hugh, and great-granddaughter Elissa. It is no surprise that Gladys' enthusiasm for public service has been passed on to Lisette. I know that she is very proud of her granddaughter's own public service career, which began with my friend and predecessor, the late Congressman Bruce Vento, and continues today serving as Legislative Director for Congressman JERROLD NADLER of New York.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor Gladys Agatha Morton on her 90th birthday. As many family and admirers prepare to gather and wish her well, we can all recognize the great inspiration her service is to all of us who strive to make our country better.

A TRIBUTE TO JERRY CLARK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jerry Clark for his many years of service on the Guthrie County Fair Board.

Mr. Clark represented Dodge Township for more than 40 years on the fair board, just like his father had done before him. His grandson, Collin Clark, has now stepped into the role and will continue the family's hard work on the Guthrie County Fair Board that began 50 years ago with his great-grandfather.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Mr. Jerry Clark for his service to Guthrie County and wish him the best following his retirement from his duties. It is an honor to represent Iowans like him in Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LATOYA JOWERS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, our greatest and most valuable assets are our children. Our children are the future and are educated and guided by our teachers; and

Whereas, Ms. LaToya Jowers is a teacher in DeKalb County, Georgia and an educator at Dunaire Elementary School, who has demonstrated fifteen years of leadership and service to our children and our district; and

Whereas, Ms. Jowers has been awarded the honor of Teacher of the Year 2015, representing Dunaire Elementary School; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman is not only active at Dunaire Elementary School, but also in our community, her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and her church, Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, Ms. Jowers can be described as a Proverbs 31 woman. She is devoted to serving our community daily as an educator who imparts knowledge and skills for the success of our children. She is a motivator, an innovator and a model citizen who gives and ask for nothing in return; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. LaToya Jowers for her leadership and service for our District and in recognition of this singular honor as 2015 Teacher of the Year at Dunaire Elementary School; now therefore, I, HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR., do hereby proclaim May 6, 2015 as Ms. LaToya Jowers Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 6th day of May, 2015.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE MARINES THAT DIED IN THE HELICOPTER CRASH IN NEPAL ON MAY 12, 2015

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as the co-chair of the Congressional Nepal

Caucus and as an ardent supporter of the U.S. Military, to express my deepest condolences to the families of the six U.S. Marines and two Nepali soldiers, who died in the helicopter crash last Tuesday, May 12, 2015 in Nepal.

As we all know, Nepal suffered from the catastrophic 7.8 magnitude earthquake that hit Saturday, April 25, 2015, as well as many large aftershocks, including a 7.3 magnitude aftershock on May 12, 2015. Reports indicate that more than 8,000 people have been killed and 17,000 people have been injured in this poor and fragile country.

Among the first responders to this crisis were our dedicated men and women of the U.S. Marine Corps. America has a long and honorable history of humanitarian assistance during worldwide disasters and conflicts, and our men and women in uniform have consistently put themselves in harm's way to protect America and to protect our allies during times of need.

On this occasion, the eight were aboard a UH–1Y Huey helicopter that disappeared over northern Nepal, during a trip to fly relief materials to stricken villages.

Capt. Dustin R. Lukasiewicz of Nebraska; Capt. Christopher L. Norgren of Kansas; Sgt. Ward M. Johnson IV of Florida; Sgt. Eric M. Seaman of California; Cpl. Sara A. Medina of Illinois, and Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Hug of Arizona have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the sake of the Nepalis, and they make me proud, once again, to be an American.

I am grateful for the leadership and dedication of Ambassador Bodde, the U.S. Embassy team in Nepal, the Department of Defense, and our service men and women for their efforts and their sacrifices to aid Nepal. To the people of Nepal, the United States stands with you during this difficult time. To the families of the six Marines, we thank you for paying the ultimate sacrifice, and our prayers are with you during this time of loss and immeasurable sadness.

HONORING SENIOR CORPS WEEK AND THE SERVICE OF OLDER AMERICANS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of national Senior Corps week.

Older Americans bring a lifetime of skills and experience as parents, workers, and citizens that can be tapped to meet challenges in our communities.

For more than four decades Senior Corps, and its three programs—RSVP, Senior Companions, and Foster Grandparents—have proven to be a highly effective way to engage Americans ages 55 and over in meeting national and community needs.

Each year Senior Corps provides opportunities for nearly 330,000 older Americans across the nation, including approximately 450 in Southern Arizona, to serve their communities. Foster Grandparents serve one-on-one as tutors and mentors to young Arizonans who have special needs. Senior Companions help homebound Arizona seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes. RSVP volunteers conduct safety patrols for local police departments, protect the environment, tutor and mentor youth, respond to natural disasters, and provide other services through more than 130 groups across Arizona.

Senior Corps volunteers last year provided more than 96.2 million hours of service, helping to improve the lives of our most vulnerable citizens, strengthen our educational system, protect our environment, provide independent living services, and contribute to our public safety.

Senior Corps volunteers build a capacity of organizations and communities by serving through more than 65,000 nonprofit, community, educational, and faith-based community groups nationwide.

At a time of mounting social needs and growing interest in service by older Americans, there is an unprecedented opportunity to harness the talents of 55-plus volunteers to address community challenges.

Service by older Americans helps volunteers by keeping them active, healthy, and engaged; helps our communities by solving local problems, and helps our nation by saving taxpayer dollars, reducing healthcare costs, and strengthening our democracy.

The sixth annual Senior Corps Week, taking place May 18–22, 2015, is a time to thank Senior Corps volunteers for their service and recognize their positive impact and value to our communities and nation.

HONORING DR. ROY GLEN BROWER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor my constituent, Dr. Roy Glen Brower, Professor of Medicine and the Medical Director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital, on the occasion of his receipt of the American Thoracic Society's Assembly on Critical Care 7th Annual Lifetime Achievement Award.

Originally from Kingston, New York, Dr. Brower graduated from Cornell University in 1972 and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1976. He subsequently completed his Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1979.

Feeling the need for one last adventure, Dr. Brower traveled to Keams Canyon, Arizona, with his wife, Theresa Brower, in 1979. He became a Medical Officer in the Indian Health Service, working at the Keams Canyon Indian Hospital and Clinics.

After returning to Baltimore in 1981 and completing his Fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Brower began what has become a long and illustrious career at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. While his accomplishments and contributions to critical care medicine are too numerous to list here, several deserve special mention.

In 1988, Dr. Brower became the Director of the Critical Care Medicine Program in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and the Medical Director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit, positions he continues to hold and excel at to this day.

In 2000, Dr. Brower and his colleagues in the Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) Network published "Ventilation with Lower Tidal Volumes as Compared with Traditional Tidal Volumes for Acute Lung Injury and the Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome" in the New England Journal of Medicine. Dr. Brower served as the Chair of the Protocol and Writing Committees for this study, which reduced fatalities of Intensive Care Unit patients with ARDS by 9 percent. Dr. Brower's study became the second most cited medical publication for a decade.

Dr. Brower is a devoted and loving husband, father, son, brother, and friend. His research has saved the lives of thousands and advanced the field of medicine all over the world. He has been called the foundation of the Johns Hopkins critical care group, a role model for his division and beyond, and an outstanding teacher. His family and colleagues have no doubt that he fights for the best in science and medicine. He is in the right war at the right time.

TRIBUTE TO CROSSROADSNEWS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, CrossRoadsNews began publishing in 1995, bringing a much-needed voice to and for the citizens of South DeKalb County; and

Whereas, Jennifer and Curtis Parker—journalists extraordinaire—published the first issue of CrossRoadsNews on their personal computer in their Decatur home with the desire and vision to touch the lives of thousands in their community by informing, educating and enlightening their neighbors on issues that affect the quality of life, county services and economic impact of businesses in South DeKalb. The first 3,000 copies were circulated among twenty eight subdivisions along Kelly Chapel and Wesley Chapel roads; and

Whereas, in 2001, CrossRoadsNews was publishing twice per month with a circulation of 15,000; In 2005, CrossRoadsNews was publishing weekly and has since been publishing in print and online reaching an audience of more than 188,000 with 28,000 copies published weekly; and

Whereas, with the power of the pen and the consensus of the community, CrossRoadsNews is keeping the community active with its award-winning reporting, community health fairs and educational panels thanks to a stellar team of editors, reporters and employees; and

Whereas, CrossRoadsNews is a great example of the American Dream writ large, a family-owned operation providing excellent service, employment opportunities and top-notch journalism that "keeps America honest" and thus contributes to the local and state economy; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia is today, officially honoring, recognizing and congratulating CrossRoadsNews, on their twenty (20th) year anniversary as a business anchor in our District; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim April 25, 2015 as CrossRoadsNews, Inc. Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 25th day of April, 2015.

HONORING WALTER ROGER JOHNSON, SR. FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR NATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, 2015, Americans celebrated the 70th anniversary of V–E Day, the day that the United States and its allies accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany—and celebrated the end of World War II (WWII) in Europe. I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring and celebrating the life of Walter Roger Johnson, Sr., an American hero, for his significant accomplishments and service to the United States during WWII. Mr. Johnson not only served his country as a ''Buffalo Soldier'' in both the U.S. 10th and 28th Horse Cavalry Regiments, he also served as a soldier on the ''Red Ball Express'' in the 3825th Quartermaster Truck Company while overseas.

Walter Roger Johnson, Sr., a native Washingtonian, was fascinated by the colored soldiers he saw riding horseback trot past his home, on D.C.'s then dirt roads. His admiration of the soldiers prompted him to run away and join the Cavalry, but at age 15 he was sent home. In February 1943, Mr. Johnson enlisted in the army at Ft. Myer, Virginia. He served in the 10th Horse Cavalry Regiment and finally in the 28th Horse Cavalry at Camp Lockett, CA, the U.S.'s final Horse Cavalry Regiment. The 28th served double duty as the southern defense for the Western Defense Command. It's there that he earned the rankings of a rifle ''sharpshooter'' and an ''expert'' with a .45 pistol. Mr. Johnson would jokingly say, ''I hit hard, shoot straight, and cut deep!''

In March 1944, the 28th was shipped to North Africa, inactivated, and converted into a Combat Service Support Troop. Mr. Johnson was assigned to the 3825th Quartermaster Truck Company, which later became a part of WWII's most massive logistics operation, the ''Red Ball Express,'' an operation primarily manned by colored soldiers. Mr. Johnson served as a ''Red Ball Express'' truck driver—in which he, along with his unit, hauled supplies, 24/7, to the First and Third Armies so that the Army could continue their advancement across France.

A proud descendant of Native Americans and African Africans, Mr. Johnson never faltered in telling his proud story of being an American soldier, American champion, and champion of liberty, equality, and dignity. Like millions of nameless, faceless colored men, Mr. Johnson was an American war hero who helped win wars for this great country, but was unable to win the fight for freedom right here at home.

Mr. Johnson was decorated with the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the WWII Victory Medal, and the Lapel Button. He was honorably discharged in November of 1945 at Camp Campbell, Kentucky.

In the summer of 2014, coinciding with the 70th anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 1944, Mr. Johnson's story was published in the following three publications, ''The Rocket,'' ''Dispatches,'' and ''Aspirations'' under the title ''World War II Soldier Remembered: From Buffalo Soldier to Red Ball Express Soldier.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House join me in honoring Walter Roger Johnson, Sr., for his service to our Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE SPORTS SHOOTING TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Southwestern Community College Sport Shooting team for winning the Iowa Collegiate Shooting Sports Conference Championship.

The SWCC Spartans won the championship by more than 90 targets, and claimed individual titles in the male division, by Brandon Dvorsky, and the female division, by Shelby Woods. Their performance in the Conference Championship capped off a great season that included being the Iowa Collegiate Shooting Sports Conference Champions and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources State Champions. They finished the season undefeated in all conference competitions, and placed sixth at the National competition.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students and coaches demonstrates that hard work, dedication, and perseverance deliver results. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the House join me in congratulating the SWCC Sports Shooting team on their accomplishments this year. I wish nothing but continued success to the dedicated members of this team and Southwestern Community College moving forward.

THANKING ANDREW STRAUGHAN FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Andrew Straughan from Maryland's Fifth District who will be retiring in June after more than thirty-three years of outstanding service to this House in a number of administrative and support roles. I am proud to represent him in Congress.

Andrew began his career with the House in 1982 as a laborer, delivering furniture to Members' offices and Committee rooms for the Office of the Clerk. By the following year, he was appointed as an inventory control clerk, conducting inventory of office furnishings, assisting in storeroom management, and helping to create a report for the General Services Administration.

When the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer was created, Mr. Straughan was named Assistant Supervisor of the Asset Management Division, requiring him to act as a liaison between the Department of Office Furnishings and the House Information Systems. His abilities caught the attention of management, and in 1994 he was named Manager of Logistics and Central Receiving and Warehousing, where he oversaw the Office Supply Warehouse.

From 2008 to 2010, Andrew was detailed as the manager of the Logistics Department, where he developed policies and oversaw a staff of more than forty employees. He then returned to his role as Manager of Central Receiving and Warehousing, the position he currently holds.

Among his proudest accomplishments are being a member of the Source Selection Team for FAIMS, a governmental computer program, and choosing the vendors for purchasing. He was named the Contracting Office Representative for both the Warehousing Contract and the Temporary Labor Contract for temporary staff hired during Congressional transitions.

Andrew's father, Walter Straughan, also spent his career with the House as an electrician, and his brother, Danny Straughan, currently works for the Senate's Electrical Department.

I congratulate Andrew, and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his distinguished service to the House and to our country. I wish him and his family all the best as Andrew begins a new chapter in his life.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JAMES HENRY JACKSON

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Megan Spindel Jackson and her husband, Kyle Jackson, on the birth of their son, James Henry Jackson.

Henry was born at 11:38 a.m. on Saturday, May 16, 2015. Weighing in at 7lbs, 15oz, Henry has his parents beaming with pride.

With Megan, my Legislative Director/Deputy Chief of Staff as his mother, and Kyle, Congressman JEB HENSARLING's (TX–05) Legislative Director/Deputy Chief of Staff as his father, I trust Henry will be climbing the Capitol Hill ladder in no time at all.

Megan has been an integral part of my office's legislative operation since I first came to Washington, and I am excited to witness her grow into her most important role yet—a Mom. I have no doubt that Megan and Kyle will be phenomenal parents, who are devoted to Henry's well-being and bright future.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Spindel and Jackson families.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR ULYSSES PONDER

HON. HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals

who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Pastor Ulysses Ponder has given of himself to lead Poplar Springs Baptist Church these past twenty-seven (27) years; and

Whereas, Pastor Ponder under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Poplar Springs Baptist Church as a known crowned jewel in our district for years, enriching the lives of thousands; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has shared his time and talents for the betterment of our community over the past twenty-seven (27) years by preaching the gospel, teaching the gospel and living the gospel; and

Whereas, Pastor Ponder serves as a man of the cloth in the church, community and family: he is always teaching the Word and he puts the Word into action daily; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Pastor Ulysses Ponder for his leadership and service for our District as he celebrates his 27th Pastoral anniversary; now therefore, I, HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim May 3, 2015 as Pastor Ulysses Ponder Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 3rd day of May, 2015.

CONGRATULATING THE GRAND HAVEN VFW POST ON 10 SUCCESSFUL YEARS OF RIB FEST

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grand Haven VFW Post 2326 for their efforts to assist veterans and their families through their annual ''Rib Fest'' fundraiser event.

Celebrating its 10th year, the Rib Fest event brings together West Michigan restaurants to compete in an event that raises funds for veterans and their families as well as maintaining the group's individual VFW post.

The event's most significant community contribution is the Ward-Goff Scholarship Fund established by VFW members in honor of Elwin Ward and Richard Goff. The Ward-Goff Scholarship is awarded to a child, grandchild or great-grandchild of a good-standing member of the Grand Haven VFW post. Each year the award is given in remembrance of these two American patriots who gave their lives for their country during the Vietnam War.

Through their events like the annual Rib Fest, or many other areas of community involvement, the Grand Haven VFW Post 2326 continues to prove to future generations the values that make America great. I wish the 2015 Rib Fest all of the best, and look forward to sharing a meal with our veterans.

RECOGNIZING NOAH MASIH, WINNER OF NATIONAL NUMBER KNOCKOUT

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Noah Masih, a 6th grader from Clearwater, Minnesota. Noah is a national champion, having recently won the National Number Knockout.

The National Number Knockout is a math competition for students ages 9–14, and competitors play to improve their calculating speed. The competition involves a board of 36 numbers and use of dice to create an additional variable. Noah beat out 15 other finalists to claim the title.

I am always awestruck by those who find their passion in numbers. Noah's feat is nothing short of impressive, and is a testament to a fantastic homeschooling program.

I know I speak for the 6th District when I say we are so proud of Noah and his accomplishments, and I look forward with eager anticipation to seeing what the future holds for this bright young scholar.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in congratulating Noah Masih on his success in mathematics.

A TRIBUTE TO ELLEN LEMKE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ellen Lemke of Bedford, Iowa on the celebration of her 100th birthday today, on May 18, 2015.

Ellen is a pillar of her community and has a legacy of service to others that we should all aspire to. She is still an active member in her community who volunteers her time at the local nursing home where, as she says, she likes to ''read to the old folks.'' She also stays involved in her church and other community organizations like the Community Singers, a group that travels to nine surrounding communities to perform to nursing homes. She was awarded the 2013 Iowan of the Day award, an honor that is bestowed to Iowans who have truly made a difference in their communities. She continues to write a weekly news column for the local paper, the Bedford Times Press.

She has exhibited the integrity, Iowa pride, hard work and dedication that make all of us proud. She has left an incredible legacy to her family that includes her children Rita and Henry, and her community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Ellen in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Ms. Lemke on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her continued health and happiness in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I will be absent from the House May 18th through May 21st to attend my daughter's wedding.

TRIBUTE TO REV. NIOLENE A. DURHAM

HON. HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, twenty years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ at Amanda Flipper African Methodist Episcopal Church in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, the Reverend Niolene A. Durham under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Amanda Flipper African Methodist Episcopal Church as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman of God has shared her time and talents for the betterment of our community and our nation through her inspiration, words of encouragement, tireless works, and outreach ministries, that have been and continue to be a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Pastor Durham is a spiritual warrior, a woman of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all she is a visionary who impacted and transformed our society as a whole by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with not only her Church, but with also our District and the world; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Pastor Niolene A. Durham for her outstanding leadership and service to our District; now therefore, I, HENRY C. ''HANK'' JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim April 25, 2015 as Reverend Niolene A. Durham Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 25th day of April, 2015.

HONORING JOSHUE LEYVA FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO SERVING HIS COMMUNITY AND THE COACHELLA VALLEY

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Mr. Joshue Leyva, a mature young pre-medical student. Joshue's talent, integrity, dedication and passion for community service are indications that he unquestionably will fulfill his goal of becoming a doctor and serve the underserved communities of the Coachella Valley.

Joshue, a second generation immigrant, is a shining example of how migrant families contribute to and make our great nation stronger.

When Joshue's family arrived in the U.S. in 1980, they came with nothing, searching for a new beginning and a better life for their children. Overcoming hardship through hard work, their son Joshue became the first in his family to graduate from a university, my own alma mater, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Despite his young age, Joshue has an extensive list of accomplishments. He was one of the first student participants in the Future Physician Leaders (FPL) mentorship program, created to address the physician shortage crisis in our communities. In 2011 Joshue showcased his leadership, becoming the founder of ''A Healthier Future,'' a community outreach program to provide health education and medical screenings to the most vulnerable populations in the Coachella Valley. He was also a lead research and volunteer coordinator for the Coachella Valley Healthcare Initiative. Joshue's dedication to community service also crossed national borders when he became a volunteer for the Ministerio de Salud, a program that every year gives free medical care to vulnerable populations in the city of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Joshue Leyva has been an integral and essential part of my District staff, committed to excellence in public service for the betterment of our communities. As he leaves my office to pursue his dreams—an American Dream—I wish him well and look forward to reading about his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER H. ISAAC, JR. FOR HIS OUTSTANDING MILITARY SERVICE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing Lieutenant Colonel Alexander H. Isaac, Jr., for his 22 years of distinguished military service and to congratulate him on his retirement from the United States Armed Forces.

Lieutenant Colonel Alexander H. Isaac, Jr. has been decorated with numerous medals, awards and service distinctions. It is my honor to recognize such a distinguished citizen.

LTC Isaac began serving his nation in the United States Army in 1993 with the 3rd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry). Here he served as a Rifle Platoon Leader, Assistant Operations Officer, and as a Rifle Company Executive Officer. During his time with the ''Golden Dragons,'' LTC Isaac had multiple deployments throughout the United States, Central America, and a deployment to Haiti as part of Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY. In 1999, LTC Isaac assumed command of A Company, 2–2 Infantry, and his company was deployed to Kosovo in support of Operation JOINT GUARDIAN.

In 2001, LTC Isaac was assigned to Military District of Washington as a project officer where he designed the command's centralized Cyber Operations Center. In 2003, LTC Isaac was selected to support the Coalition Provisional Authorities' staff as Special Projects Liaison between the Iraqi Ministry of Communications and U.S. Embassy in Iraq.

In 2010, LTC Isaac was selected as the Task Force liaison to the National Counterterrorism Center in McLean, Virginia. In 2011, LTC Isaac was one of three officers responsible for the establishment of a robust data analytics program within Special Operations Command as well as implementing a next-generation visualization system for the Joint Interagency Task Force—National Capital Region, a subordinate unit within Joint Special Operations Command.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Lieutenant Colonel Alexander H. Isaac, Jr. and extend my heartfelt appreciation to him for his years of service to our great country.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEAD START PROGRAMS

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Head Start program. Since its enactment, Head Start has helped more than 30 million families prepare for a lifetime of learning. Last year, nearly 36 thousand children in my district were a part of this program.

Head Start's fundamental purpose is to ensure that every child starts life on an equal playing field, regardless of their parents' income, country of origin, or zip code. It provides hard-working families access to comprehensive preschool programs that include nutritional, social and other services critical to early childhood development. Education is our nation's great equalizer—and few investments are more meaningful and have a larger return to society than programs like Head Start.

It's simple: when children receive quality, early childhood education, we give them the best chance to succeed. Studies have shown that kids who have been through Head Start are healthier, more academically accomplished, and more likely to make positive contributions to society.

My family understands first-hand just how life changing this program is. Head Start gave my family the tools we needed to succeed; tools that stretched well beyond the classroom. I would not be here today if it were not for the life changing resources and quality education that Head Start provided. On this 50th anniversary of Head Start, I renew my commitment to strengthening and extending this vital program, so that every child—regardless of their circumstance—has the best opportunity and chance to succeed in life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, Friday, May 15, 2015 I was away from the Capitol to attend my daughter's graduation from the University of Missouri Medical School. Due to this event, I was unable to vote on any legislative measures on this date.

On the amendment of Mr. ROHRABACHER of California, Amendment No. 23 to H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 233, had I been present I would have voted ''yes.''

On the amendment of Mr. LAMBORN of Colorado, Amendment No. 27 to H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 234, had I been present I would have voted ''yes.''

On the amendment of Mr. BLUMENAUER of Oregon, Amendment No. 32 to H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 235 to H.R. 1735, had I been present I would have voted ''no.''

On the amendment of Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Amendment No. 38 to H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 236, had I been present I would have voted ''yes.''

On the amendment of Mr. NADLER of New York, Amendment No. 41 to H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 237 to H.R. 1735, had I been present I would have voted ''no.''

On Motion to Recommit with Instructions H.R. 1735, Rollcall Vote No. 238, had I been present I would have voted ''no.''

On Passage of H.R. 1735, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, Rollcall Vote No. 239, had I been present I would have voted ''yes.''

RECOGNIZING FOSTER CARE MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Foster Care Month and acknowledge the foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other community members who ensure that every child has an opportunity for a brighter future.

I am honored to be a founding member of the Congressional Caucus for Foster Youth, a caucus that allows Members to gain a better understanding of the current state of foster care throughout the nation and identify potential federal policy modifications that could improve outcomes for the children in our country's foster care systems.

In my home state of Texas there are more than 69,000 children in foster care, which is nearly 14.9 percent of the 463,000 children and youth in foster care nationally.

Nearly two of every three (65%) of children who are not placed in a permanent home emancipate themselves from the system and are often left unemployed, without a place to live and resort to homeless shelters.

2015 marks the 103rd anniversary of the Children's Bureau which works to support, assist, and improve the lives of children in foster care.

Throughout its history, the Children's Bureau has published the Minimum Standards of Child Welfare, which acknowledges the importance of keeping children in their own homes or providing a ''home-life'' experience with foster families as well as overseeing the temporary placement of 8,000 European children in WWII.

Before the creation of the Children's Bureau, children in foster care would often be

placed in the hands of private religious organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we continue to create more programs, and hold more events and activities to educate and inform Americans about children successfully placed in permanent homes, debunk myths about the process, and acknowledge the thousands of children who could potentially become a part of these statistics.

Through these efforts we can increase the rate of adoption, decrease the rate of homelessness among the youths in this group, and help develop future leaders and innovative thinkers of tomorrow.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the families who have opened their hearts and homes to foster children.

Foster parents play a critical role in the lives of some of the most vulnerable youth in Texas and across the country.

They help hold our nation's social fabric together by ensuring that thousands of young people in this country stay on track towards successful futures.

This month, we celebrate them and their efforts to change the lives of these children.

National Foster Care Month is an appropriate time to recognize and commend all those who are helping to improve the lives of children in foster care.

But it also serves as a reminder that more must be done.

These children deserve to grow up in a loving home that is safe, happy, and most importantly one they can call their own.

HONORING DANIEL J. FELIX ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor District Chief Daniel J. Felix as he retires after more than 30 years of firefighting service to our nation, the majority of those years dedicated to protecting the beautiful mountains of San Bernardino and San Jacinto, located in California's 36th District.

In 1983, Mr. Felix started his firefighting career as an intern on the Superior National Forest Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota. After obtaining his Masters of Science in Resource Management from the University of Wisconsin—Madison, Mr. Felix volunteered for the Superior National Forest.

Mr. Felix was later hired on by the Superior National Forest in Minnesota and the Olympic National Forest in Washington State. Two years later, Mr. Felix came to the San Bernardino National Forest Heart Bar Station, where he spent his first year fighting fire with the Forest Service.

In 1997 Mr. Felix was promoted to Captain at the Kenworthy Station of the San Jacinto Ranger District. He went on to be promoted to Battalion Chief of San Jacinto Ranger District in 2001, promoted to Forest Fuels Officer on San Bernardino National Forest in 2007, and in 2010 promoted to District Fire Management Officer in the San Jacinto Ranger District.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Felix's dedication to the protection of our forests and the safety of our residents deserves acknowledgment. On behalf of all the mountain communities and the residents of California's 36th Congressional District, I would like to thank and congratulate Mr. Felix for his service and wish him well in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately was unable to be present for several votes taken on the House floor on April 30 and May 1, 2015, missing Roll Call Votes #192 through #215. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Roll Call #192: YEA.
Roll Call #193: NAY.
Roll Call #194: NAY.
Roll Call #195: NAY.
Roll Call #196: YEA.
Roll Call #197: NAY.
Roll Call #198: YEA.
Roll Call #199: NAY.
Roll Call #200: NAY.
Roll Call #201: YEA.
Roll Call #202: YEA.
Roll Call #203: YEA.
Roll Call #204: YEA.
Roll Call #205: NAY.
Roll Call #206: NAY.
Roll Call #207: NAY.
Roll Call #208: NAY.
Roll Call #209: NAY.
Roll Call #210: NAY.
Roll Call #211: NAY.
Roll Call #212: NAY.
Roll Call #213: NAY.
Roll Call #214: YEA.
Roll Call #215: NAY.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL JACOBS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today, I attended the funeral of Rachel Jacobs, a wife, mother, daughter and a native Michigander, who was taken far too soon. Rachel's parents are friends of many of us in the Michigan Congressional Delegation and we watched her mature into an incredible young woman.

Last week, Rachel was on her way home to New York to her husband and two-year-old son when her Amtrak train derailed in Philadelphia, killing Rachel and seven other passengers.

This was a senseless tragedy.

Rachel's life was cut short when she was just making her mark on this world. She had recently started a job as CEO of an education software startup and was enjoying the success of running her own company.

Rachel was an incredible businesswoman, but more than that, she was kind, generous, compassionate, caring and a true advocate for priorities she cared about. She touched countless lives from Michigan to New York.

This weekend at a Memorial Service in New York City, her friends called her a "beacon of light." Those sentiments were echoed today at her funeral in Southfield, Michigan.

Her friends spoke of her zest for life and her infectious energy and enthusiasm.

Rachel used that energy and enthusiasm to give back to the hometown she loved. She founded the non-profit, Detroit Nation, to bring together former Detroit residents in support of the economic development and cultural innovation of the region.

Rachel lived a life worth celebrating. No words can make this better for her family or loved ones, and no action can bring her back. Her parents today were torn by grief and looking for answers they could not find.

All of us in this chamber have a moral responsibility to do what we can to understand what happened to cause that accident on the railways and ensure a tragedy like this never happens again.

We must hold ourselves accountable for fixing this—for ensuring the transportation systems America depends on are safe and secure and no more families or friends are robbed of the people they love and no more communities are left with a hole of losing someone who was the glue for so many.

We owe it to Rachel and her family, and to all those who lost loved ones in this senseless tragedy, to understand the problem and pledge to never let this happen again.

TRIBUTE TO SAMI ANDERSON

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sami Anderson of Champaign, Illinois on being selected as a 2015 Elizabeth Dole Foundation Fellow. This program recognizes military and veteran caregivers who go above and beyond to advocate on behalf of our nation's 5.5 million parents, spouses, children and other loved ones caring for our nation's wounded warriors.

Sami has exemplified extraordinary commitment to veterans throughout her personal and professional life. In 2005 her husband, U.S. Army Sergeant Garrett Anderson, lost his arm and suffered a traumatic brain injury when an improvised explosive device detonated under his Humvee during a patrol mission in Iraq. Demonstrating great perseverance, together they were able to overcome many challenges on the way to Garrett's successful, recovery.

After leaving the Army, Garrett continued to serve his country as a part of my staff where he was responsible for outreach and constituent service to his fellow veterans. During his tenure with my office I also had the privilege of seeing Sami's efforts first hand.

As part of her fellowship, she will have the opportunity to talk with leaders in Washington, D.C. to address the challenges faced by our veterans and their caregivers. I have no doubt that she will be an effective advocate.

It is my goal to ensure we provide our veterans with the benefits and care that they deserve. I thank Sami and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation for their part in fulfilling that goal.

COMMENDING VALERIE S. VELEZ FOR COORDINATING THE PEER LEADERS UNITING STUDENTS PROGRAM (PLUS) TO ADVOCATE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PREVENTION POLICIES AND TO REDUCE TOBACCO USE AMONG YOUTH

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize Health Education Program Specialist, Valerie S. Velez for her tireless efforts to preserve the Peer Leaders Uniting Students (PLUS) program that engages student leaders to address the social issues in their community. This year they have chosen to focus on eliminating social disparities in tobacco use in the local community of Hemet, California.

Ms. Velez has been working as a Health Education Program Specialist at the Hemet Unified School District (HUSD) since 1992. She earned a Master's degree in Public Health from U.C. Berkeley and B.S. from U.C. Davis in Applied Behavioral Sciences. In addition, Ms. Velez has been responsible for coordinating a wide variety of programs, including health education and safe school climate programs for HUSD; federal initiatives from the U.S. Department of Education, and the State Tobacco Use Prevention Education grant.

The PLUS program engages middle and high school students as peer leaders promoting mutual understanding and respect on their campuses, working toward innovating solutions that create more welcoming, positive and connected school environments in which students can thrive socially and academically.

In 2014, almost 100 students from the HUSD began collaborating with the Hemet Community Action Network and the California Department of Public Health to improve social disparities in tobacco use in the local community through youth advocacy. Students also made a presentation to the City Council to demonstrate the detrimental health effects of second hand smoke and tobacco waste. Soon after, the City Council adopted a landmark ordinance for the City of Hemet that bans tobacco use in parks.

I am pleased to recognize Ms. Velez for her service and for being a champion for the PLUS program, in the face of budget obstacles.

For her work and on behalf of the HUSD students, I applaud Ms. Velez on her dedication to make our community better and look forward to even more accomplishments in the future.

200 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE FROM MOBILE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, on May 4, 1815, the Chief of Engineers issued orders to Lieutenant Hipolite Dumas, which began the long and proud history of engineering service to the Gulf Coast and Mobile.

Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is celebrating 200 years of exemplary service to the Southeast region, the U.S. military and the Nation.

For its first 70 years in Mobile and along the Gulf Coast, these engineers surveyed and fortified the southern coast from St. Marks River in Florida to Lake Pontchartrain to the west. Forts were the key elements of the coastal defense system, but complementary structures such as lighthouses and towers were also constructed. In addition to the coastal fortifications, Gulf Coast engineers also began surveys to look at connecting the inland waterways with the Tennessee-Coosa River canal study.

Following the Civil War, in 1870, an engineer office was opened in Mobile, Alabama. Eighteen years later the Mobile District was officially established in a formal reorganization of operations at the national level.

The nation turned toward rebuilding the economy after the Civil War and developing the nation's transportation system became a positive, tangible means of measuring progress. Major navigation surveys were conducted on Southeastern rivers such as the Coosa River, the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee Flint, the Black Warrior, Tennessee-Tombigbee, and the Alabama River between 1870 and 1879.

When Mobile District was established in 1888, the District's boundaries were from the Escambia River westward to the East Pearl River. Montgomery District had responsibilities from the Escambia River eastward to St. Marks River in Florida. In 1933 the two districts merged into one, the Mobile District. The District also was also given responsibilities for all military construction for the Army and Army Air Corps in Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama.

The 1930's were a busy time for the Motile District. Modernization of the Black Warrior River system began, taking the number of locks required to transit the waterway from 17 to 5. Construction of Brookley Field, the Southeast Army Air Depot and the Mobile Air Service Command during World War II began. The Flood Control Act of 1936 set into motion a national flood protection plan and gave the Corps jurisdiction over federal flood control protection investigation and river improvements.

As busy as the 1930's were, World War II resulted in the largest wartime mobilization effort ever for the United States. The magnitude of Mobile District's work can be judged by expenditure for construction. Between December 1941 and December 1943, nearly $1 billion was expended in the District on facilities that included 32 Army airfields, an ordnance training center, two arsenals, three Army ground force depots, five harbor defense installations, nine Civil Aviation Administration airfields, two Army Air Force supply depots, one Army Air Force cantonment, six Ordnance manufacturing plants, nine Army ground force cantonments and six special installations.

In the 1950's construction of Buford Dam in Georgia was initiated, Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam was completed, Walter F. George Lock and Dam construction began and the Army Ballistic Missile Agency was established at Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama in 1956.

In 1959 NASA was established at Redstone Arsenal for the Saturn Project. The construction of facilities for the Saturn project, a rocket program that was the work of the von Braun team at Redstone, was one of Mobile District's biggest projects. The District was responsible for the testing facilities at Redstone Arsenal associated with the Saturn booster, and eventually one of the major construction projects of the post Korean War period, the Mississippi Test Facility.

In the 1960's, the District continued the legacy of improving and developing the Nation's inland waterway transportation system. West Point Dam was authorized, Carters Dam on the Coosawattee River and Millers Ferry Lock and Dam on the Alabama River began. Construction of the Claiborne Lock and Dam and Robert F. Henry Lock and Dam also began in the 60's.

In the 1970's Mobile again took on new responsibilities. Construction responsibility for Cape Canaveral District was shifted to Mobile. Military construction in Florida, the Panama Canal activities and Central/South America programs were also shifted to Mobile. The 1970's also saw construction begin on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, at the time the largest Civil Works project in Corps history.

The 70's ended with Hurricane Fredric hitting Mobile on September 12, 1979. Under Public Law 84–99 the Corps was authorized to provide emergency assistance during disasters. The States of Alabama, Florida and Mississippi were all declared Federal disaster areas. Mobile District has been a national leader in emergency response actions for the Corps. Through the District's innovation the Corps developed a national-level Detachable Tactical Operations System to provide immediate support to disaster stricken areas. This was never more evident than after 9/11 when the District supported the New York City police and fire departments with these units.

The 80's saw innovation within the Corps, with Mobile District once again leading the way. Life Cycle/Project Management was first tested and then established in Mobile District. It has now become the standard for Corps management. This decade also saw the opening of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway to navigation, creating the transportation artery from the Gulf Coast to the Nation's mid-section first envisioned in the mid 1800's. Base Realignment and Closure also began in the 80's. Mobile District has been involved in all the BRAC National Environmental Policy Act requirements for BRAC from 1988 until the present.

The closing decade of the 1900's once again revealed Mobile's innovation. In 1994 the Scanning Hydrographic Operational Airborne Lidar Survey, or SHOALS, was first tested. This innovative 3–D technology was adapted for underwater mapping. When later combined with the U.S. Navy's CHARTS system, the team became a world leader in underwater mapping. The 1990s also saw the completion of the J–6 Large Rocket Test Facility, the completion of the John J. Sparkman Center located at the U.S. Army Arsenal at Redstone, Alabama. The Sparkman Center and follow on phases, encompasses more than 1 million square feet and is one of the most modern military facilities in the world.

As the Nation entered the new century Mobile District continued its record of excellence. The Von Braun Center at Redstone Arsenal was completed in 2014 and is home to the

Space and Missile Defense Command and the Missile Defense Agency. The District responded to and assisted in recovery operations when four hurricanes struck the State of Florida in 2004. In 2005, Mobile District began a comprehensive analysis and design for the Mississippi coastal counties to make them more resilient and less susceptible to risk from hurricane and storm damage following the devastating landfall of Hurricane Katrina along the Mississippi coast. From this analysis came the Mississippi Coastal Improvement Program, an innovative approach to achieving the goal of a more resilient coast.

Since 2000, Mobile has also completed four Headquarters complexes for major key commands, U.S. Central Command, U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Army Material Command and the U.S. Special Operations Command. They also were the design and construction agent for the new cantonment area and training ranges for the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) which relocated from Fort Bragg, North Carolina to Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. They are also responsible for the construction of various facilities at Eglin Air Force Base to support the Joint Strike Fighter program.

Mobile District continues to serve a variety of programs and missions in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee and Central and South America. While I know my colleagues from these States are as appreciative as I am for their work, I am especially proud to have the District Headquarters in my District and in Mobile.

It is with pride that I say, Happy Birthday to Mobile District on your two hundred years of exemplary, innovative and dedicated service. On behalf of a grateful Nation, thank you to all the civilian and military members of the Mobile District for all you have done.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Head Start, which provides children from low-income families access to comprehensive preschool programs and prepares children for success in kindergarten and beyond.

On May 18, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson launched Project Head Start as an eight-week summer demonstration project to teach low-income students needed skills before they started kindergarten. Over the past 50 years, Head Start has served 30 million children and families across the country who earn less than 100 percent of the federal poverty line or who have a disability.

Head Start is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and directly supports local agencies delivering services. The services Head Start children and their families receive include education, nutrition, dental, health, mental health transition, parental involvement and complete social service support. This strong support network provides the tools families need for their children to succeed upon entering primary school.

Continued access to the Early Head Start and Head Start programs helps ensure that children develop the academic and life skills they need to succeed in their academic careers. Head Start alumni are more likely to finish high school, go to college, and be in good health, and are less likely to commit a crime. In 2012, HHS conducted a study that by the end of the 3rd grade, children who participated in the program were more likely to have favorable social emotional developmental outcomes and favorable cognitive impacts.

For 50 years, this program has given children the tools to succeed by ensuring a high quality education and access to healthcare and social services. The Head Start program represents a critical investment in the education of our nation's children.

In 2014, local affiliates like Neighbors in Need of Services Inc. (NINOS) and Community Action Corporation of South Texas (CACOST) served over 8,000 children in the 34th District of Texas. These organizations help improve the lives of children and their families in South Texas. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Head Start on its 50th Anniversary today, and I wish continued success to all the Head Start staff and volunteers who are helping people, changing lives, and building communities.

RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEAD START PROGRAM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Head Start. "Project Head Start" was launched by President Lyndon B. Johnson on May 18, 1965. Originally designed as an eight week summer demonstration project, Head Start has expanded into an array of prerchool programs that provides children from low-income families with a comprehensive array of services to prepare them for successful entry into kindergarten and illuminates the pathway for a brighter future.

In the State of Texas, 71,465 children and pregnant women were benefitted by Head Start last year. 4,068 of those served were from the 30th Congressional District of Texas—the district that I serve. Head Start is instrumental in uplifting families in my home state by providing resources to families who, just like you and me, want to see their children reach their full potential.

In its 50 year history, Head Start has served more than 30 million children and their families. Head Start alumni are more likely to finish high school, continue on to college and become self-reliant wage earners. This is only possible because of the access to services Head Start provides to disadvantaged children. It is important that, at this critical juncture in our nation's history, we increase our support of all Head Start programs. Every child in America should be afforded an equal opportunity to succeed, regardless of their socio-economic background.

President Obama recently called upon all Americans, including leaders of private and philanthropic organizations, communities and governments at every level, to make investments in our next generation of thinkers, dreamers and doers. Investing in early childhood education is one of the best investments we can make as a nation. There is no better way to strengthen our economy and bolster our communities.

As a body of legislators, we have an opportunity and a responsibility to lead by example. We can help hardworking, low-income families build pathways out of poverty. We owe it to our future and the future of our great nation to ensure that all of our children have all equal opportunity to succeed. If, as a society, we are serious about giving children a bright and promising future, we must increase our investment and expand the vital programs Head Start offers.

Mr. Speaker, today, as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Head Start, I ask, that as a body, we reaffirm our investment in the children of America. Now is the time to expand upon the vision of President Lyndon Baines Johnson and his "Great Society" programs that resulted in the creation of Head Start. I urge my colleagues to support bipartisan efforts to give all of America's children a head start in life and close the educational opportunity gap.

HONORING DR. TOMÁS MORALES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS APPOINTMENT AS NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) President, Dr. Tomás Morales on his appointment to serve as National Chairman of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU).

Dr. Morales has led a life of distinguished service as an Educator and University President, and has held senior positions at three of the largest public universities in the nation, including California State University (CSU), The State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY). Among his many contributions to higher education, Dr. Morales has also served as Co-Chair of the National Task Force on College Readiness for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, creating a roadmap for K–12 school systems to prepare students for college upon graduation.

Born in Puerto Rico and raised in New York, Dr. Morales knows firsthand the struggles our youth face as they strive to achieve the American Dream through higher education. Growing up, Dr. Morales worked hard by delivering newspapers and cleaning apartment floors before realizing his own dreams through education.

Overcoming adversity, Dr. Morales went on to earn a bachelor's degree in history from SUNY New Paltz and a master's degree and doctorate in educational administration and policy studies from SUNY Albany.

I am proud to recognize Dr. Morales' nearly four decades of service and look forward to seeing the vision and leadership he will bring to the National Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities and their mission to

promote the development of member colleges and universities to improve the access to and the quality of post-secondary educational opportunities for Hispanic students.

For his work on behalf of aspiring students, I congratulate Dr. Morales on his appointment to serve as the President of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities and look forward to his future 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 Monday, May 18, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 19

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on air traffic control modernization and reform.

SR–253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 562, to promote exploration for geothermal resources, S. 822, to expand geothermal production, S. 1026, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to repeal a provision prohibiting Federal agencies from procuring alternative fuels, S. 1057, to promote geothermal energy, S. 1058, to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, S. 1103, to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving Clark Canyon Dam, S. 1104, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Gibson Dam, S. 1199, to authorize Federal agencies to provide alternative fuel to Federal employees on a reimbursable basis, S. 1215, to amend the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000 to provide for the development of methane hydrate as a commercially viable source of energy, S. 1222, to amend the Federal Power Act to provide for reports relating to electric capacity resources of transmission organizations and the amendment of certain tariffs to address the procurement of electric capacity resources, S. 1224, to reconcile differing Federal approaches to condensate, S. 1226, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act and the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands to promote a greater domestic helium supply, to establish a Federal helium leasing program for public land, and to secure a helium supply for national defense and Federal researchers, S. 1236, to amend the Federal Power Act to modify certain requirements relating to trial-type hearings with respect to certain license applications before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, S. 1264, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a renewable electricity standard, S. 1270, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric production incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, S. 1271, to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue regulations to prevent or minimize the venting and flaring of gas in oil and gas production operations in the United States, S. 1272, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effects of forward capacity auctions and other capacity mechanisms, S. 1276, to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to increase energy exploration and production on the outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico, S. 1278, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to provide for the conduct of certain lease sales in the Alaska outer Continental Shelf region, to make certain modifications to the North Slope Science Initiative, S. 1279, to provide for revenue sharing of qualified revenues from leases in the South Atlantic planning area, S. 1280, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish an annual production incentive fee with respect to Federal onshore and offshore land that is subject to a lease for production of oil or natural gas under which production is not occurring, S. 1282, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to consider the objective of improving the conversion, use, and storage of carbon dioxide produced from fossil fuels in carrying out research and development programs under that Act, S. 1283, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to repeal certain programs, to establish a coal technology program, S. 1285, to authorize the Secretary of Energy to enter into contracts to provide certain price stabilization support relating to electric generation units that use coal-based generation technology, S. 1294, to require the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture to collaborate in promoting the development of efficient, economical, and environmentally sustainable thermally led wood energy systems, and S. 1304, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a pilot competitive grant program for the development of a skilled energy workforce.

SD–366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife

To hold hearings to examine S. 1140, to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term ''waters of the United States''.

SD–406

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine how to safely reduce reliance on foster care group homes.

SD–215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, focusing on examining EEOC's enforcement and litigation programs.

SD–430

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, ''Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016''.

SD–124

Committee on the Budget

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Congressional Budget Office.

SD–608

2 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine proposed environmental regulation's impacts on America's small businesses.

SR–428A

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, ''Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2016''.

SD–138

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism

To hold hearings to examine body cameras, focusing on whether technology can increase protection for law enforcement officers and the public.

SD–226

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

2:45 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mileydi Guilarte, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, Jennifer Ann Haverkamp, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and Brian James Egan, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser, both of the Department of State, Marcia Denise Occomy, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank for a term of five years, and Sunil Sabharwal, of California, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years.

SD–419

MAY 20

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight

To hold an oversight hearing to examine scientific advisory panels and processes at the Environmental Protection Agency, including S. 543, to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and

Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation.

SD–406

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine U.S. Cuban relations, focusing on the way forward.

SD–419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on exploring institutional risk-sharing.

SD–430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

To hold hearings to examine 21st century ideas for the 20th century Federal civil service.

SD–342

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations.

SH–216

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 1331, to help enhance commerce through improved seasonal forecasts, S. 1297, to update the Commercial Space Launch Act by amending title 51, United States Code, to promote competitiveness of the U.S. commercial space sector, S. 1326, to amend certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, S. 1040, to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Academy of Sciences to study the vehicle handling requirements proposed by the Commission for recreational off-highway vehicles and to prohibit the adoption of any such requirements until the completion of the study, S. 1359, to allow manufacturers to meet warranty and labeling requirements for consumer products by displaying the terms of warranties on Internet websites, S. 806, to amend section 31306 of title 49, United States Code, to recognize hair as an alternative specimen for preemployment and random controlled substances testing of commercial motor vehicle drivers and for other purposes, S. 1315, to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of local and State prohibitions, S. 1334, to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention, S. 1335, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, as adopted at Tokyo on February 24, 2012, S. 1251, to implement the Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, as adopted by Lisbon, Portugal on September 28, 2007, S. 1336, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, as adopted at Auckland on November 14, 2009, H.R. 1020, to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation, H.R. 710, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and the nominations of Daniel R. Elliott III, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2018, Mario Cordero, of California, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2019, and a routine list in the Coast Guard.

SR–253

11 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense

To receive a closed briefing on Syria.

SVC–217

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine addressing the needs of Native communities through Indian Water Rights Settlements.

SD–628

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine solutions to the hospital observation stay crisis.

SD–562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

To hold hearings to examine improvements and innovations in fishery management and data collection.

SR–253

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gregory T. Delawie, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo, Ian C. Kelly, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to Georgia, Nancy Bikoff Pettit, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, and Azita Raji, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, all of the Department of State.

SD–419

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on the Constitution

To hold hearings to examine taking sexual assault seriously, focusing on the rape kit backlog and human rights.

SD–226

MAY 21

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 802, to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, S. 868, to establish a fund to make payment to the Americans held hostage in Iran, and to members of their families, who are identified as members of the proposed class in case number 1:00-CV–03110 (ESG) of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, S. Res. 87, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe and to encourage greater cooperation with the European governments, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in preventing and responding to anti-Semitism, the nominations of Charles C. Adams, Jr., of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland, Cassandra Q. Butts, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Paul A. Folmsbee, of Oklahoma, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali, Stafford Fitzgerald Haney, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica, Mary Catherine Phee, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan, and Gentry O. Smith, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, all of the Department of State, Matthew T. McGuire, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years, and routine lists in the Foreign Service.

SD–419

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine understanding America's long-term fiscal picture.

SD–342

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Business meeting to consider pending legislation, and the nomination of Jeffrey Michael Prieto, of California, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

SR–328A

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, ''The Financial Regulatory Improvement Act of 2015''.

SD–538

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD–226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Business meeting to consider the fiscal year 2016 302(b) allocations, an original bill entitled, ''Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2016'', and an original bill entitled, ''Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016''.

SH–216

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine S. 160, and H.R. 373, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, S. 365, to improve rangeland conditions and restore grazing levels within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah, S. 472, to promote conservation, improve public land, and provide for sensible development in Douglas County, Nevada, S. 583, to establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, S. 814, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, S. 815, to provide for

the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon to the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and S. 1240, to designate the Cerro del Yuta and Rio San Antonio Wilderness Areas in the State of New Mexico.

SD–366

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

JUNE 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 454, to amend the Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004 to improve the high-end computing research and development program of the Department of Energy, S. 784, to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish microlabs to improve regional engagement with national laboratories, S. 1033, to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to replace the current requirement for a biennial energy policy plan with a Quadrennial Energy Review, S. 1054, to improve the productivity and energy efficiency of the manufacturing sector by directing the Secretary of Energy, in coordination with the National Academies and other appropriate Federal agencies, to develop a national smart manufacturing plan and to provide assistance to small-and medium-sized manufacturers in implementing smart manufacturing programs, S. 1068, to amend the Federal Power Act to protect the bulk-power system from cyber security threats, S. 1181, to expand the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Program to include commercial trucks and United States flagged vessels, to return unspent funds and loan proceeds to the United States Treasury to reduce the national debt, S. 1187, to improve management of the National Laboratories, enhance technology commercialization, facilitate public-private partnerships, S. 1216, to amend the Natural Gas Act to modify a provision relating to civil penalties, S. 1218, 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, S. 1221, to amend the Federal Power Act to require periodic reports on electricity reliability and reliability impact statements for rules affecting the reliable operation of the bulk-power system, S. 1223, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to improve the loan guarantee program for innovative technologies, S. 1229, to require the Secretary of Energy to submit a plan to implement recommendations to improve interactions between the Department of Energy and National Laboratories, S. 1230, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program under which the Director of the Bureau of Land Management shall enter into memoranda of understanding with States providing for State oversight of oil and gas productions activities, and S. 1241, to provide for the modernization, security, and resiliency of the electric grid, to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out programs for research, development, demonstration, and information-sharing for cybersecurity for the energy sector.

SD–366

POSTPONEMENTS

MAY 19

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the rising tide of extremism in the Middle East.

SD–419

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2949–S3007

Measures Introduced: Eight bills were introduced, as follows: S. 1360–1367. **Page S2971**

Measures Reported:

S. 611, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems. (S. Rept. No. 114–47)

S. 653, to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under that Act. (S. Rept. No. 114–48) **Page S2971**

Measures Passed:

Authorizing the Use of the Capitol Grounds: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 43, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds, the rotunda of the Capitol, and Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for official Congressional events surrounding the visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to the United States Capitol. **Page S3006**

Measures Considered:

Ensuring Tax Exempt Organizations the Right To Appeal Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of H.R. 1314, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2951–68**

Adopted:

By a unanimous vote on 92 yeas (Vote No. 182), Hatch (for Lankford) Modified Amendment No. 1237 (to Amendment No. 1221), to establish consideration of the conditions relating to religious freedom of parties to trade negotiations as an overall negotiating objective of the United States. (Pursuant to the order of Thursday, May 14, 2015, the amendment having achieved 60 affirmative votes, was agreed to.) **Pages S2960–62, S2963–64**

Rejected:

By 45 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. 181), Brown Amendment No. 1242 (to Amendment No. 1221), to restore funding for the trade adjustment assistance program to the level established by the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011. (Pursuant to the order of Thursday, May 14, 2015, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S2962–63**

Pending:

Hatch Amendment No. 1221, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2951**

Hatch (for Flake) Amendment No. 1243 (to Amendment No. 1221), to strike the extension of the trade adjustment assistance program. **Page S2951**

Hatch (for Inhofe/Coons) Modified Amendment No. 1312 (to Amendment No. 1221), to amend the African Growth and Opportunity Act to require the development of a plan for each sub-Saharan African country for negotiating and entering into free trade agreements. **Pages S2966–67**

Hatch (for McCain) Amendment No. 1226 (to Amendment No. 1221), to repeal a duplicative inspection and grading program. **Pages S2966–67**

Stabenow (for Portman) Amendment No. 1299 (to Amendment No. 1221), to make it a principal negotiating objective of the United States to address currency manipulation in trade agreements. **Page S2967**

Brown Amendment No. 1251 (to Amendment No. 1221), to require the approval of Congress before additional countries may join the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. **Pages S2967–68**

Wyden (for Shaheen) Amendment No. 1227 (to Amendment No. 1221), to make trade agreements work for small businesses. **Page S2968**

Wyden (for Warren) Amendment No. 1327 (to Amendment No. 1221), to prohibit the application of the trade authorities procedures to an implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement that includes investor-state dispute settlement. **Page S2968**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. **Page S3006**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997, with respect to Burma, received during adjournment of the Senate on May 15, 2015; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–17) **Page S2970**

Messages from the House: **Page S2971**

Measures Referred: **Page S2971**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S2971, S3005**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2971–73**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S2973**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2968–70**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2973–S3005**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S3005**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—182) **Pages S2963–64**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 7:57 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3006.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 15 public bills, H.R. 2390–2404 and 2 resolutions, H.J. Res. 54 and H. Res. 270 were introduced. **Pages H3308–09**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H3310**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

Committee on Appropriations; Revised Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2016 (H. Rept. 114–118);

H.R. 2262, to facilitate a pro-growth environment for the developing commercial space industry by encouraging private sector investment and creating more stable and predictable regulatory conditions, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–119); and

H. Res. 271, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1806) to provide for technological innovation through the prioritization of Federal investment in basic research, fundamental scientific discovery, and development to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2250) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2353) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–120). **Page H3308**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Womack to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3257**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:01 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H3257**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:09 p.m. and reconvened at 4:05 p.m. **Page H3258**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2015: H.R. 474, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs and to provide clarification regarding eligibility for services under such programs; **Pages H3258–59**

Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act: H.R. 1038, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to retain a copy of any reprimand or admonishment received by an employee of the Department in the permanent record of the employee; **Pages H3259–60**

Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act: H.R. 1313, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the treatment of certain small business concerns for purposes of Department of Veterans Affairs contracting goals and preferences, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 403 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 241; **Pages H3260–61, H3294**

BRAVE Act: H.R. 1382, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in awarding a contract for the procurement of goods or services, to give a preference to offerors that employ veterans, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 404 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 242; **Pages H3261–63, H3294–95**

Veteran's I.D. Card Act: H.R. 91, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue, upon request, veteran identification cards to certain veterans, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 402 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 240; **Pages H3263–64, H3293–94**

Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act of 2015: H.R. 1816, to exclude from consideration as income under the United States Housing Act of 1937 payments of pension made under section 1521 of title 38, United States Code, to veterans who are in need of regular aid and attendance; and **Pages H3264–66**

Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015: H.R. 1987, amended, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. **Pages H3284–93**

Recess: The House recessed at 6:02 p.m. and reconvened at 6:31 p.m. **Page H3293**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015: S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking. **Pages H3266–84**

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to S. Con. Res. 3, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I. **Page H3295**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to Burma is to continue in effect beyond May 20, 2015—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Rept. 114–39). **Page H3258**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3293–94, H3294, and H3294–95. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AMERICA COMPETES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015; LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016; HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION FUNDING ACT OF 2015

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1806, the "America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015"; H.R. 2250, the "Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2016"; and H.R. 2353, the "Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015". The committee granted, by a record vote of 9–4, a structured rule for H.R. 1806. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–15 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part A the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part A of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Additionally, the rule grants a structured rule for H.R. 2250. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill and provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all

points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Lastly, the rule grants a closed rule for H.R. 2353. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Shuster, Chairman Smith of Texas, and Representatives Graves of Georgia, Wasserman Schultz, Farr, Black, Gosar, Blum, Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, Veasey, Griffith, and Ted Lieu of California.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016", 10:30 a.m., SD–124.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2016", 2:30 p.m., SD–138.

Committee on the Budget: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Congressional Budget Office, 10:30 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on air traffic control modernization and reform, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine S. 562, to promote exploration for geothermal resources, S. 822, to expand geothermal production, S. 1026, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to repeal a provision prohibiting Federal agencies from procuring alternative fuels, S. 1057, to promote geothermal energy, S. 1058, to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, S. 1103, to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving Clark Canyon Dam, S. 1104, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Gibson Dam, S. 1199, to authorize Federal agencies to provide alternative fuel to Federal employees on a reimbursable basis, S. 1215, to amend the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000 to provide for the development of methane hydrate as a commercially viable source of energy, S. 1222, to amend the Federal Power Act to provide for reports relating to electric capacity resources of transmission organizations and the amendment of certain tariffs to address the procurement of electric capacity resources, S. 1224, to reconcile differing Federal approaches to condensate, S. 1226, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act and the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands to promote a greater domestic helium supply, to establish a Federal helium leasing program for public land, and to secure a helium supply for national defense and Federal researchers, S. 1236, to amend the Federal Power Act to modify certain requirements relating to trial-type hearings with respect to certain license applications before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, S. 1264, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a renewable electricity standard, S. 1270, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric production incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, S. 1271, to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue regulations to prevent or minimize the venting and flaring of gas in oil and gas production operations in the United States, S. 1272, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effects of forward capacity auctions and other capacity mechanisms, S. 1276, to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to increase energy exploration and production on the outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico, S. 1278, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to provide for the conduct of certain lease sales in the Alaska outer Continental Shelf region, to make certain modifications to the North Slope Science Initiative, S. 1279, to provide for revenue sharing of qualified revenues from leases in the South Atlantic planning area, S. 1280, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish an annual production incentive fee with respect to Federal onshore and offshore land that is subject to a lease for production of oil or natural gas under which production is not occurring, S. 1282, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to consider the objective of improving the conversion, use, and storage of carbon dioxide produced from fossil fuels in carrying out research and development programs under that Act, S. 1283, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to repeal certain programs, to establish a coal technology program, S. 1285, to authorize the Secretary of Energy to enter into contracts to provide certain price stabilization support relating to electric generation units that use coal-based generation technology, S. 1294, to require the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture to collaborate in promoting the development of efficient, economical, and environmentally sustainable thermally led wood energy systems, and S. 1304, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a pilot competitive grant program for the development of a skilled energy workforce, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife, to hold

hearings to examine S. 1140, to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term ''waters of the United States'', 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine how to safely reduce reliance on foster care group homes, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mileydi Guilarte, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, Jennifer Ann Haverkamp, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and Brian James Egan, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser, both of the Department of State, Marcia Denise Occomy, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank for a term of five years, and Sunil Sabharwal, of California, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years, 2:45 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, focusing on examining EEOC's enforcement and litigation programs, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, to hold hearings to examine body cameras, focusing on whether technology can increase protection for law enforcement officers and the public, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine proposed environmental regulation's impacts on America's small businesses, 2 p.m., SR–428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled ''Addressing Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in Federal Child Nutrition Programs'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled ''Discussion Draft Addressing Energy Reliability and Security'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Consumer Product Safety Commission'', 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup on the ''21st Century Cures Act'', 5 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled ''The Future of Housing in America: Oversight of the Rural Housing Service'', 10 a.m., 2220 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''Protecting Critical Infrastructure: How the Financial Sector Addresses Cyber Threats'', 1 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, hearing entitled ''Trade Promotion Agencies and U.S. Foreign Policy'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, hearing entitled ''The Future of U.S.-Hungary Relations'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, hearing entitled ''Examining DHS Science and Technology Directorate's Engagement with Academia and Industry'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Policing Strategies for the 21st Century'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law, hearing entitled ''Ongoing Oversight: Monitoring the Activities of the Justice Department's Civil, Tax and Environment and Natural Resources Divisions and the U.S. Trustee Program'', 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Empowering State Management of Greater Sage Grouse'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, markup on the ''Inspector General Reform Act of 2015''; H.R. 1777, the ''Presidential Allowance Modernization Act''; H.R. 1831, the ''Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission Act of 2015''; H.R. 451, the ''Safe and Secure Federal Websites Act of 2015''; H.R. 1759, the ''All Economic Regulations are Transparent (ALERT) Act of 2015''; H.R. 728, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7050 Highway BB in Cedar Hill, Missouri, as the ''Sergeant First Class William B. Woods, Jr. Post Office''; H.R. 891, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 141 Paloma Drive in Floresville, Texas, as the ''Floresville Veterans Post Office Building''; H.R. 1326, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Mulford Road in Mulberry, Florida, as the ''Sergeant First Class Daniel M. Ferguson Post Office''; H.R. 1350, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 442 East 167th Street in Bronx, New York, as the ''Herman Badillo Post Office Building''; H.R. 1442, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the ''Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building''; H.R. 1524, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the ''Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 880, the ''American Research and Competitiveness Act of 2015''; H.R. 1335, the ''Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act''; and H.R. 2262, the ''SPACE Act of 2015'', 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax and Capital Access, hearing entitled ''Improving Capital Access Programs within the SBA'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled ''Pacific Northwest Seismic Hazards: Planning and Preparing for the Next Disaster'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Improving Competition in Medicare: Removing Moratoria and Expanding Access'', 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of May 18 through May 22, 2015

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 1314, Ensuring Tax Exempt Organizations the Right to Appeal Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: May 21, business meeting to consider pending legislation, and the nomination of Jeffrey Michael Prieto, of California, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Appropriations: May 19, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, ''Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016'', 10:30 a.m., SD–124.

May 19, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, ''Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2016'', 2:30 p.m., SD–138.

May 20, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to receive a closed briefing on Syria, 11 a.m., SVC–217.

May 21, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the fiscal year 2016 302(b) allocations, an original bill entitled, ''Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2016'', and an original bill entitled, ''Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016'', 10:30 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: May 21, business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, ''The Financial Regulatory Improvement Act of 2015'', 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: May 19, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Congressional Budget Office, 10:30 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: May 19, to hold hearings to examine Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization, focusing on air traffic control modernization and reform, 10 a.m., SR–253.

May 20, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1331, to help enhance commerce through improved seasonal forecasts, S. 1297, to update the Commercial Space Launch Act by amending title 51, United States Code, to promote competitiveness of the U.S. commercial space sector, S. 1326, to amend certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, S. 1040, to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Academy of Sciences to study the vehicle handling requirements proposed by the Commission for recreational off-highway vehicles and to prohibit the adoption of any such requirements until the completion of the study, S. 1359, to allow manufacturers to meet warranty and labeling requirements for consumer products by displaying the terms of warranties on Internet websites, S. 806, to amend section 31306 of title 49, United States Code, to recognize hair as an alternative specimen for preemployment and random controlled substances testing of commercial motor vehicle drivers and for other purposes, S. 1315, to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of local and State prohibitions, S. 1334, to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention, S. 1335, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean, as adopted at Tokyo on February 24, 2012, S. 1251, to implement the Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, as adopted by Lisbon, Portugal on September 28, 2007, S. 1336, to implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, as adopted at Auckland on November 14, 2009, H.R. 1020, to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation, H.R. 710, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a comprehensive security assessment of the transportation security card program, and the nominations of Daniel R. Elliott III, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2018, Mario Cordero, of California, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for the term expiring June 30, 2019, and a routine list in the Coast Guard, 10:30 a.m., SR–253.

May 20, Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard, to hold hearings to examine improvements and innovations in fishery management and data collection, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: May 19, to hold hearings to examine S. 562, to promote exploration for geothermal resources, S. 822, to expand geothermal production, S. 1026, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to repeal a provision prohibiting Federal agencies from procuring alternative fuels, S. 1057, to promote geothermal energy, S. 1058, to promote research, development, and demonstration of marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy technologies, S. 1103,

to reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving Clark Canyon Dam, S. 1104, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project involving the Gibson Dam, S. 1199, to authorize Federal agencies to provide alternative fuel to Federal employees on a reimbursable basis, S. 1215, to amend the Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000 to provide for the development of methane hydrate as a commercially viable source of energy, S. 1222, to amend the Federal Power Act to provide for reports relating to electric capacity resources of transmission organizations and the amendment of certain tariffs to address the procurement of electric capacity resources, S. 1224, to reconcile differing Federal approaches to condensate, S. 1226, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act and the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands to promote a greater domestic helium supply, to establish a Federal helium leasing program for public land, and to secure a helium supply for national defense and Federal researchers, S. 1236, to amend the Federal Power Act to modify certain requirements relating to trial-type hearings with respect to certain license applications before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, S. 1264, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a renewable electricity standard, S. 1270, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric production incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, S. 1271, to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue regulations to prevent or minimize the venting and flaring of gas in oil and gas production operations in the United States, S. 1272, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effects of forward capacity auctions and other capacity mechanisms, S. 1276, to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to increase energy exploration and production on the outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico, S. 1278, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to provide for the conduct of certain lease sales in the Alaska outer Continental Shelf region, to make certain modifications to the North Slope Science Initiative, S. 1279, to provide for revenue sharing of qualified revenues from leases in the South Atlantic planning area, S. 1280, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish an annual production incentive fee with respect to Federal onshore and offshore land that is subject to a lease for production of oil or natural gas under which production is not occurring, S. 1282, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to consider the objective of improving the conversion, use, and storage of carbon dioxide produced from fossil fuels in carrying out research and development programs under that Act, S. 1283, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to repeal certain programs, to establish a coal technology program, S. 1285, to authorize the Secretary of Energy to enter into contracts to provide certain price stabilization support relating to electric generation units that use coal-based generation technology, S. 1294, to require the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture to collaborate in promoting the development of efficient, economical, and environmentally sustainable thermally led wood energy systems, and S. 1304, to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a pilot competitive grant program for the development of a skilled energy workforce, 10 a.m., SD–366.

May 21, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, to hold hearings to examine S. 160, and H.R. 373, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, S. 365, to improve rangeland conditions and restore grazing levels within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah, S. 472, to promote conservation, improve public land, and provide for sensible development in Douglas County, Nevada, S. 583, to establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, S. 814, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, S. 815, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon to the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and S. 1240, to designate the Cerro del Yuta and Rio San Antonio Wilderness Areas in the State of New Mexico, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: May 19, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife, to hold hearings to examine S. 1140, to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term ''waters of the United States'', 10 a.m., SD–406.

May 20, Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight, to hold an oversight hearing to examine scientific advisory panels and processes at the Environmental Protection Agency, including S. 543, to amend the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 to provide for Scientific Advisory Board member qualifications, public participation, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: May 19, to hold hearings to examine how to safely reduce reliance on foster care group homes, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: May 19, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mileydi Guilarte, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, Jennifer Ann Haverkamp, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and Brian James Egan, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser, both of the Department of State, Marcia Denise Occomy, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank for a term of five years, and Sunil Sabharwal, of California, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years, 2:45 p.m., SD–419.

May 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine U.S. Cuban relations, focusing on the way forward, 10 a.m., SD–419.

May 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gregory T. Delawie, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo, Ian C. Kelly, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to Georgia, Nancy Bikoff Pettit, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, and Azita Raji, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, all of the Department of State, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

May 21, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 802, to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, S. 868, to establish a fund to make payment to the Americans held hostage in Iran, and to members of their families, who are identified as members of the proposed class in case number 1:00–CV–03110 (ESG) of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, S. Res. 87, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe and to encourage greater cooperation with the European governments, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in preventing and responding to anti-Semitism, the nominations of Charles C. Adams, Jr., of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland, Cassandra Q. Butts, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Paul A. Folmsbee, of Oklahoma, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali, Stafford Fitzgerald Haney, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica, Mary Catherine Phee, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan, and Gentry O. Smith, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, all of the Department of State, Matthew T. McGuire, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years, and routine lists in the Foreign Service, 9:15 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: May 19, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, focusing on examining EEOC's enforcement and litigation programs, 10 a.m., SD–430.

May 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on exploring institutional risk-sharing, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: May 20, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, to hold hearings to examine 21st century ideas for the 20th century Federal civil service, 10 a.m., SD–342.

May 21, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine understanding America's long-term fiscal picture, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: May 20, to hold an oversight hearing to examine addressing the needs of Native communities through Indian Water Rights Settlements, 2:15 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: May 19, Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, to hold hearings to examine body cameras, focusing on whether technology can increase protection for law enforcement officers and the public, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

May 20, Subcommittee on the Constitution, to hold hearings to examine taking sexual assault seriously, focusing on the rape kit backlog and human rights, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

May 21, Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: May 19, to hold hearings to examine proposed environmental regulation's impacts on America's small businesses, 2 p.m., SR–428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: May 20, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Select Committee on Intelligence: May 19, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

May 21, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: May 20, to hold hearings to examine solutions to the hospital observation stay crisis, 2:15 p.m., SD–562.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, May 20, Full Committee, markup on H.R. ———, a legislative response to the WTO decision; and the ''National Forest Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2015'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

May 20, Subcommittee on Nutrition, hearing entitled ''Past, Present, and Future of SNAP: The World of Nutrition, Government Duplication and Unmet Needs'', 1:30 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, May 20, Subcommittee on Defense, markup on Defense Appropriations Bill, FY 2016, 9:30 a.m., H–140 Capitol. This markup will be closed.

May 20, Full Committee, markup on Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill for FY 2016, 10:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, May 20, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled ''Reforming the Workers' Compensation Program for Federal Employees'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, May 20, Full Committee, markup on the ''21st Century Cures Act'' (continued), 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 20, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, markup on the ''FCC Process Reform Act of 2015''; a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to publish on its Internet website changes to the rules of the Commission not later than 24 hours after adoption; a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to publish on the website of the Commission documents to be voted on by the Commission; a bill to amend the Communications

Act of 1934 to require identification and description on the website of the Federal Communications Commission of items to be decided on authority delegated by the Commission; a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to submit to Congress a report on improving the participation of small businesses in the proceedings of the Commission; a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for a quarterly report on pending requests for action by the Federal Communications Commission and pending congressional investigations of the Commission; and a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for publication on the Internet website of the Federal Communications Commission of certain policies and procedures established by the chairman of the Commission, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 21, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled ''Quadrennial Energy Review and Related Discussion Drafts'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

May 21, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''What are the State Governments Doing to Combat the Opioid Abuse Epidemic?'', 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, May 20, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 432, the ''SBIC Advisers Relief Act of 2015''; H.R. 686, the ''Small Business Mergers, Acquisitions, Sales, and Brokerage Simplification Act of 2015''; H.R. 1334, the ''Holding Company Registration Threshold Equalization Act of 2015''; H.R. 1525, the ''Disclosure Modernization and Simplification Act of 2015''; H.R. 1675, the ''Encouraging Employee Ownership Act of 2015''; H.R. 1723, the ''Small Company Simple Registration Act of 2015''; H.R. 1847, the ''Swap Data Repository and Clearinghouse Indemnification Correction Act of 2015''; H.R. 1965, the ''Small Company Disclosure Simplification Act''; H.R. 1975, the ''Securities and Exchange Commission Overpayment Credit Act''; H.R. 2064, the ''Improving Access to Capital for Emerging Growth Companies Act''; H.R. 2354, the ''Streamlining Excessive and Costly Regulations Review Act''; H.R. 2356, the ''Fair Access to Investment Research Act of 2015''; H.R. 2357, the ''Accelerating Access to Capital Act of 2015''; and a resolution to name a new Republican Member of the Committee to subcommittees, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

May 21, Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing, hearing entitled ''A Dangerous Nexus: Terrorism, Crime, and Corruption'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, May 20, Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, hearing entitled ''Egypt Two Years After Morsi: Part I'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 20, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, markup on H.R. 1853, to direct the President to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes; and H. Res. 235, expressing deepest condolences to and solidarity with the people of Nepal following the devastating earthquake on April 25, 2015; hearing entitled ''Everest Trembled: Lessons Learned from the Nepal Earthquake Response'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

May 20, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''Developments in Rwanda'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

May 21, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2100, the ''Girls Count Act of 2015''; and H.R. 2323, the ''United States International Communications Reform Act of 2015'', 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, May 20, Full Committee, H.R. 1300, the ''First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act''; H.R. 1615, the ''DHS FOIA Efficiency Act of 2015''; H.R. 1626, the ''DHS IT Duplication Reduction Act of 2015''; H.R. 1633, the ''DHS Paid Administrative Leave Accountability Act of 2015''; H.R. 1637, the ''Federally Funded Research and Development Sunshine Act of 2015''; H.R. 1640, the ''Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Consolidation Accountability Act of 2015''; H.R. 1646, the ''Homeland Security Drone Assessment and Analysis Act''; H.R. 1738, the ''Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015''; H.R. 2200, the ''CBRN Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2015''; H.R. 2206, the ''SWIC Enhancement Act''; and the ''Homeland Security University-based Centers Review Act'', 11 a.m., 311 Cannon.

May 21, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, hearing entitled ''Admitting Syrian Refugees: The Intelligence Void and the Emerging Homeland Security Threat'', 9 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, May 20, Full Committee, hearing on the United States Capitol Police, 2 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on Natural Resources, May 20, Subcommittee on Federal Lands; and Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans, joint hearing on a discussion draft of a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes, 9:30 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

May 20, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on a discussion draft titled the ''National Energy Security Corridors Act'', 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

May 20, Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans, hearing on the ''Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act'', 1:30 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

May 20, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''State Perspectives on the Status of Cooperating Agencies for the Office of Surface Mining's Stream Protection Rule'', 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, May 21, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled ''Issues Facing Civilian and Postal Service Vehicle Fleet Procurement'', 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, May 20, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled ''Advancing Commercial Weather Data: Collaborative Efforts to Improve Forecasts'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, May 20, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Across Town, Across Oceans: Expanding

the Role of Small Business in Global Commerce", 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, May 20, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2322, the "Public Buildings Reform and Savings Act of 2015"; H.R. 2131, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 83 Meeting Street in Charleston, South Carolina, as the "J. Waties Waring Judicial Center"; and two General Services Administration Resolutions, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, May 21, Full Committee, markup on pending legislation, 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, May 20, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled "Examining the Use of Administrative Actions in the Implementation of the Affordable Care Act", 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: May 20, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Tuesday, May 19

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond one hour), Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 1314, Ensuring Tax Exempt Organizations the Right to Appeal Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

10 a.m., Tuesday, May 19

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 2353—Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (Subject to a Rule) and H.R. 2250—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2016 (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of the following measures under suspension of the rules: 1) H.R. 874—American Super Computing Leadership Act, 2) H.R. 1162—Science Prize Competitions Act, 3) H.R. 1119—Research and Development Efficiency Act, 4) H.R. 1156—International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2015, 5) H.R. 1561—Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2015, and 6) H.R. 1158—Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2015.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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